

Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

I hope you have all taken time to follow the last sentence of last issue's column. Much has changed in this world since then. One of the things that I feel has changed for the better, is that people are taking more time to let others know they care. Some people really haven't changed because they were already showing their care for others. Many individuals have now realized that some of their priorities weren't quite right and have realigned them. How about you? What have you changed in your life since September 11?

One thing that hasn't changed for Headquarters is our commitment to help you make STMA the best possible organization it can be. It must serve the members and be organized to assist the members in serving the industry they have chosen. I have consistently seen that those that get the most out of anything are those that put the most into it. If you put all you can in getting closer to God, family and career, in that order, you will enjoy life more and get more out of it. As we are out and about among our members we see so many of them doing such a great job of all three. It is because of the commitment and love for what you do that your Headquarters Staff is committed to doing all we can to help you and your career.

One of the ways that extra commitment can be recognized is through the Awards Program. Your Field of the Year/Founders Awards Committee will be meeting shortly after this column is written to pick this year's recipients. It is going to be a most difficult task as there are many excellent entries. I haven't looked at them all, but of the ones I have seen, every one is worthy of consideration on its own. The Committee will have to make some tough decisions to come up with the best of the best to determine the Award Recipients. This year's Committee members will continue the tradition of

being up to the task of individually and collectively making the right calls.

In other news from Headquarters, the meeting in Wyoming went well. I spoke to another great group of people that really love what they are doing and are looking for ways to do it even better. I believe we have a nucleus of a chapter working there. The NRPA Show in Denver gave us the opportunity to tell more people about what STMA offers and enlist their involvement. The two educational sessions that STMA sponsored, one by Bill Whirly and one by Dr. Tony Koski, were very well done and received. Again, professionalism is coming through. We were inundated with students at the National FFA Convention. We received comments from, "I didn't even know there could be such a job" to "I have been helping on the high school baseball field and I want to do that kind of work the rest of my life." We had many instructors express how glad they were that STMA would be willing to provide them with materials they could use in the classroom. Even if the student doesn't go into sports turf management, they will have a much greater appreciation for what you do.

Your Finance Committee and Board met in mid-October and continued their dedication to the association. Besides reviewing where we've been, they laid the groundwork for the future by approving the budget for next year and many other initiatives to move STMA forward.

"We are on a Roll!" We hope to see you all in Las Vegas. Check out the new website at www.sportsturfmanager.com for the most up-to-date information on this great conference.

Until next issue, may you find even more people to touch with your caring attitude.



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