

# STMA members asked to approve bylaws change

**Bylaws language** for a new Retired Category of membership was approved by the STMA Board of Directors at its summer meeting. Initially brought forward from the Membership Committee for discussion last year, the board tasked the Bylaws Committee this year to formally develop the language for the Bylaws. The new category is STMA's tenth category of membership and is non-voting.

"3.4.4 Category X - Retired: Person who is retired and no longer seeking full-time employment within the scope of activities of any STMA membership category, and who has been a member of STMA for five

years, may become a non-voting member of STMA and is not eligible to hold elective office."

The Board developed this category to be inclusive and keep retired members involved in STMA. The Bylaws Committee also developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which further clarifies retired status:

- To be eligible, the person must not be employed in a full-time position, which is defined as 30 hours per week or more.

- The 5 years does not need to be consecutive. A person is eligible if they had a break in membership, but their years of membership add up to 5 or more.

- A person does not have to be a current member to take advantage of this category. If they let their membership lapse, and then retire, but meet the requirements of a retired member, they are eligible to renew membership in this category.

- Age does not play a role in this category.

- Dues shall be \$50 annually.

STMA members will be asked to vote on this bylaw's addition during the election balloting process, which takes place in late November. The STMA Bylaws can only be amended by a majority of members casting a vote. ■

## Ask a CSFM

Martin Kaufman, CSFM, Head Groundsman and Sports Field Manager, Ensworth Schools, Nashville, TN

# Benefits of certification verified

*Editor's note: This is another installment on how becoming a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) can benefit turf managers professionally as well as improve their facilities*

### How did you prepare for the CSFM Exam?

**KAUFMAN:** I read the book *Sports Fields* by Puhalla, Krans and Goatley; I also attend Dr. Koski's presentation on preparing for the CSFM exam at Conference.

### How did you approach your employer to support your certification, both financially and in the time needed to prepare for the exam?

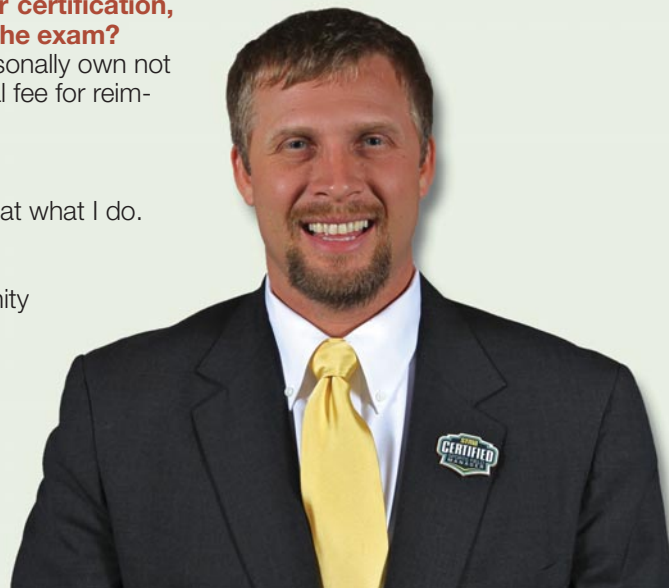
**KAUFMAN:** I paid for it myself as it is something that I personally own not my employer. However, I do now submit the annual renewal fee for reimbursement.

### Why did you decide to pursue certification?

**KAUFMAN:** To obtain the highest professional recognition at what I do.

### How has certification helped your career?

**KAUFMAN:** My employer has recognized it in the community newsletter; potential employees have sought employment with me as a result. I have letters after my name for professional recognition as does a CPA or even a doctor, this markets my education and experience as a recognized professional and separates me from the perceptions that anyone can do what I do for vocation. I believe I was elected to the STMA Board as a result of CSFM status which is a highlight of my career. ■



# Meet the members who missed the Directory printing

STMA's annual printed directory is current through May 24. Any member who joins STMA or renews a membership, regardless of the date, is always included in the real-time on-line directory. Following are those who joined as new members or renewed their memberships after the May cutoff date. This list is current through August 3. For full contact information, please go to the members only side of [www.STMA.org](http://www.STMA.org).

