



# SIDELINES

**Texas Sports Turf  
Managers  
Association**

txstma.org

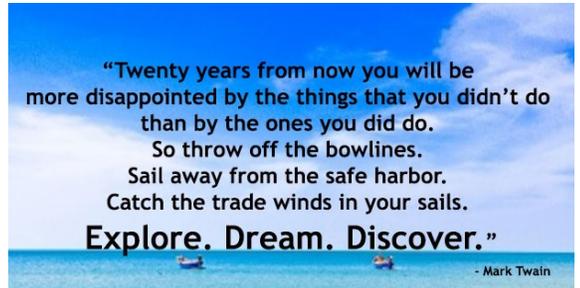
**Winter 2017**

*Providing education and training for safer and healthier sports turf facilities*



**TXSTMA President  
Kevin Lebanik  
[Klebanik@harrells.com](mailto:Klebanik@harrells.com)**

Winter is always a time of reflection and forward looking. I look back on 2017 and first thing I think of is “were did it go?” I had great plans for 2017 and before you know it, the year was over. TXSTMA accomplished a lot of wonderful things in 2017. We reached new members and added education and opportunities to existing members through our Fields Days in all regions of Texas. At the same time, we missed opportunities as well. The new year always has such great promise and hope. Personally, I’m excited to embrace and discover all that 2018 has in store for my family and I.



I know there will be challenges. I also know that there will be success and joys. As my term as President of TXSTMA ends and I pass the keys on to

Troy Crawford I can't help but be overwhelmed with excitement for 2018. The TXSTMA 2018 Board of Directors is filled with ambition and integrity. Filled with the desire to run full speed into 2018 and capitalize on as much of the possibilities and opportunities as we can.



Thank you Kevin for your service and dedication to the TXSTMA as President for the past two years. You were an outstanding leader and we all congratulate you on a job well done!





# SIDELINES

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December 6, 2017

## 2017 Annual Meeting - Arlington Convention Center

Held in conjunction with the Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference



The TXSTMA Annual Meeting was held on December 7th at the Arlington Convention Center. As customary, the event was held in conjunction with the Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Education Conference. The meeting was presided by outgoing President Kevin Lebanik (top left) who has done an outstanding job for the past two years managing the association. Thank you Kevin for your service and a job well done!



No TXSTMA event is complete without happy door prize winners!

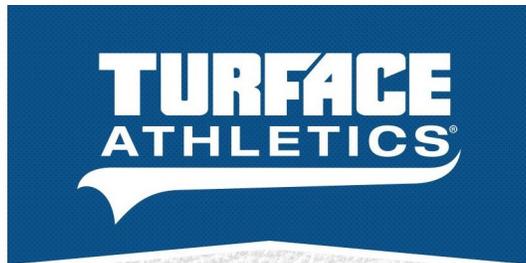
TXSTMA Board Member Weston Floyd (right) made an inspirational presentation about an upcoming community event being held in Rockport. Details can be found on page 8.





Left - More photos from the Annual Meeting including a good turnout, another happy winner and Past Pres. Rusty Walker giving an STMA Update.

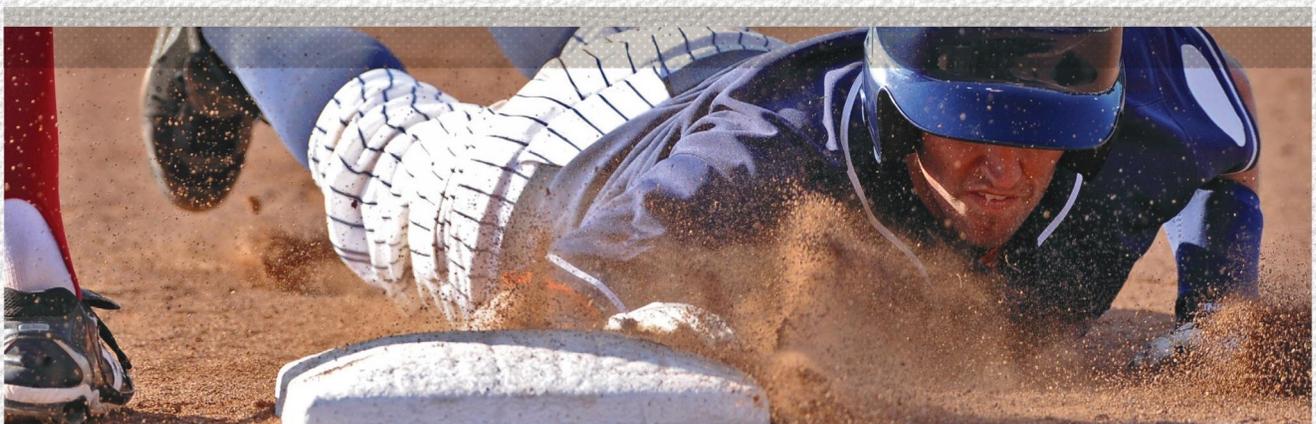
Oops! Somehow we missed getting a good photo of incoming President Troy Crawford at the meeting. Troy was elected and will do a great job serving the association and it's members. The photo above is from an event he hosted at his facility Moneygram Soccer Park in April. Welcome aboard Prez!



