

President's Message

STMA chapters fulfill many needs

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I had the privilege last month to attend the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show in Providence, RI. The New England Sports Turf Managers Association, NESTMA, is one of the organizations involved in developing the Conference. NESTMA President Dave Pinsonneault told me how the chapter also works diligently to provide quality workshops and field days for its members throughout the year. Their members, like all STMA chapter members, also take advantage of networking through the chapter to learn and share from each other and from other experts.

Our affiliated chapters can use \$500 in Chapter Development Funds available from the STMA. The money can be used for bringing in educational speakers, purchasing computer equipment, newsletter assistance, website design/hosting, even insurance for event coverage (which could cost a chapter \$2,000 to \$3,000 if purchased separately). Being an STMA affiliated chapter provides an opportunity for chapters to promote this resource/relationship with STMA to draw new members and reengage those who have let their memberships lapse.

Chapters truly are the lifeblood of a national organization. In fact, if forced to choose between belonging to a national organization or a local one, the local choice will win 100% of the time. National organizations, however, have many resources to give to local chapters. STMA also provides 1) a global view of the profession that helps shape programs and services; 2) new opportunities for partnerships that will benefit local chapters and individual members; and 3) and access to a strong network of peers in other regions.

STMA chapters offer their members so much, like awards, scholarships, and numerous other membership benefits. Earlier this year, KAFMO, the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization, launched a new website that highlights their calendar of annual events with pictures of members at seminars and field days, and more. All members receive a quarterly newsletter and a manual that includes technical materials, vendor resource guide and membership roster.

I invite you to check out the STMA Chapter News in this month's magazine (page 46). Many chapters are either conducting or planning workshops and field days throughout 2006. If you are not a chapter member, I encourage you to find out more about what a local STMA can offer.

I want to thank all the chapters for their continued dedication and commitment to STMA. The Board wants chapter members to be advised and informed, to be involved and recognized, and to know that this Association is here to benefit you.

Mike Trigg