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## Committees are STMA cornerstone

STMA's committees are fully engaged in work. We are fortunate to have a large turnout of volunteers willing to participate in "giving back" to the association. Committees are the cornerstone of STMA—where the true work is accomplished. Just look at the work that the Conference Committee does in planning all of the elements of the annual conference. That is a huge undertaking!

Planning for Disney actually started in 2006, with the selection of the Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center as the 2010 site. In 2008, we reviewed some of the off-site tour locations and other possible outdoor demonstration areas in Disney, and while in San José, more ideas and discussions about 2010 took place before the 2009 conference had ended.

The Committee always evaluates feedback from the previous conferences and strives to make the next year's educational sessions more valuable and strengthen the entire conference program. The Call for Presentations is in full swing as well. Please consider submitting a suggested speaker and topic, or a topic you might present. This is just another great way to be involved in STMA.

A subgroup of the Information Outreach Committee has been working closely with the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) in a collaborative effort on their new maintenance manual. Our committee members are the subject matter experts for the ASBA, and they have reviewed four chapters of a manual on design, construction and maintenance of synthetic and natural grass athletic fields. This is one more opportunity for STMA and its members to be involved in educating other associations on the value of a sports turf manager.

Another great program that evolved from Committee work is the new on-line tracking of ISP and CEUs for all Certified Sports Field Managers. This is a tool that the association is offering to assist in the recordkeeping for those members who are certified. Through this service, STMA is helping to grow the program and to streamline the reporting component for its members. I strongly encourage you to consider becoming certified.

At last month's board meeting, your Board of Directors discussed the economy and its impacts to the association and to its members. We are focused on continuing to provide services that are highly valuable to you as a member of STMA. The board is also committed to a balanced budget. We identified non-programmatic areas of the budget that may need to be trimmed throughout the year and renewed our commitment to increase the program areas that directly relate to the value of being a member. Our focus is on the programs and services that provide you with the resources you need to do your job better.

Regional conferences are another way to expose STMA's valued education to a local group of members and non-members. Details on the regional conference to be held in Ames, Iowa, June 24-25 are on page 57.