

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

By Greg Petry



STMA: An Investment Decision

When it comes time to pay membership dues, questions seem to mount



faster than they can be answered. Do the benefits and services you receive as an STMA member outweigh the dues? With today's tight economy, how can you justify paying dues, much less volunteering time?

These are tough questions. Here are some answers.

STMA is shaping the future of the sports turf industry. We have more than 600 members committed to increasing the quality of care for sports turf and sports turf facilities. As the leader in "promoting better and safer sports turf areas," STMA assists you in your quest to become a better sports turf "professional."

It may be a bit philosophical, but to "unravel the secrets of the universe"

Together, we must understand the role of STMA. That role is to focus outward as well as inward, not only developing new services for existing members, but also enhancing the image of the sports turf professional.

Yes, these are hard times. Justifying membership in STMA is a matter of decision making. We're talking about a return on your dollar.

How does that translate?

I'll never forget my visit to Jack Murphy Stadium in San Diego. Steve Wightman answered every question I asked—even questions I thought may have been dumb. After the tour, I really had the feeling that Steve was truly interested in my personal success.

I would never have met someone like Steve had I not joined STMA. Other members have also helped me grow professionally including Steve Cockerham, the late Harry Gill, Mark Hodnick, Henry Indyk, Ken Kurtz, Ken Mrock, Mike Schiller, and Doc Watson to name a few. I encourage you to make contacts and form friendships to help build your career. I directly

As an STMA member, I have opportunities to learn new techniques, increase my knowledge, and sharpen my skills. That's a direct return on my membership dollar.

you must become involved. We all have "comfort zones." Venturing outside of those zones can provoke anxiety—feelings that we may fail. Just remember that, in retrospect, it is usually the things we *haven't* done, rather than those we *have* done, that we most regret.

We need to take steps outside our comfort zones. Take on new challenges. The results will be personal and professional growth, as well as a strengthened organization.

attribute my salary level, career development, and success on the job to my involvement with STMA.

As an STMA member, I have opportunities to learn new techniques, increase my knowledge, and sharpen my skills. That's a *direct* return on my membership dollar. I believe you'll find STMA membership provides a direct return on *yours*, and I hope you will participate in our association's activities as we embark on 1993. □

STMA CHAPTER NEWS

Chesapeake Chapter: STMA—The Chesapeake Chapter will hold their annual meeting at Festival Hall in Baltimore, MD, in conjunction with "Turfgrass 93," presented by the Maryland Turfgrass Council. "Turfgrass 93" is a three-day event, running January 6-8. A special sports turf session will be conducted on the afternoon of January 20, during which the Chesapeake Chapter: STMA's annual meeting will take place.

The annual banquet will be held on January 7, as part of a cruise departing from Baltimore Harbor.

For additional information on "Turfgrass 93," the meeting, the chapter, and its programs, contact Ray Flood at (301) 405-3320.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association—The Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association annual meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on January 20 at the Des Moines Convention Center, Des Moines, IA, in conjunction with the Iowa Turfgrass Conference.

The conference is a three-day event, from January 18 to 20, with both general sessions and concurrent educational sessions targeted specifically for golf course, lawn care, and sports turf and grounds professionals. Registration opens each morning at 7 a.m.

On January 18, workshops run from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the grand opening of the trade show scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday workshops include two six-hour sessions: "Basic Turfgrass Management" and "Preparing for the Pesticide Certification Exam" and eight three-hour workshops: "Current Issues, with instructors Thomas Delany, director of state government affairs, Professional Lawn Care Association of America, and Mona Hood, executive director, Iowa Alliance of Environmental Concerns;" "Soils and Fertilizer;" "Golf Course Irrigation;" "Landscape Irrigation;" "Working With Weather;" "Sports Turf, with instructors Larry Leuthold, extension turfgrass specialist, Kansas State University, and Zac Reicher, extension turfgrass specialist, Purdue University;" and "Diseases of Turfgrasses on the Golf Course."

On January 19, the Pesticide Certification Exam will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The morning is devoted to general sessions, beginning at 8 a.m. General Session I will include an Iowa State University Update and a new products introduction. General Session II will include "Issues Facing Turfgrass

continued on page 18