STMA thanks all of its members for their continued support of the association!

| First Name | Last Name   | Suffix | Company Name                                  | City            | State | Country |
|------------|-------------|--------|---|-----------------|-------|---------|
| Philipe    | Aldahir     |        | Auburn University                             | Auburn          | AL    |         |
| Matthew    | Armbrister  |        | John Deere                                    | Cary            | NC    |         |
| Joseph     | Arnone      |        | Northern Nurseries Inc.                       | W Suffield      | CT    |         |
| Jonathan   | Arthur      |        | Gardencare Services                           | Accra           |       | Ghana   |
| Ralph      | Baldenegro  |        | Maricopa County<br>Community College District | Chandler        | AZ    |         |
| Andrew     | Bartley     |        | Pittsburgh Pirates                            | Bradenton       | FL    |         |
| Adam       | Basden      |        | City of San Luis Obispo                       | San Luis Obispo | CA    |         |
| Kevin      | Beckman     |        | City of Boca Raton                            | Boca Raton      | FL    |         |
| Ron        | Bethke      |        |   | Fort Dodge      | IA    |         |
| Tyler      | Bigham      |        |   | Lubbock         | TX    |         |
| Brian      | Blount      |        | The Ohio State University                     | Columbus        | OH    |         |
| Bruce      | Boman       |        | Southwestern College                          | Chula Vista     | CA    |         |
| LeRoy      | Butler      |        | GreenOne Industries                           | Sedalia         | CO    |         |
| Paul       | Carlson     |        | Syngenta Professional<br>Products             | Olivette        | MO    |         |
| Matthew    | Carroll     |        | John Deere Landscapes                         | Loganville      | GA    |         |
| Camilo     | Castillo    |        | City of Lakewood                              | Lakewood        | CA    |         |
| Aaron      | Champagne   |        | City of Spokane Parks &<br>Recreation Dept    | Spokane         | WA    |         |
| Jonathan   | Charwick    |        | "Gale Associates, Inc."                       | Towson          | MD    |         |
| Nick       | Cole        |        | University of California/                     | Berkeley        | CA    |         |
| Casey      | Corbin      |        |   | Lakewood        | CO    |         |
| Anthony    | Davis       |        | University of Technology                      | Kingston.6      |       | Jamaica |
| Jeff       | Dean        |        | City of Lakewood                              | Lakewood        | CA    |         |
| Drew       | Doty        |        | The Brickman Group                            | Ghent           | NY    |         |
| Cole       | Dudley      |        | Denver Broncos Football Club                  | Englewood       | CO    |         |
| Jeffrey    | Ebdon       | Ph.D.  | University of Massachusetts                   | Amherst         | MA    |         |
| Greg       | Fear        |        | Sodexo  | Bowling Green   | KY    |         |
| Mark       | Fletcher    |        |   | Avon            | NJ    |         |
| Raymond    | Galleno     | Jr.    |   | Huntersville    | NC    |         |
| Tim        | Gambrell    |        |   | Jupiter         | FL    |         |
