

Consider STMA Board service

Each year, STMA presents a "Call for Nominations" for STMA voting members to indicate your interest in board service. Please take a moment to consider serving on the STMA Board of Directors, or urging a qualified colleague to consider service. The benefits are many. Through serving on the board, you'll:

- Contribute to your professional association.
- Be a part of a decision-making body.
- Hone your listening, collaborative and other personal development skills.
- Strengthen your leadership abilities.
- Make a difference in the strategic direction of the profession.
- Garner respect from your employer, your peers and your staff.

For 2009, STMA is seeking nominations for Directors from all voting categories of membership. As you may recall, STMA is proposing revisions to its Bylaws this fall to the membership. If the membership approves the Bylaws, this will add two At-Large Director positions for Board service from any category of voting membership. The President may appoint one of those positions to the Board; however the other will be placed on the ballot—all contingent on the approval of the Bylaws.

The Schools K-12, Professional, and Commercial Director positions are definitely up for election in 2009. These three positions will be elected to two-year terms. If the membership does not approve the proposed Bylaws, STMA will keep a list of those interested in but, ineligible for, board service in 2009 due to their category. This pool may be used for future elections.

Per the STMA Bylaws, the:

Schools K-12 Director must represent the K-12 membership segment, which is any Category I or II person who manages sports fields for institutions that provide education to students in grades Kindergarten through 12.

Professional Director must represent the Professional membership segment, which is any Category I or II person who manages sports fields used by professional athletes.

Commercial Director (includes consultants, architects, designers, contractors, management companies, distributors and manufacturers, etc.) This member's company must be engaged in a commercial enterprise providing services and/or products to the sports turf profession, and the board candidate must be the STMA Commercial Member.

To have your name considered by the Nominations Committee, please fill out the Nominations Form (page 49) in this issue, or go to www.STMA.org. Be sure to answer the two brief questions included on the form. The STMA Nominations Committee encourages you to also share this form with your peers

STMA adds new awards category

The STMA Field of the Year Awards program has added a new category to replace the now retired Complex of the Year category. In January 2009, at its 20th Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Jose, CA, STMA will award its first Sporting Grounds of the Year at the professional, college and university, and schools and parks levels. The Awards Committee simply felt that the pursuit of excellence on one field took precedence over the generalized facility management aspects of a complex. All previous Complex of the Year winners will rightfully maintain their status as elite among their peers as an STMA Complex of the Year winner but applications in that category are no longer accepted.



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STMA in Action

The Field of the Year Application has been revised to a more user friendly format. Also, the Awards Committee has expanded the number of photographs allowed to 25 maximum. This is to allow you opportunities to show your creativity and unique features of your field. You can find the STMA Field of the Year application at www.STMA.org.

In establishing the STMA Sporting Grounds of the Year, the Awards Committee has targeted athletic fields which host "unique" sports outside of STMA's "Big Four" of football, baseball, softball, soccer. Fields that host field hockey, lacrosse, rugby, cricket, tennis, and horse racing, among others, are encouraged to apply. For a field to apply under the new category, it must host the

"unique" sport for a majority of the play on a natural grass playing surface.

The new STMA Sporting Grounds of the Year applicants must follow the same guidelines and rules as STMA Field of the Year applicants, and winners will receive the same recognition. This recognition includes a plaque, free registration to the STMA Conference in San Jose, \$500 towards lodging at the conference, and STMA Field of the Year Signature merchandise.

The amazing package for each category and level winner would not be possible without the support of the STMA Awards Program sponsors: Carolina Green; Covermaster, Inc.; Hunter Industries; Scotts Turf-Seed; Turface Athletics; and World Class Athletic Surfaces. Please support

these sponsors and let them know that their contribution to the association is very much appreciated.

The deadline to submit an application is October 15, 2008. The Awards Committee suggests that you get started on your application by taking pictures of your field in the off-season to better show the transformation of the field throughout the year. Also, be sure to document unique challenges and solutions that arise during the year, so you will be able to "wow!" the committee with your expertise.

Contact STMA special projects manager Patrick Allen at pallen@stma.org or 800.323.3875 if you have questions about the new category or the STMA Field of the Year program. ■



Teamwork helped the crew from the Albuquerque Isotopes win the STMA 2007 Professional Baseball Field of the Year Award.



Steve DiNatale of the University of Oregon helped win the STMA 2007 College Football Field of the Year Award.