

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

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President's Message

Are You Energized?

by Rich Moffitt, President

Wow! What a Conference. The Tampa meeting drew record numbers of attendees, presenters, educators, exhibitors, and scholarship and award recipients. It was networking at its best, with conversations flowing on the tour buses, on the trade show floor, during breakfast, lunch, breaks and the receptions, and before and after sessions in the hallways, in the elevators, on the escalators, by the pool, on the decks and balconies, in the lobby and in the sports bar.

As the Super Bowl drew closer, athletes, sportscasters and celebrities from across the world gathered in the Tampa Marriott Waterside, adding to the atmosphere.

Many Conference attendees back in their home towns watching Super Bowl XXXV could say of Raymond James Stadium, "Yea, I was there and talked with George Toma about lots of the behind the scenes details."

I was energized by the friendly, welcoming atmosphere, by the free and easy sharing of information, by the friendships made and friendships renewed. This is a great industry, a great group of highly dedicated people who truly want to provide THE BEST sports surfaces for all levels of play.

Thanks to all of you who attended. Your participation made the Conference even better. And, while things are still fresh in your mind, please share any suggestions or comments you have that will make next year's Conference (January 16 - 20, 2002, in Las Vegas, Nevada) even bigger and better. Just call, fax or e-mail your input to Headquarters, to me, or to any of the STMA Board Members. It will be welcome and much appreciated.

And, talking about input, by now you should have received the survey sent to all STMA members. Please, please, please, do take the time to fill it out and return it. Your input is essential in developing the path our association will follow as we move into the new millennium. We need to know what services you value most and how we can best deliver them to help you grow in your profession and your professionalism. Your association is stepping up to the big leagues and wants to earn most valuable player status.

Then, if you're energized, how about



Rich Moffitt

taking one more step and getting more actively involved in STMA at the Chapter or National level?

With 23 currently affiliated Chapters and more Chapters in various stages of development, lots of help is needed on the local and regional level. You might want to serve on Boards and Committees, to host or make presentations at workshops, meetings and other events or to help spread the word to others in the area. Interested? Chapter contact information is listed in the Chapter News section of this newsletter and on the STMA Web page. Or call Headquarters and they'll help you make connections.

On the National level, the STMA Committee Chairs have been appointed and are in the process of forming their committees. With the Strategic Plan Initiatives slotted for roll out, there is lots of interesting and exciting "stuff" going on, and more need than ever for YOUR help! Committees include: Category Committees with a focus on the unique concerns of those involved with sports fields used by professional teams, sports fields used at Colleges and Universities, sports fields used at other schools, sports fields used in parks and recreation systems, and the unique concerns of commercial affiliates, of students, and of those involved in teaching, research or extension. There also are these committees: Marketing/Public Relations/Communications, Membership, Education with sub-committees for conference education, other education, research, university relations, public affairs, and member services; Chapter Relations; Certification; and Technical Standards. And there may well be many more sub-committees evolving from these committees as the Strategic Plan moves forward.

Interested? Want to know more? Please contact Headquarters and they'll connect you with the other movers and shakers ready to get involved.