| Josh       | Glover      |        |   | Raleigh         | NC    |         |
| Ronald     | Griffin     |        | Bartram Trail High School                     | St Johns        | FL    |         |
| John       | Halloran    |        | Grassland Equip. & Irr. Corp.                 | Latham          | NY    |         |
| Britt      | Hendrix     |        |   | Savannah        | GA    |         |
| Jason      | Hilderbrand |        | Inland Empire 66ers                           | San Bernardino  | CA    |         |
| Ryan       | Hillert     |        |   | Brooklyn        | NY    |         |
| Benjamin   | Hobbs       |        |   | Nashville       | TN    |         |
| Kenneth    | Hopkins     |        | Tropic Designs                                | Jonesboro       | GA    |         |
| Steven     | Jablonski   |        |   | Euless          | TX    |         |
| Richard    | Johns       |        |   | Little Rock     | AR    |         |
| Patrick    | Jones       |        | The University of<br>Tennessee/Knoxville      | Knoxville       | TN    |         |
| Larry      | Lane        |        | "Turf Time West, Inc."                        | Dana Point      | CA    |         |
| Kenneth    | Langley     |        | Dunwoody Senior Baseball                      | Dunwoody        | GA    |         |
| Ronald     | Lee         | Jr.    | Glynn County Schools                          | Brunswick       | GA    |         |
| William    | Link        |        | "Lakelin, Inc."                               | Coldwater       | MI    |         |
| Jason      | Londeree    |        | Charlotte Country Day School                  | Indian Trail    | NC    |         |
| Michael    | Longyhore   |        |   | Odenton         | MD    |         |
| Sergio     | Lopez       |        | Sodexo  | Oklahoma City   | OK    |         |
| Norval     | Lunan       |        | Premier Turf                                  | Morris          | CT    |         |
| John       | Mardesich   |        |   | Cupertino       | CA    |         |
| Jeremy     | Marsh       |        | McGill Environmental                          | Harrells        | NC    |         |
| Paul       | Massey      |        | Tifton Turf Farms                             | Tifton          | GA    |         |
| Nick       | McCabe      |        | Ithaca College                                | Ithaca          | NY    |         |
| Ernie      | McClatchie  |        | Ithaca College                                | Ithaca          | NY    |         |
| Jay        | McClintock  |        | Town of Walkkill                              | Middletown      | NY    |         |
| Brett      | McCubbin    |        | City of Smithville - Parks Dept               | Smithville      | MO    |         |
| Mike       | McDade      |        | City of Lakewood                              | Lakewood        | CA    |         |
| John       | McHugh      |        | Kifco Irrigation                              | Havana          | IL    |         |
| Stephen    | McIntosh    |        | Mylan Park                                    | Morgantown      | WV    |         |
| Tyler      | Meppelink   |        |   | Grand Rapids    | MI    |         |
| Alan       | Milam       |        | Guilford Technical<br>Community College       | Jamestown       | NC    |         |
| Andrew     | Miller      |        |   | Macy            | IN    |         |
| Robbie     | Miller      |        | Providence Day School                         | Charlotte       | NC    |         |