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During the business meeting portion of the event, President Kevin Lebanik gave attendees a presentation recapping the state of the association and a review of the activities of 2017. Below are a copy of the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes which were approved by vote. The next page includes the current financial summary of the association and a list of the 2017 Officers and Board of Directors. President Lebanik reported that the association continues to be on good financial footing through the strong support of our affiliate members, a very loyal membership, and good management. He also thanked the board members who are rotating off of the board for 2018. Your hard work, dedication and service is greatly appreciated.



**Start Time 12:00 p.m.**

Meeting was held at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Call to Order – President Kevin Lebanik @ 12:00 p.m.

President Kevin Lebanik presented the state of the association via the slide show presentation.

The 2015 Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed. Nick McKenna made a motion to approve as written. Rusty Walker seconded them. The 2015 Annual meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

The financial state of the association was presented by Nick McKenna:

Beginning Balance	13,853.70
2016 Membership	15,330.00
2016 Sponsorships	21,900.00
2016 Advertising	2,500.00
2016 Expenses	<u>-27,479.98</u>
Total Funds Available	26,103.72

Kevin did a review of the 2016 field days and clay shoot.

Scholarship winners were announced and Christopher Neeley was present and awarded his scholarship check.

Kevin thanked the 2016 Board of Directors. The 2017 Executive Director nominees were announced. Nominations from the floor were asked for. Without any nominations from the floor Craig Potts made a motion to vote in the list of directors. It was seconded by Tom Burns and the motion was passed unanimously by the membership. The 2017 Committee Director nominees were announced and with no nominations from the floor a motion was made by Tom Burns to vote in the list of directors and it was seconded by Brian Carey. The motion was passed unanimously by the membership.

**Adjourned 1:00 p.m.**

Kevin Lebanik made a motion to adjourn and Rusty Walker seconded it.

# TXSTMA 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>2017 Revenue</b>	
Memberships	11,888.00
Sponsorships	18,700.00
Advertising, Merchandise, Scholarship	1,684.00
Total Revenue	\$32,272.00
<b>2017 Expenses</b>	(22,243.93)
<b>2017 Net</b>	\$10,028.07
Total Funds Available – 12/5/17	\$31,458.02
Accounts Receivable – 12/5/17	\$5,690.00

## Thank you 2017 Board Members!

### Executive Directors

- ▶ Kevin Lebanik - President
- ▶ Brian Piper – President Elect
- ▶ Nick McKenna, CSFM - Treasurer
- ▶ Rusty Walker, CSFM – Past President
- ▶ John Kearns – 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial VP
- ▶ Mike Estlinbaum – 2<sup>nd</sup> Commercial VP

### Committee Directors

- ▶ Allen Reed, CSFM – Region I (DFW)
- ▶ Weston Floyd – Region II (Austin/San Antonio)
- ▶ Kevin Hansen – Region III (Houston)
- ▶ Dan Bergstrom, CSFM - Communications
- ▶ Will Dutton – Advertising
- ▶ Greg Carroll - Membership
- ▶ Chris Pitts – Scholarships

Region I (DFW) Field Day  
FC Dallas – April 6, 2017

Event Host  
Troy Crawford



Region III (Houston) Field Day  
Houston Dynamo – May 12, 2017

Event Host  
Dan Bergstrom



These slides are reviews of the great events that our association held all across the state in 2017. As you can see, our sponsorship for all of our events was FANTASTIC! We couldn't do anything without our great sponsors and their participation is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of the TXSTMA members who attended these events and shared their knowledge and experience with fellow members.

And **THANK YOU** to all of our great event hosts! It takes a special member to pull back the curtain of their operation to their peers. Every one of our hosts did an outstanding job and each event was special.

