

STMA President-Elect Kaufman resigns

THE SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION'S President-Elect, Martin Kaufman, CSFM, has resigned from its Board of Directors due to a change in his membership category. Kaufman recently became employed by Turf Managers LLC, which moved him from a sports turf manager into the commercial category. Commercial members are unable to ascend to the Presidency, and STMA's Bylaws require any officer on the presidential track who becomes employed in the commercial sector to resign within three months. Kaufman was to ascend to the Presidency in January 2013 during STMA's Annual Meeting.

"It has been a privilege to serve on the STMA Board for the past four years. I cherish my involvement with STMA, and certainly prize this period of time serving as a K-12 Director, Treasurer and President-

Elect", said Kaufman. STMA President James Michael Goatley, Jr., PhD expresses his regret on Kaufman's departure. "Martin has been a very valuable Board member and an outstanding representative of this industry. We will miss his enthusiasm for serving STMA, but we realize that this new position is a great opportunity for Martin and his family."

When a President-Elect resigns, STMA's Standard Operating Procedure dictates that the President assumes the duties of the President-Elect and that the President and Immediate Past President each serve a second term. This means that for 2013, Goatley will remain President, and Troy Smith, CSFM, will continue as Immediate Past President. Secretary/Treasurer David Pinsonneault, CSFM will ascend to President-Elect during the annual meeting as

scheduled. Also according to the SOP, Goatley has the authority to appoint a President-Elect for the remainder of Kaufman's term, or to appoint a qualified member to fulfill the role of conference oversight, which is the primary responsibility of the President-Elect. Any appointee would not ascend to the presidency.

"With just a few months left in this year, I am not appointing a President-Elect. However, I would like for Martin to continue to work on the conference. His in-depth knowledge of the conference planning thus far will help ensure that STMA will provide an excellent conference experience for our members," said Goatley. Kaufman has agreed to continue to lead the conference oversight team. "I would be honored to continue to work on the STMA Conference," said Kaufman. ■

Deadline for STMA awards is October 15

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OCTOBER 15? The start of Texas Native Plant Week? The start of National School Lunch Week? Yes, it is as well as the deadline to submit award and Founders Award nominations and applications to STMA? Don't miss it!

Submit an application for one of the many STMA awards and SAFE scholarships or grants. The Awards Program consists of:

Field of the Year awards made in football, soccer, baseball, softball and sporting grounds in three classifications: schools and parks, colleges and universities and professional stadiums. Winners receive three nights hotel at the annual conference, full conference registration, apparel, plaque and recognition.

Founders' Awards. These four awards are given to individuals who embody the characteristics of STMA's founders Harry C. Gill, George Toma, Dick Ericson and Dr. William H. Daniel. Since these are surprise awards, the winners receive one night hotel, travel and complimentary conference registration at the next year's conference. Please nominate a deserving peer for one of these awards!

Minor League Sports Turf Manager of the Year. In cooperation with Minor League Baseball, STMA presents an award in four classifications: AAA, AA, A and short season or rookie at the Baseball Winter Meetings Awards Luncheon.

Innovative Award. Presented to commercial members whose new product, service, equipment or technology enhances the effectiveness of the sports turf manager or improves the playing surface.

The Scholarship & Grants Program offers the following funds through the SAFE Foundation: \$12,500 to deserving 2-year and 4-year students (winners also receive three nights hotel and a complimentary conference registration)

Gary Vanden Berg Grant. \$1,000 for a deserving student who completed an internship this past spring or summer. (Recent graduates are eligible) The winner also receives three nights hotel at the annual conference and a complimentary conference registration.

Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant. \$1,000 for a deserving chapter member to go to the STMA Annual Conference. The winner also receives a complimentary conference registration.

For complete information and submittal forms, go to STMA.org, Professionalism Tab. ■

STMA selects Orlando as 2017 Conference Site

THE STMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS has selected the Orlando area for its 2017 conference location at the Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center. Attendees will receive an excellent room rate (nearly as low as its 2010 rates!), a \$25 dining card, free Disney World tickets, and complimentary airport transportation. Exhibitors will have the exhibit hall carpeted at no charge. Make plans now to bring your family and extend a vacation on either side of the conference. The dates are January 17-21, 2017.

STMA also has four other exciting locations lined up for its upcoming conferences and exhibitions. In 2013 (Jan. 15-18) we will be in Daytona Beach, FL; in 2014 (Jan. 21-24) San Antonio, TX; in 2015 (Jan. 13-16) Denver, CO; and in 2016 (Jan. 18-22) San Diego, CA. Each of these venues has excellent hotel and convention facilities, which are right in the heart of each city's dining, entertainment and cultural districts ■