

Message from the President

Greetings,

The year is slowly winding down and it is time to relax with family and friends during the upcoming holiday season. The year has gone by so quickly. I want to thank all of you for your attendance, support, and help with our Sports Turf events in 2001. As a reminder, our final event of the year will be in Yuma on December 6th with an afternoon of golf and a special Sports Turf Seminar of Friday, December 7th. Please contact Larry Munoz at 520-329-2824 if you have questions concerning this event. We have some excellent events planned for 2002 (see the back page for calendar). We will kick things off on Thursday, January 31, 2002 with a SUPER SPORTS TURF DAY at the Peoria Sports Complex. The National Sports Turf Annual Conference will be held in Las Vegas January 16th, 2002. The conference again is packed with many events and topics that will benefit all who can attend.

Our newsletter continues to grow with vendor support. We are very thankful for their financial support and interest. I would encourage you all to tell them how important they can be in making the work you do easier. If you have topics of interest, employee updates, or classifieds, please forward that information to me by phone, e-mail, or to the P.O. Box so we can be sure to add it in upcoming newsletters.

On October 29, 2001, we held our last board meeting for the calendar year. We outlined events we have planned which again are listed on the back page of the newsletter. We also completed the changes within our board for the coming year. I am passing along the gavel to Chris Calcaterra as our new president for 2002. Chris has made a great impact within our chapter since arriving from the Atlanta Braves organization and has been working to make the Peoria Sports Complex one of the premier venues hosting two teams year round. Chris has been a great friend and very helpful as Secretary on our board for the last three years. The outlook for the chapter is very promising.

Pete Wozniak from Arizona State University will assume the duties of Vice President and Brian Johnson from Arizona State University will assume the position as our new Secretary for the coming year. Brian and Pete are responsible for the sporting venues on the Arizona State campus, and are also part of the Super Bowl turf team with George Toma each year. We all saw an example of their artful handiwork with the recent World Series logos at Bank One. Brian and Pete were also very helpful with our spring event last April at ASU. We are lucky to have them as part of our new board for the coming year.

Jonathan Arnold was unanimously retained as our treasurer. Jon has been instrumental in keeping us on track financially with each event and recently helped to organize our Scholarship Program for turf students this spring.

Scott Yakel from Hunter Industries continues to be our Commercial Representative. Hunter has been active at the national level and Scott has carried that commitment to our chapter with help from his many vendor contacts.

Finally, Dr. David Kopec has agreed to continue as our Educational Advisor. All those newsletter notes come fresh from the Doctor's corner each quarter. Dr. Kopec is a tremendous resource for any of us who have questions, and has proved invaluable to many in our industry when they have experienced turf problems. We hope the articles have been useful in developing your own turf care programs. Dr. Kopec has developed a very solid turf class, which he will be offering this spring to which we are happy to award scholarships

to some deserving students interested in Sports Turf Management. Please contact Dr. Kopec if you are interested in attending future classes.

Enjoy the Holidays. I look forward to seeing all of you in January for our first show of the new year in Peoria. Thanks again for all your support.

Bill Murphy