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≫President'sMessage

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Dues forgiveness program for unemployed

THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMY has had an effect on all of us, and the STMA Board of Directors and its committees are working hard to provide opportunities to assist all members during these times. One program that has been created to assist unemployed members is the Dues Forgiveness Program. This program allows an unemployed STMA member to continue to have all the membership benefits for up to 6 months after they have become unemployed. Members who are unemployed at the time they typically renew their membership can continue to take advantage of all of the privileges of membership. This includes access to the STMA members-only side of the website to search the job listing section on the career page, as well as to post their résumé for potential employers to see. The Board of Directors feels that this program is an opportunity to emphasize to our members how important they are to STMA and to recognize their dedication of membership service in the association. More information on this program can be found on the STMA website, www.stma.org.

Another way the Board of Directors is helping to assist members is by providing more conference education during the annual STMA Conference and Exhibition. The number of pre-conference workshops available on Wednesday has been increased, are offered throughout the entire day, and are now included (at no additional costs) in the full conference registration package. This is just another way that we are expanding the educational value of attending the conference. So keep making plans to attend the 2010 STMA Conference and Exhibition in Disney World in January.

We have all heard stories of other sports turf managers going above and beyond, and now is the time to recognize them by nominating a member for one of STMA's Founders Awards. The STMA Founders Awards program honors members who have done more than just their daily duties at their facility—they are true ambassadors who represent the industry and the association. Each year these awards are given to members who have been nominated by their peers and have met the criteria set forth by the awards committee. If you know of a member who fits the criteria for one of the awards, please take the time to nominate them. More information on the Founders Awards can be found on the website.

Lastly I would like to congratulate the staff at headquarters; it is the 5th year of having a full time staff and an actual headquarters in Lawrence, KS. The STMA has grown, and it is largely due to the exceptional leadership of CEO Kim Heck and her staff: Patrick Allen, Kristen Althouse, Leah Craig, and Nora McIntire. I would like to personally thank them for all their hard work and dedication to making the STMA the recognized leader in the sports turf industry.

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