

STMA MESSAGE

Starting the New Year Off Right



By Mike Schiller,
STMA president

For those of you who won't make it to the 1997 Conference in Colorado Springs, we really miss you! And you are really missing a great seeing, hearing, learning, sharing, networking experience.

I've found over all my years as an STMA member, our conference more than pays for itself through the ideas and techniques shared in the conference sessions and Seminar on Wheels tours; in that "newer and better" item found at the trade show exhibition; through making connections with people who are fighting the same battles I am, and who are willing and able to share their

successes — and failures — in those battles.

A special "hats off" to Colorado Chapter conference chair Dave Rulli; education co-chairs Ross Kurcab and Abby McNeal; hospitality chair Ken Norkosky; and exhibitor chair Mitch Hovet. And a round of applause to the Colorado Chapter members who are pitching in to do it right — from the excellent site visits on the tours, to the "wow" of an opening night reception, to all those smiling faces that help greet, guide and lend a helping hand, and to all those who helped out with behind-the-scenes preparations. Thank you!

Thanks to our speakers and round-table discussion leaders who are sharing their expertise. *Thanks* and then some to featured speaker George Toma. *Thanks* to our exhibitors, who are really "showing their stuff." Thanks to those who are serving as sponsors.

Thanks, too, to STMA's national Conference Committee: chair Steve Guise; program chair Mary Owen; and exhibits chair Eugene Mayer.

So — what's next? We're going to Disney World! STMA's 1998 Conference & Exhibition will be held January 14 to 18 at Disney World in Orlando, FL. We'll be meeting in both the new Disney World Sports Complex and the even newer Disney hotel, the Coronado Springs Resort.

As you begin working your way into your 1997 budget year, make a note to block out the time and the funding in your 1998 budget to attend the 9th Annual Conference & Exhibition.

And last, but certainly not least, congratulations to *sportsTURF's* Manager of the Year, Floyd Perry.

I'm honored to wrap up a year as president of such a great organization filled with such great people!



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