

## SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf Managers Association

1027 S. 3rd Street

Council Bluffs, IA 51503-6875

712/322-STMA (7862), 800/323-3875

(FAX) 712/366-9119, 800/366-0391

(e-mail) STMAHQ@st.omhcoxmail.com

(world wide web)

www.sportsturfmanager.com



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## Presidents Message Reflecting and Projecting

by Bob Campbell, CSFM

As the year draws to a close, it's important to spend some time reflecting on the past and projecting for the future. This is an essential step in a sports turf management program, and an essential one for your Association as well. Much of the last STMA Board Meeting was focused on this and it's a responsibility your Board takes very seriously. While a report of that meeting is included in this Newsletter (page 14), I'd like to give you an overview of the process.

Prior to the late October Board Meeting, all Committees were asked to do their planning and put together a preliminary budget based on that planning. Their budget information was presented to the Finance and Audit Committee for review and development of an overall preliminary budget that was presented to the STMA Board. Much of the Board Meeting was spent reviewing the progress of the Committees in 2003 and their plans for 2004 as we work together toward achieving our goals. The next step was working to fine tune the preliminary budget figures to establish a budget for 2004 that will allocate our resources to those objectives.

A major focus for 2004 will be the continuation of the marketing plan we have developed to improve the image of our profession and organization to reflect the professionalism of STMA and create the awareness that STMA members are experts on the field, partners in the game.

By the time you read this, the votes on the STMA Bylaws will have been received and tabulated. I thank you for taking the time to cast your vote. This is your organization and your input is encouraged and always welcome. Please feel free to contact me, any Board Member or STMA Headquarters with your questions, comments or suggestions.

I hope you have already registered for the STMA 15th Annual Conference in San Diego. If you haven't - it's not too late! But space is filling up very quickly - so act now and call Headquarters for a packet of information. Or, for immediate access, just

go to the website: [www.sportsturfmanager.com](http://www.sportsturfmanager.com) for a preview of the Conference and the registration form.

We have some great educational sessions lined up and a super trade show. The exciting optional events include two different tours of several wonderful facilities, a trolley tour of area attractions, the Jacobsen sponsored SAFE Golf Tournament at La Costa and the Field Maintenance Seminar conducted by Major League Baseball sports turf managers.

In this issue you also will see Minor League Baseball's Sports Turf Manager of the Year selections. The awards will be presented to these individuals at the Baseball Winter Meetings in New Orleans on December 12th. The presentation takes place in front of all the owners and executives from Major League and Minor League teams - a great place for our profession and our professionals to be recognized.

We had a wonderful response for the awards program this year. Many worthy individuals were nominated for the Founders Awards and we had a record number of entries - all outstanding - for our Field of the Year and Sports Complex of the Year Awards. I wish we could give an award to every entrant!

At this writing, the SAFE Scholarship judging team was working their way through another impressive group of applications. So many excellent applicants make a great statement for the future of our industry.

We have much to be thankful for and now, during this holiday season, is a wonderful time to reflect on it. It was a good year for our association and I can foresee that 2004 is going to be even better.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I hope to see all of you in San Diego!

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