

President's Message

Working for you

It's a privilege to update you on the recent STMA Board of Directors meeting. The Board took an oath of transparency a couple of years ago. We, along with CEO Kim Heck, feel that there is so much good happening with STMA that it is important to share the challenges, the successes, and the disappointments. Having members educated on what this association is doing for them and for the profession helps us all feel ownership, and helps provide a mechanism for getting involved.

The meeting was in San José, California. First, we met in joint session with the SAFE Board of Directors. SAFE is STMA's Foundation that has been providing funding for scholarships and educational resources. This joint meeting allowed us to learn about each organization's goals and to develop ways we can work together to advance both organizations. For starters, SAFE will be visible at this year's annual conference in many new ways.

The meeting was the first chance for many Board members to see San José. We toured the hotels, convention center, and off-site venues for the 2009 conference. You will love how the convention center is attached to both the Hilton and the Marriott hotels. There are more than 150 restaurants and nightspots within a mile of the hotels. San José is perfect for an extended stay as it lies an hour from San Francisco, an hour from Napa, and 70 minutes from Monterey. San José will prove to be an awesome host for STMA!

We also selected San Diego as a potential 2012 conference site. Our members have wanted to return to southern California and the opportunity for us to secure this city is promising. If we can make it work, we'll do it!

The Board reviewed and approved the STMA/SAFE Audit, which was conducted by an independent firm with oversight from the STMA Finance and Audit Committee. This audit showed STMA is financially very sound. An annual report is being produced by Headquarters, which will appear this fall in this magazine.

The Board also determined that we will support the National Turfgrass Federation, which is seeking increased federal funding for turf research. STMA will have a seat on the NTF's Board, held by Chris Calcaterra, CSFM. Chris will do a wonderful job representing us on important issues, such as water quality and turf genetics.

Being able to serve with each person on the Board team is truly a pleasure. Not a day goes by that each of them doesn't spend at least a little time (sometimes a lot of time) on STMA work. It's not really work though. Our profession and members make any time we spend very gratifying. I can tell you that this Board is selfless and has great vision. I thank each of them for volunteering to work so passionately on your behalf. They're quietly making a difference – the same as you are doing in your own way.



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