| First Name | Last Name   | Suffix | Company Name   | City              | State | Country |
|------------|-------------|--------|--|-------------------|-------|---------|
| John       | Mithaler    | Jr.    |  | Apex              | NC    |         |
| Edward     | Mitchell    |        | Our Lady of Mercy Academy                            | Bayport           | NY    |         |
| Terri      | Mitchell    |        | "Armaccell, LLC"                                     | Mebane            | NC    |         |
| Jeffrey    | Moon        |        |  | Rock Hill         | SC    |         |
| Don        | Morris      |        | Covenant College                                     | Look Out Mnt      | GA    |         |
| Mark       | Moxley      |        | City of Fort Walton Beach                            | Fort Walton Beach | FL    |         |
| Michael    | Moyer       |        | Greenlife Turf Contracting                           | Lamar             | MO    |         |
| Justin     | Mullis      |        | Spartanburg Parks Commission                         | Spartanburg       | SC    |         |
| Erika      | Murata      |        | "Rockey Murata<br>Landscaping, Inc"                  | Cerritos          | CA    |         |
| Joel       | Murphy      |        | Plainfield School District 202                       | Plainfield        | IL    |         |
| David      | Navarro     | Jr.    | Carson City Parks & Rec Dept                         | Carson City       | NV    |         |
| Zachary    | Nielsen     |        |  | Rockford          | MI    |         |
| William    | Norris      |        | "Reinders, Inc."                                     | Shawnee           | KS    |         |
| Rich       | Ohara       |        | University of California                             | Los Angeles       | CA    |         |
| Dave       | Osborne     |        | City of Lakewood                                     | Lakewood          | CA    |         |
| Vincent    | Patterozzi  |        |  | Glen Carbon       | IL    |         |
| Gordon     | Porter      |        | Paxton High School                                   | Paxton            | FL    |         |
| Barry      | Pozzo       |        |  | Drumheller        | AB    | Canada  |
| John       | Pridgen     |        | "Sportscape Services, Inc."                          | Lacrosse          | FL    |         |
| Wayne      | Radke       |        | Town of Windsor                                      | Windsor           | CT    |         |
| Dave       | Radueg      |        |  | Denver            | CO    |         |
| Robert     | Ralston     |        |  | Shawnee           | KS    |         |
| Victor     | Roberts     |        | Lakota School  | Liberty Township  | OH    |         |
| Mario      | Rodriguez   |        | City of Winter Haven                                 | Winter Haven      | FL    |         |
| Jason      | Rolf        |        | Harrison Central School District                     | Tuckahoe          | NY    |         |
| Troy       | Romero      |        | "Sports Turf Specialist, LLC"                        | Welsh             | LA    |         |
| Scott      | Rowedder    |        |  | Iowa City         | IA    |         |
| Ryan       | Rowland     |        | Minnesota Twins                                      | Carver            | MN    |         |
| Kerry      | Satterwhite |        | Pearl Valley Organix                                 | Pearl Valley      | IL    |         |
| Stephen    | Sawyer      |        | Sidwell Friends School                               | Washington        | DC    |         |
| Mike       | Scully      |        | ValleyCrest<br>Landscape Maintenance                 | Phoenix           | AZ    |         |
| Todd       | Sechser     |        | City of Lakewood                                     | Lakewood          | CA    |         |
| Joshua     | Sells       |        | River Hills Country Club                             | Indian Trail      | NC    |         |
| Bill       | Seymour     |        | "Gale Associates, Inc."                              | Weymouth          | MA    |         |
| Chris      | Shockley    |        | University of Rochester                              | Rochester         | NY    |         |
| David      | Smith       |        |  | Pennsville        | NJ    |         |
| James      | Smith       |        |  | San Antonio       | TX    |         |
| Ronald     | Snarr       |        | University of Utah                                   | Salt Lake City    | UT    |         |
| Ryan       | Snead       |        |  | Sunnyvale         | CA    |         |
| Connor     | Snide       |        |  | Swanzy            | NH    |         |
| Michael    | Soper       |        |  | Peabody           | MA    |         |
| David      | Spacone     |        | Niagara Falls School District                        | Niagara Falls     | NY    |         |
| Rodney     | St. John    |        | Kansas State University<br>Horticulture Research Ctr | Olathe            | KS    |         |
| Brian      | Stokes      |        |  | Alexandria        | VA    |         |
| Dean       | Styburski   |        | Lombard Park District                                | Lombard           | IL    |         |
| Paul       | Swafford    |        | Kirkwood Community College                           | Fairfield         | IA    |         |
| Charles    | Thomas      |        |  | E Green Bush      | NY    |         |
| Rudolph    | Trevino     |        | City of Las Cruces -<br>Parks & Rec Section          | Las Cruces        | NM    |         |
| Nathan     | Tuck        |        |  | Austin            | TX    |         |
| John       | Turnour     |        | Washington Nationals                                 | Washington        | DC    |         |
| Scott      | Urbantke    |        | University of Alabama<br>Athletic Dept               | Tuscaloosa        | AL    |         |
| Ben        | Waits       |        |  | Millington        | TN    |         |
| John       | Walker      |        |  | Buckeye           | AZ    |         |
| Randy      | Will        |        | Chico Area Recreation<br>& Park District             | Chico             | CA    |         |
| Michael    | Wilson      |        | "Professional Turf<br>Specialties, Inc."             | Fullerton         | CA    |         |
| Theresa    | Winell      |        | "Harsco Minerals, Inc."                              | Sarver            | PA    |         |
| Bob        | Womack      |        | Southwestern College                                 | Chula Vista       | CA    |         |
| Josh       | Zolkowski   |        | The Boathouse  | Edgartown         | MA    |         |
| Paul       | Zowada      |        |  | Lusk              | WY    |         |

