

STMA MESSAGE

Past, Present and Future



By Mike Schiller, STMA president

STMA is seeing increased activity among the "old-timers," members who, like me, got on-board at the beginning or early in the formation of STMA. Some have, like me, remained active. Others, for one reason or another, have backed off a bit in the past. Some weren't sure they were still remembered, or — if they were remembered — that they were as welcome today as they were "way back when."

Because we have to know where we've been to get where we want to go, former STMA executive directors — Dr. Kent Kurtz and Mark Hodnick — are beginning a historical committee to document our past. They're in the process of putting all that together and welcome any input you want to give.

Because we need objectively to assess where we stand, both as related to our original goals and objectives and as related to our present and our future, the past-presidents of STMA have agreed to serve as an advisory committee to the president and the current board. Who better to keep this organization on the straight and narrow than those who have been there — done that?

So — in an open message to all you old-timers still wondering if STMA wants you — we sure do! *The welcome mat is out!*

And — to all you *potential new members* who have been wondering if there's a place in STMA for you — that *welcome mat* is plenty wide for you, too!

If you haven't already noticed, there's a special bonus for new STMA members (including those who have let their membership lapse). Those who sign up between September 1 and

December 1 will receive membership through December 31, 1997.

Final details are being wrapped up for our 1997 Conference and Exhibition in Colorado Springs, January 15-19. This jam-packed program offers something for everyone, no matter what role you play in sports turf management.

Again and again we hear the very best thing about the STMA conference is the opportunity to meet and greet your peers, to find out who is doing what and how it's working, to have some questions answered and provide some answers, and put some faces to those voices you've already talked to by phone — and to those names you've heard for years — including the "and then some master," George Toma.

To make it easier for you to join this vibrant organization and reap the benefits — you can sign up as a member of National, join your regional chapter, register for the 1997 Conference and Exhibition and the conference tours, and pay for it with one check. Full chapter membership fees will be returned to the regional chapter along with your sign-up information.

Do you have questions about STMA? About the conference? About this network of contacts? You can talk with me, any of our board members, or Steve, Suz or Steph at headquarters. Call (800) 323-3875, fax to (712) 366-9119 or e-mail TrustyTips@aol.com for answers to your questions.

The welcome mat is out, and there'll be a whole bunch of friendly faces (including mine) just waiting to greet you in Colorado Springs.



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