Region II (Austin/SA) Field Day  
Baylor University – June 6, 2017

Event Host  
Jaxon Bailey



West Texas Field Day  
City of Canyon – Sep. 20, 2017

Event Host  
Brian Noel



Region II (Austin/SA) Field Day  
FC San Antonio – Oct. 30, 2017

Event Host  
Scott Urbantke



DFW Clay Shoot  
May 15, 2017



# TXSTMA Field Repair for Rockport, TX

- ▶ Please join us on January 13, 2018 to help repair the little league fields that were effected by the hurricane in Rockport Texas.
- ▶ We have had several people and vendors who have graciously donated their time and products to help us get the kids of Rockport ready for their season.
- ▶ We will start at 10:00 am and work till it is done. For More information please contact Weston Floyd [wfloyd@athletics.utexas.edu](mailto:wfloyd@athletics.utexas.edu) or Scott Grego with PTP [gregos@proturf.com](mailto:gregos@proturf.com)



**TXSTMA  
Members!  
Here is a great  
opportunity  
to help a  
community in  
need!!!**

**Thank you  
Weston Floyd  
and  
Scott Grego  
for heading up  
this terrific effort!**

**Please  
consider being a  
part of this  
special day with  
your labor or  
donation of  
materials and  
supplies!**

## 2018 Executive Directors

- ▶ Past President – Kevin Lebanik
- ▶ President – Troy Crawford
- ▶ President Elect – Weston Floyd
- ▶ Treasurer – Nick McKenna
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> Commercial VP – Mike Estlinbaum
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Commercial VP – Jeff Kadlec



## 2018 Committee Directors

- ▶ Region I (DFW) – Russell Coe
- ▶ Region II (Austin/San Antonio) – Garrett Reddehase
- ▶ Region III (Houston) – Kevin Hansen
- ▶ Advertising – Scott Grego
- ▶ Communication – Dan Bergstrom, CSFM
- ▶ Membership – Greg Carroll
- ▶ Scholarship – Chris Pitts





Q: What keeps you coming back to the conference and why?

A: The camaraderie and networking are priceless. I have many friends I see once a year, but I can talk with them weekly.

- Jim Wiggins  
Athletic Grounds Supervisor, Tomball ISD



Q: How can a first-time "conference-goer" make the most of their conference experience?

A: Surround yourself with other turf professionals to learn from their experience. Problems are solved together which ultimately strengthens our industry.

- Tom Jones,  
Vice President of Complex Management, FC Dallas

[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org) | #TurfTips



[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org) | #TurfTips



Congratulations to all of these TXSTMA members who received special recognition from the STMA recently. Our members always represent their association to the highest standard. These #turftips were all featured on Twitter and talk about the great benefits of attending the STMA conference in January. Registration information can be found on page 17. Dan Bergstrom CSFM was also recognized and his quote is on page 18. And a big pat on the back to two of our members who were selected as the STMA #Memberoftheweek and were featured on Twitter. Way to go Rusty Walker and Jim Wiggins!



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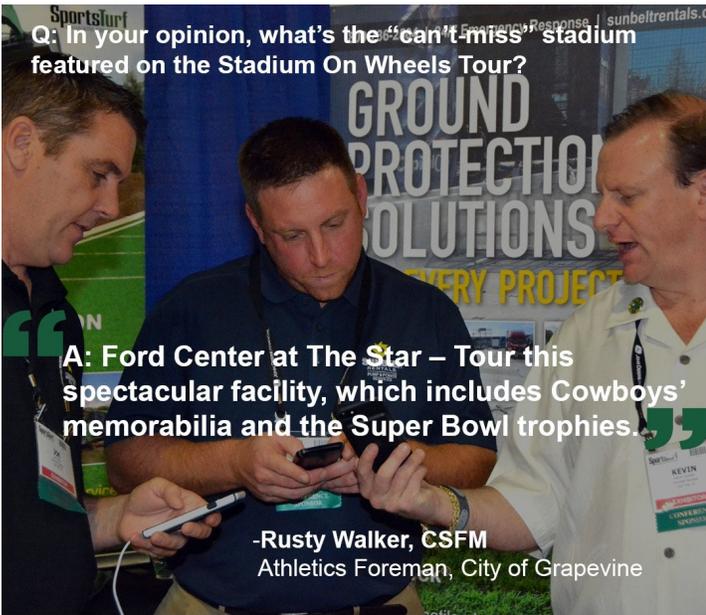
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Q: In your opinion, what's the "can't-miss" stadium featured on the Stadium On Wheels Tour?

