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Consider becoming a leader of STMA

WHAT DOES STMA MEMBERSHIP MEAN TO ME? Education, networking, and opportunities to advance my abilities as a sports turf manager. STMA has been an association since 1981, and in the pages of this issue of *SportsTurf*, we continue our series of articles recognizing members' longevity with STMA. This month, you meet members who joined the association between 1995 and 1996 (page 58).

We are an association that is made up of members whose purpose is to help members succeed in this profession. Our early members provided the foundation upon which the association has grown. From the very beginning, our members believed in the value of sharing knowledge and experiences from which a great association was formed. They have also provided wisdom over the years as the association has tremendously grown as well as experienced challenging times. I would like to personally thank our long-time members for their continued support of this wonderful association.

As you look at this list, you will notice that many of these members are involved on STMA committees, hold chapter leadership roles, and several have served, or are currently serving on, your national Board of Directors. A well-functioning board is one that listens to its members, accepts new ideas, and blends ideas with the wisdom of the past. Being an active participant on a great board is important to the members you represent as well as strategically guiding the goals of the organization.

The boards that I have had a privilege to work with have taught me the ways and the strength of what a group of volunteers can do to grow an association. The experience has been so rewarding, and it has gone by so fast. Last year the membership approved new bylaws, which changed the board composition and length of service. We now have shorter term lengths for the executive board members along with the addition of two At-Large Director positions. The board service was shortened to encourage more members to participate in board service.

I would personally like to encourage all members to consider board service. Take the time to review the strategic plan of the association, find an area that sparks your interest and submit your name for a board position. The Nominating Committee also looks for members who have had strong and active participation with chapters and committees. These areas act as a "feeder system" for board service; however they are not mandatory requirements. Now is the time to consider submitting your name for board service. In the coming months the Nominating Committee will be reviewing names that have been submitted for board service, and developing the Slate of Candidates to present to you for a vote.

It is a rewarding way to participate in the strategic growth of STMA. If you have questions or need more information, please contact STMA headquarters or the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Immediate Past President Mike Andresen, CSFM.

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