

President's Message

By Greg Petry



Throughout the course of a year, we review the composition of our membership base. STMA is primarily composed of individual professional members and corporate members. The following reflects who belongs to STMA:

Parks, schools, two-year college and extension: 46 percent (21 percent parks and 25 percent school); commercial: 22 percent; university/four-year college: 16 percent; professional team: 14 percent; student: 1 percent and lifetime: 1 percent.

As you can see, we have a diverse membership in our organization. There are, for example, professional-team

members, minor-league professional-team members, college- and high school athletic directors, park superintendents, park groundskeepers, extension personnel, school district grounds personnel, extension agents and research scientists.

With such diversity, it's a challenge to maintain a balanced consensus on issues and activities. The association and its members are constantly struggling with ongoing changes in our industry.

The progress of our society and the geographical scope of our membership certainly makes for an interesting mix. Our challenges and opportunities are impacted by a membership that has diverse skills, education, business practices, regulations and politics.



In order to maintain a balanced perspective and representation on the board of directors, two initiatives are underway: First, a bylaw change is being proposed that would reduce the number of professional-team representatives from two to one. Conversely, the school and park categories will increase from one representative to two.

Our second initiative is now underway — a major membership drive. Rich Moffit, St. Louis University and the membership committee have redesigned our membership brochure. Several of our corporate members have been kind enough to provide their mailing lists and some have even offered to mail the literature.

STMA Chapter News

STMA Florida Chapter # 1: The Florida Chapter held its official membership meeting — including voting for 1995 officers and board members — at the University of Miami's Mark Light Stadium Nov. 15. The program focused on the conversion of the field from artificial to natural turf and included a tour of the facility. Host for the meeting was Kevin Hardy.

For further information about the South Florida Chapter or other upcoming activities, contact John Mascaro, (305) 938-7477 or Ed Birch at (305) 928-0217.

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association A sportsturf seminar, sponsored by Turf Supply Co. of Eagan, MN, was held Nov. 29 at the Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington, MN. Seminar topics included soil testing and interpreting test results, soil amendments and new trends in fertilizer.

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association is one of eight green-industry member associations of the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation cooperating in the conference Dec. 7-9, 1994, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Registration opens at 7 a.m. Dec. 7. The morning is filled with general ses-

sions, including: "How to Work With Environmentalists" and a Department of Agriculture presentation. The afternoon concurrent sessions begin at 12:45 and focus on pesticides and the public, turfgrass management, and insects and their control. The trade show is open from 4-7 p.m.

The morning's general sessions for Dec. 8 include: "You Can Be a Professional Without Wearing a Tie" and "Why You Wish You Knew More About Soils." The trade show is open from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Concurrent afternoon sessions

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