Listening to sports turf professionals and members of the media at STMA's National Conference this past December in Indianapolis, one thing kept coming to mind: The future is now.

Through Matt Trulio with sportsTURF Magazine, Harry Cline with Western Turf Management Magazine, Jerry Roche of Landscape Management, George Toma and Dr. Jim Watson, I couldn't help but hear a call to action. We must increase our activities, get involved, communicate, and foster respect and understand the significance of turf management in today's sports world.

STMA's Fourth National Conference was a starting point, a catalyst for this coming year. More than 150 sports turf professionals came to Indianapolis for a number of reasons, but mainly to learn—so that they can more effectively produce better and safer sports turf areas.

The annual conference was an opportunity to network and discuss strategies and solutions. I left Indianapolis with a tremendous feeling of enthusiasm, pride, knowledge, and commitment to not only improve in all areas of sports turf management, but to educate others.

I was inspired by the tremendous sense of camaraderie. Where else can a person participate in sessions and workshops with so many people in the industry? Where else would someone be able to meet and talk with people such as NFL Consultant, George Toma, Dr. Jim Watson from Toro, and Dr. Henry Indyk from Turfcon.

I talked with such people as Bob Campbell, University of Tennessee; Bucky Trotter, University of Kentucky; Dale Getz, Notre Dame; and Dan Wright from Central College in Pella, IA. There also were professional facility field managers in attendance; STMA's first president, Dick Erickson, along with the men who handle the College World Series, Jesse Cuevas, and the Denver Broncos', Tom Lujan. County and municipal professionals included Paul Greenwell, Atlanta; Bill Whirty, City of Fort Collins Parks, CO; Mike Trigg, Waukegan, IL; and Art Downing from Howard County Parks and Recreation, Cedar Lane Parks, MD.

The common thread through all the activities, tours, and presentations at STMA's National Conference was education. We must envision our future and aggressively pursue it. STMA is inspired for 1993.

In conjunction with the national conference, the STMA board of directors met to develop major objectives for the next year. Those objectives include:

• Developing a membership directory to provide an avenue for members to network and interact with each other as well as to seek out solutions and strategies to problems.
• Developing an educational compendium for members to use as a reference tool. The compendium is a collection of all the sports turf literature disseminated by STMA and published by industry publications in 1992.
• Disseminating six newsletters to keep you informed of association and industry activities and events.
• More and better chapter support through communication and staff resources.
• Working with Matt Trulio to continue to further improve our official publication, sportsTURF Magazine.
• Investigating the unification of membership. Whether an individual is chapter affiliated or an independent, our goal is to bring sports turf professionals across the United States together under one roof.
• Producing three or more regional institutes and an even better National Conference.
• Continuing our work with the American Society of Testing and Measures (ASTM) to develop standards for field construction and maintenance.
• STMA is taking action in 1993. We urge you to join us—the future is now. ☐