January 2001 marked the biggest and best STMA Conference ever! More than 1,100 sports turf managers, educators, students and industry suppliers gathered in Tampa to exchange ideas. This took place in the Chapter Officers Training Session, in category sessions, educational sessions, round-table discussions, on-field tours and through constant networking. That networking was already flowing at breakfast, hummed through the breaks and lunches and fairly exploded during the evening receptions and continued long into the night.

On behalf of the STMA Board and staff, I extend thanks to everyone who attended. It’s the active participation and sharing that are continually raising the level of professionalism throughout this industry—and the friendly and welcoming way it takes place that makes these events so special. This is a great industry, a great group of highly dedicated people who truly want to provide THE BEST sports surfaces for all levels of play.

Now, are you ready to take the next step? Is it time for you to get involved on a chapter or the national level?

During the STMA Annual Meeting, held on Jan 20, four more chapters became affiliated: Mo-Kan, New Jersey, Nebraska and Virginia. That brings our total of affiliated chapters to 23, and others are in various stages of formation. All these chapters need active, supportive volunteers. You might want to make a big commitment and volunteer to serve on a board or a committee. Or, maybe you want to start out on a smaller scale; maybe you could help host a meeting, or give a presentation on your particular area of expertise, or help coordinate a tour of your facility, or help at the registration area or with vendor set-up during a meeting. The chapter contact information is listed in the Chapter News section of this magazine. Or, check out the Web site or give Headquarters a call to make those connections.

With the STMA Strategic Plan moving forward at the National level, there are all sorts of interesting things happening on various committees, and many new subcommittees are taking shape. Interested in exploring the possibilities? Just let me know, or contact Headquarters, and we’ll help you find your niche.

Are you just wondering what all is happening with STMA? Please feel free to contact me, any of the STMA board members, or Headquarters. We’ll be glad to give you the details and answer any questions you might have.