

# president's message

## Are YOU getting that Vegas feeling?

Consider this your personal invitation to join me and many more of your peers at the STMA 13th Annual Conference & Exhibition, January 16-20, 2002, in Las Vegas, NV. This issue is packed with information on the Conference, including the exhibitor listings (as of September) and the outline of the educational program.

The Exhibition will be bigger and better than ever-and it's all for you! Every exhibitor taking part in this event offers products and services that focus on your facilities and your fields. These are your vendors and your potential vendors, companies, and individuals who want to work with you to achieve the ultimate goal: providing the best sports surfaces for all levels of play.

The atmosphere is different from the "traditional" trade show, too. You don't grab a quick, over-priced hot dog and a watered down cup of soda off in a corner of the exhibition hall far removed from the display area. Here there are food stations with a wide variety of great items provided courtesy of the exhibitors and placed at several locations throughout the exhibition hall. You, the other attendees, and the exhibitor personnel meet, mingle, and munch during the Thursday evening exhibit hours and share lunch together during the exhibit hours the following day. It's a casual setting with a serious purpose, helping you make the connections for the products and services you want and need to do your job better, faster, and easier.

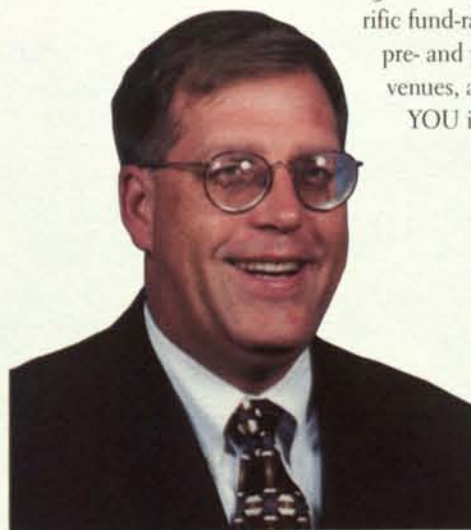
The educational sessions were also developed to fit your needs, whether you're just getting into this profession or have years of experience under your belt. The concurrent sessions are organized by tracks that help you know just what to expect: The Basics Track; The Technical Track; Tricks of the Trade; and Professional Development.

You'll have the opportunity to choose one of 12 different workshop topics for a deeper look at key issues in a more interactive format. The Round-Table discussions take that interaction a step further, with a free flowing exchange of ideas. There are 14 topics, with time to dig into three of them. The general session are winners. See the Special Show section for details on our featured speakers (p. 16).

The formal events start off with an opening reception that is tops in more ways than one! There's also a great reception and the Annual Awards Banquet on Friday night, all included in your attendee registration fee.

And, as excited as I am about sharing all this with you, I personally believe the greatest jackpot of the STMA Conference is the networking. Just to make sure you have a chance to meet new friends and catch up with old ones, we start each day with a casual continental breakfast and gather for group lunches and hold some super optional events: a terrific fund-raising golf tournament, a Seminar with Floyd Perry, both pre- and post-Conference Seminar on Wheels tours to area sports venues, and an area sights Tour on Sunday. I can hardly wait to see YOU in Vegas!

ST



Rich Moffitt,  
STMA President

*Rich Moffitt*

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