

## President's Message

# Never too busy to learn

### M2MEDIA360

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Gerald Winkel

### VP OF CIRCULATION AND COLLATERAL SALES

Joanne Juda-Prainito

### PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Mary Jo Tomei

### DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES

Cheryl Naughton 770-995-4964  
cnaughton@m2media360.com

### Reader Service Services

### DIRECTOR OF READER SERVICE

Joanne Juda-Prainito

Readerservice@m2media360.com

### SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

Phone 847-763-9565 Fax 847-763-9569

### REPRINTS

Cheryl Naughton 770-995-4964  
cnaughton@m2media360.com

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#### Paul Garris

35 Greenbriar

Aurora, OH 44202

330-562-2512; 330-562-3512 (fax)  
pgarris@m2media360.com

AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL,  
GA, LA, NC, NM, NV, OK, SC,  
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#### Deanna Morgan

2095 Exeter Road, #80-336

Germantown, TN 38138

901-759-1241; 901-624-0333 (fax)  
dmorgan@m2media360.com

AK, CO, HI, IA, ID, IL, KS, MN, MO,  
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#### Colleen Murphy

1326 N. Illinois Ave.

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

847-259-2835; 847-259-2836 (fax)  
cmmurphy88@comcast.net

#### Classified Advertising Sales

#### Debbie Sutphin

815-267-7690; 815-267-7691 fax  
dsutphin@m2media360.com

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In past columns I've promoted the virtues of our membership and tried to convey the special role our profession serves to sports, to youth, and to society. Today I'm going to ask you to be selfish. On page 48 you'll find a Call for Nominations to the STMA Board of Directors. This call goes out every year and surprisingly, or not, few people step up and nominate themselves or a colleague. The slate is always filled with exceptional members, but I'm asking you to consider playing a bigger role – either on the national stage or at least in your chapter or local association.

The biggest reluctance is the "I'm too busy" argument. I bet you are the busiest person, or at least in a tie with someone, at your facility. We're busy because we get things done. A wise person once said that if you want something done you take it to the busiest person you know! We're exceptional at time and resource management, we have good people skills, we're not afraid to be decisive, and we'll dig ourselves out when things get overwhelming. The "too busy" argument only feeds my desire to ask you to give more!

Please consider the rewards of association service. Already there are more than 200 members giving time to STMA committees. Many more members are in leadership roles in our 30 chapters. You're already making a positive impact on our association, but I'm asking you to consider giving more. You certainly have what it takes to help STMA become better!

Nine years ago, after serving locally and on a couple of national committees, I was asked to run for the Board. I was extremely humbled and honored. I chose to do it because I thought there were a few things I could directly help the association with by being in a board seat.

Board service has helped my career through exposure to things that are not always comfortable. Ten years ago I was terrified to speak in public and even in small groups. The terror was based in lack of confidence. Though I will never be an accomplished public speaker, serving on the Board has helped me at least effectively process my thoughts and convey them accurately no matter how many people are in the room. Besides the professional skills I've learned from STMA, working through stage fright may be at the top of my list of improved skills I attribute to being involved.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said it better: "It's one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that you cannot sincerely try to help another without helping yourself." I'll attest that as you become more active, your career and your life will be more blessed and richer. How it enriches you is the great unknown, but anyone who's ever served on the STMA Board of Directors knows I'm right. You are the busiest person I know. Please consider becoming more active locally and nationally. You'll directly impact our profession, and you'll certainly grow from the experience. Thank you.



**MIKE ANDRESEN**  
CSFM

mandrese@  
iastate.edu