



# SAFE pioneer Schiller steps down

## To all the wonderful members of STMA:

With the coming of our annual conference at Disney World, my time as the chair of the SAFE Foundation (The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments) is coming to an end. It has been six years since we started The Foundation, and we have at times made progress, but have not gotten as far as I had hoped we would.

We have been able to give out scholarships for many worthy students in the 2-year, 4-year and graduate programs as well as pay their way to the conference. This has been a very wonderful experience to see our scholarship awards continue to grow. But, we need to get some big donations and get a nest egg built up so that we can begin to support research projects that are meant to help us in the sports field management business.

My good friend, the wonderful auctioneer Tom Curran, has done a tremendous job of raising money each year at Conference to support the scholarship program. Steve Torske has helped Tom, and I want to publicly thank them for their support and hard work.

As I leave The Foundation Board I would like to ask all of you a big favor. I want this to be the best auction, silent auction, and raffle in our history. I would like to see us raise more than \$20,000 this year from these activities.

Please, no matter where you work or who you represent, please make a pledge to bring all kinds of goodies for this fund-raising event. Emulate the great member from Texas A&M, Leo Goertz, and bring along a set of the shirts, hats, sweatshirts, etc., that you provide to your crew. Bring along anything that you think will raise money. Even if you think it is a "white elephant," bring it along—someone will bid on it!

From all the great vendors who continue to support STMA and SAFE, I ask you one more time to dig deep and donate a piece of equipment or items of clothing that bear your logo. We need EVERYONE'S help this year, so I ask you to be as generous as you possibly can. Remember, your donation to SAFE is tax deductible.

Finally, I ask each and every one of you to donate personally to The SAFE Foundation, whether it is \$5 or \$5,000. We need everyone's support. I thank you for your support over the past six years and I thank you in advance for your generosity for our upcoming conference. Have a great rest of the year. May your fields look better than the team deserves. I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Mike Schiller, CSFM  
SAFE Foundation Chairman

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