PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
By Greg Petry

Soon Bob Milano, University of California at Davis, will gather nominations for the 1994 STMA Awards Program. Now is the time to start organizing your thoughts about the field you're going to nominate.

Each year STMA recognizes its members who make personal and professional contributions to our industry and the organizations they serve. The awards (and they are beautiful) are traditionally presented at the annual conference banquet. As you probably know by now, the Annual Convention and Show is February 4-8 in Bradenton, FL.

For those of you who attended the banquet last year, I'm sure you'll never forget the tremendous talk Jim Palmer gave. How about that emotional acceptance of the Harry Gill award by Mike Schiller? What an evening that was!

Speaking of memorable events surrounding STMA awards, I'll never forget how my organization reacted when we received the 1989 Beam Clay Award. When I announced that the Waukegan Park District was named the *best* managed baseball field in the country, the staff and park commissioners were elated. It was so gratifying to see that everyone was sharing in our success. Winning that award has helped me justify my department's efforts over the past several years. It was also a tremendous thrill for several of our park commissioners and members of the community.

Our award-winning field was constructed with a lot of "sweat equity." Several members of the community joined forces to beg, borrow, and arm-twist many people to help turn a sandlot into a city-wide baseball complex. Many people contributed time, labor, and materials to make this project happen. It did. Al Grosche Field still stands as one of the finest in the Chicagoland area. Winning the award has helped confirm that our organization has a commitment and mission to provide excellent programs, facilities, and services. It solidified the thought that we were meeting the needs and desires of the community. Subsequently, other athletic field improvements throughout the park district have been spearheaded because of the success associated with our STMA/Beam Clay award-winning field.

I'm sure many of you have a great story to tell about your facility — a story that involves people and organizations committed to providing a first-rate facility for your community. Let's hear about the great job you're doing. Nominate your field as the nation's best.

This year, six awards will be bestowed at the STMA Awards Banquet:
- STMA/Beam Clay Baseball Diamond of the Year
- STMA Football Field of the Year
- STMA Soccer Field of the Year
- STMA Groundskeeper of the Year, Harry C. Gill Memorial Award
- STMA Commercial Affiliate Award
- STMA Recognition of Excellence in Research.

Watch for nominating material in the newsletter and conference packet. Although you are extremely busy now in the height of the season, take some time to document your success. Carry a camera with you to photograph the great job you are doing, and plan on submitting an award application.

STMA CHAPTER NEWS

The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association — The Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association will hold a Baseball/Softball Infield Workshop on June 16 at Westonka High School. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. with the program running from 9 to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. This will be a hands-on event. The old pitcher's mound will be removed, the new mound will be built, basepaths will be