

## It's in the mail

**S**TMA's 2008 Membership renewal invoices have been mailed via the U.S. postal service. Be sure to take a few minutes to verify and update your contact information on your invoice. STMA is "going green" and on your renewal notice you will be offered the opportunity to opt-out of receiving a hard copy of the Annual Membership Directory. STMA's on-line directory is real-time and provides the most up-to-date membership information. The hard copy is available for those who prefer a printed directory, and you can certainly change your preference at any time.

Included with your renewal notice is the Ballot/Slate of Candidates for the 2008 STMA Board of Directors election. You will be able to fax, email or mail the ballot to headquarters to cast your vote. Please follow the instructions noted on the ballot. The deadline for voting is December 21.

### Take the CSFM test at Conference

Testing for STMA Certification is offered twice at the STMA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition in Phoenix for those who pre-qualify and pre-register by Dec. 14. The test will be given on

Tues., Jan 15, 2008, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. This will allow you to take the test and then enjoy the conference. For those who prefer to wait until the conclusion of the conference, the test will be offered again on Sat., Jan. 19, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you take the test on Tuesday and do not pass all of the sections, you may be able to retest on those sections on Saturday. The exam covers agronomics, pest management, administration, and sports specific field management. Join the 79 Certified Sports Turf Managers who have validated their knowledge, skills and abilities by taking and passing the exam.

To find out if you qualify to take the exam, contact STMA headquarters at 1-800-323-3875, or [STMAinfo@STMA.org](mailto:STMAinfo@STMA.org). STMA has a simple form that can help you determine if you are eligible to test.

### SAFE has new look, stronger focus

The SAFE Foundation (The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments), the STMA's charitable arm, has unveiled a new logo. The new design presents a closer visual connection with the STMA logo. However, the closer alliance is much more than a visual statement. STMA President Mike Andresen, CSFM, sees collaboration as a means

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to enhance the industry. He says, "The partnership between STMA and SAFE goes beyond our legal relationship. It is vital that we work together to advance our profession."

SAFE is a 501(c) 3 organization, and donations to it are usually tax deductible. Funds donated to SAFE can be used for scholarship, research and education. Andresen sees huge opportunity for more involvement by SAFE in developing education and is committed to providing recognition for their support. "All STMA educational resources will include the SAFE logo," says Andresen. We want our industry, allied associations, athletes, and fans to recognize the important work of SAFE." Andresen also notes that SAFE is linked to the STMA through the association's long-range strategic plan. "Our strategic plan has one entire platform that focuses on joint STMA-SAFE objectives."

SAFE Chairman of the Board Boyd Montgomery, CSFM echoes Andresen's thoughts on the importance of working together. "STMA has set the bar really high on its commitment to deliver superior education to its members. By working as a team we can accomplish those goals."

With the new visual statement, SAFE also will be refocusing its efforts to grow its funding. SAFE has engaged a grant writer to explore appropriate and available grants for The Foundation. In addition, SAFE is evaluating two research proposals. In 2006 and early this year, SAFE provided partial funding for the STMA/NIAAA DVD on Mound-building and Home Plate Maintenance, funded \$12,500 in scholarships to STMA student members, partially funded the Student Challenge participants' conference registration fees and provided \$8,000 for the Student Challenge awards.

STMA requests donations to SAFE through its conference registration and membership renewal forms and also encourages on-line donations, which can be accessed from the STMA website at [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org).

#### Donate auction items

The SAFE Foundation needs donations for its live and silent auctions and raffles, which will be held throughout the conference in Phoenix. Donations can be team gear, products, equipment, tickets to unique attractions in your area; about anything will work for the many auction/raffle events.

SAFE offers the following opportunities to donate:

**Level 1 Donation** items that have a value of \$2,000 or more. These items will be the grand prizes for our event-long Raffle, which will be drawn during the well-attended Awards Banquet Jan. 18. The items will be displayed throughout the conference at the registration area with signage promoting the donator. Promotion will also be given at [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org).

**Level 2 Donation** items that have a value of \$500 or more. These items will make up the live Auction that will occur at the Pre-Banquet Reception January 18. Signage will recognize the donating organization.

**Level 3 Donation** is any items that fall below the above levels. We will be using these for the Silent Auctions that will be conducted daily during the trade show. Each day will feature new items.

Donating to these charitable events is a great way to showcase your business, your sports team, or your hometown! To donate, please fill out the following form or contact STMA at 800-323-3875.



## STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

**Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:** [www.azstma.com](http://www.azstma.com).

**Chesapeake Chapter STMA**  
(formerly Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization – MAFMO Chapter STMA):  
[www.ccstma.org](http://www.ccstma.org).

**Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:** [www.cstma.org](http://www.cstma.org).

**Florida #1 Chapter:** 954/782-2748

**Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.gatewaystma.org](http://www.gatewaystma.org).

**Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:** 706/542-7859.

**The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.stmalabasin.com](http://www.stmalabasin.com).

**Illinois Chapter STMA:**  
847/263-7603.

**Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.imstma.org](http://www.imstma.org).

**Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:**  
[www.iowaturfgrass.org](http://www.iowaturfgrass.org).