A: Ford Center at The Star – Tour this spectacular facility, which includes Cowboys' memorabilia and the Super Bowl trophies.

-Rusty Walker, CSFM  
Athletics Foreman, City of Grapevine

[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org) | #TurfTips



Q: In your opinion, what is the most beneficial part of the conference?

A: Discussing common issues within the sports turf industry and learning new, innovative ways to address my problem areas.

- Miles Studhalter,  
Director of Grounds, FC Dallas

[www.stma.org](http://www.stma.org) | #TurfTips



January 2, 2018

[#MemberOfTheWeek](#)

is Rusty Walker, CSFM  
and Athletics Foreman

[@GrapevineTXCity](#).

[#SportsTurf](#)

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December 27, 2017

[#MemberOfTheWeek](#)

is Jim Wiggins, Athletics  
Grounds Supervisor

[@TomballISD](#). [#SportsTurf](#)

[#TurfExpert](#)





Congratulations to the Texas Turfgrass Association for another outstanding Conference and Show in Arlington. Left - the Board of Directors watches as President Danny Smith cuts the ceremonial ribbon to the Trade Show. Right - President Smith presents Executive Director Shirley Duble with the association's highest recognition - the A. W. Crain Award. Ms. Duble retired after this year's conference after many outstanding years of service to the association and the turfgrass industry in Texas. We will miss you Shirley!

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# Five Skills to Ensure Success From the Get-Go



*Jeff Bollig, contributing editor of Superintendent magazine and former senior communications director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America*

How I wish I knew what I didn't know after I grabbed my diploma, shook the dean's hand and headed off to the real world some 30-plus years ago. I don't blame myself or anyone else. Learn by doing. School of hard knocks. Wait your turn. It was just assumed those were the ingredients in the recipe of career success and moving up the ladder.

Those concepts are not totally archaic today, but it's clear that career success has taken on a more strategic perspective. An article in the Washington Post by Jeffrey Selingo, the author of "There Is Life After College," provided me an "ah-ha" moment — and not a moment too soon as my two college-aged children move closer to life in the real world.

Selingo offers five critical skills every college graduate should have as they enter the workforce. They're based on the fact that the job market is as competitive as ever and the rate of change is as fast as ever. These five skills are not a guarantee. But they do offer a great compass as one navigates a career — especially from the beginning:

**1. EVERY GRADUATE NEEDS TO BE DIGITALLY AWARE:** Knowing how to use a computer and other technology is a given. Understanding how the device works and even the programming behind them is fast becoming a requirement. Today, technology pervades the profession in communications, irrigation, turf care programs, sunlight monitoring, moisture monitoring, turfgrass firmness and more.

**2. EVERY GRADUATE NEEDS TO KNOW HOW TO NAVIGATE THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT A SYLLABUS:** A 4.0 GPA used to be a ticket to career success. But today's employers are looking for workers who know how to make sound decisions based on logic, reasoning and experience gained through internships and real-life experiences. The athletic field is a perfect example of where necessity often becomes the mother of invention.

**3. EVERY GRADUATE NEEDS TO BE A LEARNING ANIMAL:** With the rate of change faster than ever, what's learned in school becomes obsolete in short order. Workers need to be curious and continually learning. In fact, employers can gain a sense of how industrious a job candidate might be by seeking to learn more about his hobbies, interests and experiences.

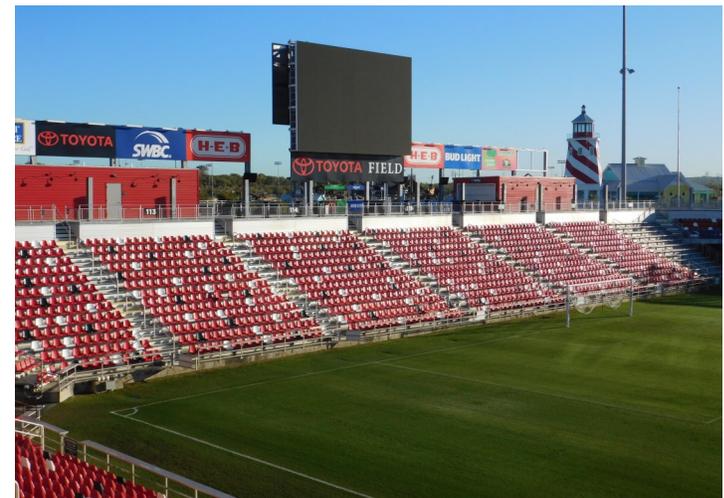
**4. GRADUATES NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE WHAT THEY LEARNED IN SCHOOL OUTSIDE OF COLLEGE:** Students learn theory in the classroom with the thought that they will apply it on the job. But the number of times the exact parallel comes to fruition is limited. What is the norm is taking a general concept and then using it in a situation that is different than what one may have learned. For example, you might learn a management principle for a specific cool-season grass that applies in general to a different cool-season turf variety.

