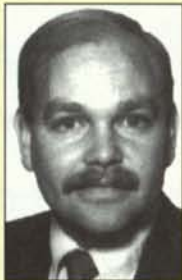


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Greg Petry

Believe me, being president of an organization such as STMA isn't fun or what most people perceive it to be. It's not glamorous. You just don't sit back and watch all the work get done. You also don't come up with a lot of ideas and expect them to be done at the snap of a finger. I'm constantly being bombarded with problems that take a lot of time and thought.



Don't get me wrong. I love the challenge. STMA has been a challenge worth pursuing. It's a great cause to fight for. In the words of Claude Davis in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, "The only causes worth fighting for are lost causes." STMA was a lost cause when a group of us decided to grab the bull by the horns and get the job done.

While serving as president, I find it difficult to champion a specific cause. That's what I love to do. When the odds are 100 to 1 that something can't be done, I'll work like heck to find that one way to accomplish the task.

As president, you deal with a lot of issues. At times, you're like a captain of a ship. Your responsibility is to get the boat from point A to point B safely and on schedule. You're not actually sailing the ship. That's what I love doing, actually sailing the ship. To me, being part of the "means to the end" is fulfilling.

You see, I think it's in our blood as groundskeepers to roll up our sleeves and get the job done. We love to get in the trenches and get our hands dirty.

So, I'm going to roll up my sleeves each month and send a message that—hopefully—will inspire my shipmates to work harder and smarter.

One thing that's fun about being actively involved in STMA is that you get to meet a lot of interesting people along the way. I've been able to develop life-long relationships with the people I've admired and looked up to.

As I talk with these people (and I love talking to and watching people!), I've decided one thing—the times have changed! When I talk with my old boss and mentor, Bill Neuman of the Park Ridge Park District, we often say it's not

like the good old days. The days of just taking care of the parks or sports turf areas are gone. We now spend our time managing. After all, we are now called Sports Turf Managers.

To manage and overcome our challenges, there are several things you and I need to do along the way:

1.) Know from the start of a project what you want to do and how to get the job done; do your thinking up front.

2.) Before you act, have a clear understanding of what you have to do and a plan to achieve it.

3.) Inventory your abilities: use your strengths to your advantage and act to eliminate your weaknesses.

4.) Get up and go—be a self starter and follow jobs through to completion.

5.) Take on responsibility and be willing to work hard to get the job done.

So as president, I've taken on the responsibility to keep our organization moving full steam ahead. And along the way, I hope the messages I send to you make you think, make you smarter, make you work harder and make you more effective as a sports turf manager.

STMA Chapter News

The New England Chapter: STMA — Special Reminder — The Massachusetts Turf Conference will be held February 28-March 2. NESTMA is one of the co-sponsors, along with the Massachusetts Lawngrass Association. Included in the conference will be sessions geared toward athletic field maintenance and other issues of concern to sports turf managers. NESTMA will hold both a breakfast and midday meeting in conjunction with the conference.

For information on the conference, the NESTMA breakfast and meeting, or other chapter activities contact Mary Owen, University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System, (508) 892-0382.

STMA Florida Chapter #1 — The South Florida Chapter will hold a meeting on March 9 at Brian Piccolo Park. Included in the meeting will be a tour of the facilities and Velodrome. Mike Carrocia will host this event.

For more information on this meeting, the South Florida Chapter, and other upcoming activities contact John Mascaro, (305) 938-7477 or Ed Birch, (305) 938-0217.

Midwest Chapter: STMA — The Midwest Chapter will hold its annual meeting and luncheon on March 24 at the Schaumburg Golf Club in Schaumburg, IL. The tentative meeting time is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The meeting will include a morning educational session, the awards luncheon, and a special keynote presentation. Further details will be announced soon.

For information on this meeting or other chapter activities call The Chapter Hotline, (708) 439-4727.

Chesapeake Chapter: STMA — January's East Coast snows forced postponement of the previously scheduled meeting to set the chapter agenda for 1994. An alternative meeting date, place, and time will be announced soon. All members are invited to take part.

One event "in the works" is a regional workshop that will be held in conjunction with the National STMA.

For information on the chapter or upcoming activities contact The Chapter Hotline, (301) 865-0667.

The Heartland Chapter: STMA — Progress continues as STMA's newest regional chapter takes shape in the Kansas City area. Those in the heartland area interested in finding out more about the chapter, and especially those willing and able to pitch in during these formative stages, are urged to contact Mark Diller, sports turf manager, Johnson County Parks and Recreation, (913) 782-7625 or Jack Schwarz, JS Sports Turf, Liberty, MO, (816) 792-2808 or (800) 344-8870.

The Southern California Chapter: STMA — For information on the Southern California Chapter and its activities contact Chris Bunnell, (619) 432-2421.

The Colorado Chapter: STMA — For information on the chapter of future activities call Joe Adams, Greeley Parks and Recreation, (303) 350-9390.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association — For information on the Iowa Chapter or its future activities contact Gary Peterson at (515) 791-0765.

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