

Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

Following are some of the activities that your HQ staff has been involved with since the last column for the newsletter was written:

Membership Management System

Your new system is live and online and all the final bugs are being worked out. While implementation has been very time consuming, staff has already realized efficiencies in tracking member and conference information. We will be providing you with the details on how to access your information very soon. We are currently looking at ways to provide an easy-to-use, but effective, online up-to-date, membership directory. We'll keep you posted.

NRPA Conference

STMA again had a booth and sponsored 3 presentations at the annual National Recreation and Parks Association Congress. Over 400 people attended the sessions put on by your fellow members Jody Gill, Mike Trigg, CSFM and Brad Fresenburg. They each did an excellent job of representing STMA and providing information wanted by the attendees. This meeting is an excellent opportunity to showcase what STMA has to offer. We can let Park Directors know that they can hire professionals to maintain their athletic fields. If they already have a professional Sports Turf Manager in place, it lets them know that they are dealing with members of a professional organization. We can also reach those attendees with sports field responsibilities to let them know about STMA and invite them to join.

STMA Board Meeting

Your Board, Executive Director and Communications Director met in Chicago the end of October. Many important decisions were made including approval of the budget for 2004. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter and more information to come as some of the details of the decisions are finalized. Your Board works hard to represent you. Let them know you appreciate their efforts and volunteer to help on committees or other areas that you can assist with.

FFA Conference & Career Fair

STMA has had a booth in the FFA Career Fair for the past three years. Each year brings more interest from students and advisors on the possibility of sports turf management as a career. Over 50,000 people attended this year. Besides over 40,000 students, the attendees include teacher/advisors, parents and chaperons. Many instructors are now providing information to their entire classes about sports turf managers and what they do. STMA members and Kentucky Chapter officers Aaron Boggs, University of Louisville, and Tom Nielsen, Louisville Bats Baseball, spent time in the booth providing great information to instructors and students. Tom also conducted several tours of his facility. The more people that know about you, the more chances you have of getting out positive information about what you do.

Awards Committee

Your Awards Committee met in St. Louis the first week of November. The five members collectively spent over 80 hours judging all the entries. They did a very thorough job and selected the very best candidates. While the overall quality of entries keeps going up, making judging even more difficult, do consider entering your field or complex next year if you feel it is worthy of consideration. Let the

judging team of : Tim Moore, CSFM, Jody Gill, Steve LeGros, Carol Gundlach and Kathy Cassmeyer know you appreciate their efforts.

Bylaws revisions

By the time you read this, the voting on the Bylaws revisions will have been completed. Watch your mail for the results and your next round of ballots for next year's officers and board members.

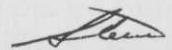
New Members

New member applications are starting to roll in. Are you taking advantage of the New Member Mania? Invite others to join you as an STMA member and everyone wins! Check the website for details.

Membership Dues

Dues notices will be mailed in early December. This will give you the opportunity to pay your 2004 dues in this calendar year if you prefer. If you would rather pay them in 2004, you'll have the invoice on hand to pay right after the first of the year.

We hope that each and every one of you and yours take the time to celebrate a most joyous holiday season.



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