# Building an international network one contact at a time

With established members abroad, the prospect of new members, and its culture of sharing information, the STMA Board of Directors began exploring opportunities internationally. A new task group was formed in 2010 by then-President Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, to define STMA's role on the international front. He placed Abby McNeal, CSFM as Chair of the Task Group. President Troy Smith, CSFM subsequently created the International Committee from this Task Group a year later, with McNeal also at its helm. Other committee members include: Murray Cook, Ken Curry, Paul Gillen, Roberto Gurgel, Johnathan Knight, CSFM, Gil Landry, Ph.D. Marcela Munoz, Don Scholl, CSFM, John Sorochan, Ph.D., Rene Asprien, and Matt Williams.

One of my goals as STMA intern was to develop a comprehensive list of potential international contacts for the STMA. With the loyalty and camaraderie of the membership domestically, the international market seems like a natural fit for STMA to extend that network. A majority of those contacts targeted were professors and department heads in various colleges, universities, and other higher learning institutions abroad. It is crucial that they know how important academics are to the profession. I informed them about potential opportunities to speak at the STMA annual conference, as well as having their research published in *SportsTurf* magazine. Both of these activities add to their credibility and to the reputation of the STMA.

My email communication was in English and language proved to be a small speed-bump on the road to communication. McNeal also sees language as an issue. "The biggest obstacle would be connecting with the appropriate people in other countries and not letting thousands of miles and language barriers slow the process of sharing information," she says. The vast majority of the educators' contact information was easily attainable, but some required a translation.

As these relationships progress through STMA and as global networking advances in general, cross-border communication should not be an issue in the future. STMA also has plans to create its resources in multiple languages.

US-based academics also advise quite a bit on sports fields abroad and give formal presentations to scientific audiences and to sports turf groups. STMA academic board member Pam Sherratt has asked her peers to promote STMA to the appropriate people during their travels. To help them communicate the STMA message, I developed a PowerPoint presentation that

they could add to the end of their slide shows.

Also introduced to STMA were international sports organizations. These groups span the globe from Argentina, France, to New Zealand. Since safety of athletes is a top concern for the STMA, it was necessary to make these groups aware of the resources offered through the STMA website, including best management practices for field maintenance that help to protect athletes.

Many commercial companies are working internationally and have contacts. STMA commercial representatives Chad Price, CSFM and Rene Asprien asked their peers to introduce the association internationally and to provide their contacts to STMA for follow up.

Building relationships through these key contacts is a very important way to promote STMA to new groups. Another goal of the International Committee is to help sports turf managers form into organized groups internationally. Although this is a long-term effort, there is some recent progress in Brazil, thanks in large part, to a committee member.

Roberto Gurgel, Executive Director of Research for Sod Solutions, Inc., has been working with his contacts to help the Brazilian Sports Turf Organization to get up and running (official name is ABGE, Associacao Brasileira das Empresas e Profissionais de Gramados Esportivos). Some members of this new organization came to the National Conference in Austin, TX this past January. Currently, STMA is providing the resources and information for this professional organization to reach International Affiliate Organization status (IAO). The affiliation was developed to formalize collaboration between STMA and international organizations. To reach IAO status, the group of sports turf managers must be recognized as a business entity in their country and provide proof to STMA annually. They must develop by-laws or other governing documents, and they must elect a Board of Directors. Headquartered in Guelph, ON, Canada, the Sports Turf Association (STA) was the first to gain IAO status in December of 2009.

Another goal of STMA's international efforts is to establish strong relationships with other allied international associations. The efforts of President Smith and Chair McNeal have been key. In the fall of 2010, Smith spoke at a conference for the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) in the UK. Likewise, Ian Lacey, Director of Education for IOG will speak at STMA's annual conference this January. Since STMA and the IOG are similar organizations, the collaboration and sharing of information and resources will help

them to serve their members better. STMA and the IOG relationship is an area for continued growth.

McNeal has also been an ambassador on the International front for STMA. In 2009, McNeal traveled to Singapore to give a presentation at the Singapore National Parks Board Regional Turf Conference. She spoke on environmental efforts on sports fields in the U.S. Being the Chair of the International Committee, McNeal sees South America as the starting point based on the information the committee members have gathered this year. "Chile and Brazil are our two strongest areas of having connections, and the sports turf managers there are eager to learn from our organization," says McNeal. Helping create a platform for the International Affiliate Organizations to get started is also an important objective. "Once we have them 'hooked' on STMA then they can start providing educational opportunities to sports turf managers in their areas of the world and raising the quality of sports turf managers and fields worldwide," she notes.

All members on the International Committee are making great efforts to promote the value of STMA to other areas of the world. At such an early point in its development, it is hard to evaluate progress. The success the group has made so far is worthy of note and is in step with McNeal's overall goal for STMA's international efforts. "I would like to see STMA as an international leader in providing education to sports turf managers on best management practices," says McNeal.

My work experience here has made me realize that those involved at every level of the association truly care about the services they are providing. I anticipate those in the industry overseas to become familiar with and take advantage of the resources STMA has to offer. I am looking forward to watching these advances for the next 5 or so years down the road become a positive step forward and a huge success for STMA. ■

*Author's note: As an intern, I was fortunate to work with this committee as well as be a temporary staff member for STMA. It has been a pleasure to learn about this service-oriented, non-profit organization and how it conducts business. Before I began my summer internship, I really did not know what kind of work experience I would gain. Doing research and composing communication materials was an excellent experience, and I was surprised how much my education at Benedictine College really came into use. Thank you STMA for the experience.*