**5. EVERY GRADUATE NEEDS TO BE HUMBLE:** College graduates of today are exposed to a better education than preceding generations. They are often better networked and have had multiple internships. But the real world can be humbling. A lagging economy can undercut business growth and advancement opportunities. College graduates enter the workforce with the confidence of being told the world is their "oyster." But a realistic perspective will keep disappointment to a minimum.



October 30

Region 2 Field Day – Toyota Field San Antonio  
Networking, Lunch, Education, Tours, Product and Equipment Demos





The TXSTMA wrapped up our 2017 Field Day schedule with a great event held at Toyota Field in San Antonio, home of the San Antonio FC. Our host was Scott Urbantke who did an outstanding job of helping to organize a great day that included networking, education speakers, and product and equipment demonstrations. We had a beautiful day in San Antonio and a very good turnout by TXSTMA members.

Thank you to our speakers during the education portion of our event- Cassie Kearns, Professional Territory Manager - Barenbrug USA, Kevin Lebanik, Territory Sales Manager - Harrell's LLC, and Mike Estlinbaum, National Sports Field Specialist at Ewing Irrigation. All of these talks were very useful and informative.

Following lunch, attendees were treated to a tour of Toyota Stadium by host Scott Urbantke. There were also field demonstrations of the latest in turfgrass equipment and technology.





You can't win a door prize at a TXSTMA event without getting your photo snapped! Make plans now to attend the events in your region in 2018! The board is working hard to put together a line up that will provide fun venues and great learning opportunities. Please contact the TXSTMA office or your regional representative if you have any suggestions or would like to host an event. See you in 2018!



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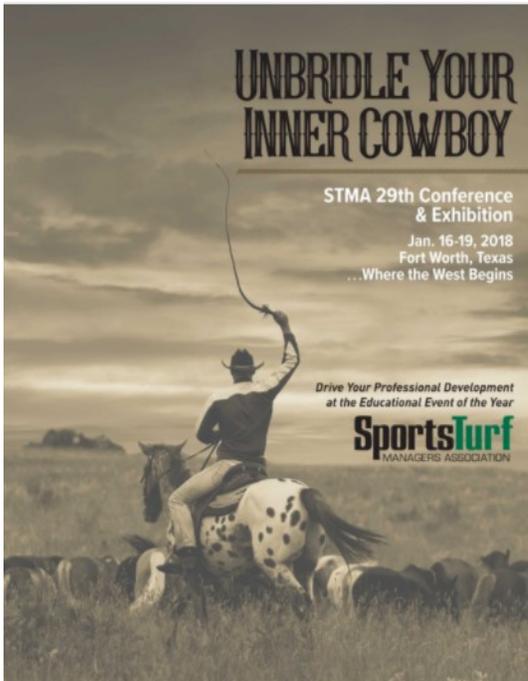
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The 2018 STMA Conference and Exhibition will be taking place January 16-19 in Fort Worth, Texas. Home to Cowboys & Culture, Fort Worth has seven different entertainment districts to explore.

[Learn more about the city here.](#)

**REGISTRATION OPENS OCT. 1, 2017.**

[Click here to the 2018 Digital Conference Brochure](#)

### What's New:

New to STMA's Annual Conference: Topgolf! Replacing the traditional-style Golf Tournament, the SAFE Foundation is happy to welcome attendees to sign up for their Topgolf Event.

Sign up with your registration!

## 3 Reasons Why You Must Attend Conference

STMA's annual conference and exhibition is a few short weeks away. Here are three ways the Conference will help you take your career to the next level. By attending, you will:

1. **Cut Through the Clutter.** There is a crushing amount of information available through the internet. The STMA conference cuts through that chaos and brings you top material that is relevant and timely to your job.
2. **Tap into the Power of your Peers.** Being around like-minded people who are there to improve themselves generates power and energy. Nothing in social media or on-line learning methods can compare.
3. **Meet the Stars.** STMA brings together top academics, researchers, product developers and industry professionals. This brain trust not only shares great content, but now you are adding new people-resources to your network for future growth.

