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## New era begins for STMA

A NEW ERA for STMA has just begun with a larger board, new term lengths for the officer positions, and an official ascension process to the Presidency. The Governance Task group started in 2007 and the membership approved in the fall of 2008 the new at-large Director positions, the new term lengths, and the combination of the Secretary/ Treasurer position.

The new board representation will allow for more diverse representation from the membership as well as more opportunities to serve the organization. The new term lengths for the officer positions allow for shorter board service along with a true path for choosing the STMA President. I am excited to be a part of a larger board that has strong and diverse representation from the membership.

The Strategic Plan provides the path for the board to set its yearly tasks. From the first time I participated in the Strategic Planning session in 2001 until now, I have learned the value of having a good Strategic Plan. We have achieved quite a bit from the current Strategic Plan and still have more to accomplish. This year the board will be focusing on rolling out the Playing Conditions Index (PCI) (which made its official debut at the conference), Chapter Executive Training, Regional Education Seminars, and Membership Enhancement.

The PCI is a tool for sport turf managers to assess the playability of their fields. The goal is to help your employer, athletes, coaches and fans understand the skills and knowledge needed to provide high quality playing surfaces. Look for the complete booklet on the STMA website ([www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org)); we encourage you to use it to your benefit in such a way that makes the most sense for your situation.

STMA is also planning to host Chapter Executives for a training session to assist in organizing the operations of the chapters. And the board is committed to two Regional Education Seminars this year, one in New England with six chapters and one in Iowa with seven chapters. This is just another opportunity to bring STMA's educational programs to the local level and reach members and potential members in those areas.

To grow our membership, we must make sure that our current members fully know what they get with their membership. Taking the current benefits that are provided with membership and enhancing them to show the benefit of being a member will then lead to growing the membership.

Thomas Edison said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." Please consider volunteering to serve on one of the many committees and help guide the work of the STMA. STMA has strong committees and committees are where the bulk of work is carried out. Become an active part of your organization.

I am excited to be a part of the change, and I am looking forward to the coming year with the new board.