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Strength in numbers

Thank you for being a member of the Sports Turf Managers Association. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Committees and fellow members of our association, I sincerely mean, 'Thank You.'

As members and people who work in the sports and turf management industries, we all realize the importance of continuing education, experience, passion for what we do, and networking with peers. As we develop our personal goals and the objectives to reach those goals, I trust STMA gets better each day in becoming a great resource for you. Providing those elements is certainly the goal of our Association.

The only way we succeed in our goals is through commitment and resources. Commitment from volunteers may be STMA's strongest asset. Obviously the committee system in STMA thrives and accomplishes great results because of the willingness so many members have in giving back to this industry. We do it with trust that we're making a difference in image enhancement, professionalism and making our industry richer for the next generation of Sports Turf Managers.

Volunteerism also happens locally. Stories we read about, hear about and live first hand, where individuals or groups help with community projects leave a remarkable impression and also reflect positively on the entire profession. I benefit because of the work you do. Voltaire, the great French philosopher and writer summed it up: "Appreciation is a wonderful thing; it makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well."

January starts a new membership year. As we grow and become a more relevant Association and industry, we'll have more opportunities to attain our greater goals. We know that our membership roster is tiny compared to the pool of potential members. You are responsible for positioning us where we are today, in a great place! We know this Association needs to expand to truly represent the sports turf industry. Please help us to grow in 2009. If we all simply introduce a potential member to STMA, we'll all benefit. Know the website address (www.STMA.org), know the toll free number by heart (800-323-3875) and know what you'd tell a potential member about what STMA means to you. You'll be doing your part.

There's no difference between a commercial member and a professional member in the desire to make STMA "bigger and better." As we grow as an industry, our commercial partners recognize this and invest even more in our needs. Their interest is certainly to help us succeed, both at your facility and throughout the country and world. As we succeed in managing sports fields and enriching athletes' lives, our partners succeed as commercial enterprises.

It's a privilege and honor to speak on behalf of the STMA membership. More importantly it's a privilege and honor to be one person in this great collective group of members. Voltaire's words are on point, and I benefit every day from my association with STMA and each of you. Thank you.



MIKE ANDRESEN
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