## Board Slate Finalized

The STMA Nominating Committee has set the Slate of Candidates for the 2018 Board of Directors elections. They will present the slate later this month via electronic ballot to the membership - complete with bios, vision statements and photos of those slated.

The Nominating Process is straightforward, guided by a timetable and process outlined in the [Election SOP](#). Members interested in Board service are encouraged to submit a Volunteer Interest Form, complete with their vision for the future of the association. The Nominating Committee reviews all information and reaches out to those who submit to gather additional information and to provide information about the time commitment and expectations of board service. This information is subsequently discussed by the Committee and the slate is developed. All who are slated are contacted by the Committee to confirm final interest and those who are not slated are contacted and provided an explanation of why they were not slated.

The Nominating Committee works independently of the STMA Board of Directors to avoid any appearance of favoritism. An electronic ballot is then created through an on-line software. That link is emailed to each voting member of STMA and is unable to be forwarded. Results are automatically electronically compiled, and the Chair of the Nominating Committee is notified first of the voting results; next, the remainder of the Committee is notified, and then the Committee notifies the candidates -- those who have advanced to the Board and those who did not. The new Board of Directors is presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting during the Conference. That meeting will be Thurs., Jan. 18, 2018 in Fort Worth, Texas.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL ARTICLE AND LIST OF CANDIDATES](#)



## Executive Directors:

**President:** Kevin Lebanik—Harrell's, [Klebanik@harrells.com](mailto:Klebanik@harrells.com)

**Past President:** Rusty Walker, CSFM—City of Grapevine, [rwalker@grapevinetexas.gov](mailto:rwalker@grapevinetexas.gov)

**President - Elect:** Brian Piper - City of Austin, [Brian.piper@austintexas.gov](mailto:Brian.piper@austintexas.gov)

**1st Commercial Vice Pres:** John Kearns—Professional Turf Products, [kearnsj@proturf.com](mailto:kearnsj@proturf.com)

**2nd Commercial Vice Pres:** Mike Estlinbaum - Ewing Irr., [mestlinbaum@ewingirrigation.com](mailto:mestlinbaum@ewingirrigation.com)

**Treasurer:** Nick McKenna, CSFM— Texas A&M University, [nmckenna@athletics.tamu.edu](mailto:nmckenna@athletics.tamu.edu)

## Committee Directors:

**Advertising:** Will Dutton - Professional Turf Products, [duttonw@proturf.com](mailto:duttonw@proturf.com)

**Communication:** Dan Bergstrom, CSFM — BBVA Compass, [dbergstrom@bbvacompasstadium.com](mailto:dbergstrom@bbvacompasstadium.com)

**Region I (DFW):** Allen Reed, CSFM, FC Dallas, [areed@fcdallas.net](mailto:areed@fcdallas.net)

**Region II (Austin/San Antonio):** Weston Floyd, [wfloyd@athletics.utexas.edu](mailto:wfloyd@athletics.utexas.edu)

**Region III (Houston):** Kevin Hansen, Houston Texans, [kevinhanden09@gmail.com](mailto:kevinhanden09@gmail.com)

**Membership:** Greg Carroll, Amarillo ISD, [Gregory.carroll@amaisd.org](mailto:Gregory.carroll@amaisd.org)

**Scholarship:** Chris Pitts, Clear Creek ISD, [chpitts@ccisd.net](mailto:chpitts@ccisd.net)

**Chapter Executive:** Carol Cloud, [txstmainfo@yahoo.com](mailto:txstmainfo@yahoo.com), (817) 736-0727

## Texas Sports Turf Managers Association

*Providing education and training for  
safer and healthier sports turf  
facilities*

### Txstma.org

[txstmainfo@  
yahoo.com](mailto:txstmainfo@yahoo.com)

(817) 736-0727

5552 Plata Lane

Benbrook, TX 76126

*Fall 2017 Issue*



**Q:** For someone who isn't planning on coming to the conference, what advice would you give them on why it's so important they attend?

**A:** You'd be amazed at how openly sports turf managers discuss playing field successes, problems and solutions. Each year, I leave the conference energized and with new ideas.

- Dan Bergstrom, CSFM,  
Senior Director of Major League Field Operations,  
Houston Dynamo