

## President's Message

# Integrity perseveres through tough times

**W**hile our crew was wrestling Mother Nature for every event this spring, it was humbling when at certain points we just had to wave a flag and give in. For a profession that dedicates itself to consistent footing and playability, we seemingly started each day with a new menu of weather variables.

The crew felt like we lived that cooking show where the secret ingredient is given and then the chefs have an hour in which to prepare five elaborate dishes. At the end of the day, coaches played out their events on the fields and rendered a judgment on our work. Many nights after dark we'd walk to our cars and wonder how anyone could work in our profession and still carry himself or herself as an "Iron Chef" of turf. We can and we must. Good job everyone! We may not have always excelled – sometimes the victory was to simply survive.

It's not always the product we produce that sets us apart. It's the cues we give that propel our crews, coaches, and players to appreciate the environment that we all share. A friend of mine would say, "Any one can sail a ship in calm seas, it takes a real captain to sail when the water is angry." When colleagues see us battling hard and getting the job done in spite of obstacles, they appreciate this is more than just a job.

We all have difficult and grueling times, but as sports turf managers we focus on sailing the ship and hosting events. Many of our challenges don't involve today's weather or this week's workload. We get off course because of personnel or administrative issues.

Being an STMA member can be a source you can turn to for professional and personal friendships and enrichment. If you're taking on water you can bet there are more people out there feeling the same way. Pick up the phone, shoot off an e-mail and let those close to you know they're important to you. Above all, let your co-workers know that each of them is crucial to the program and your team.

Take a minute of your busy day and read the present STMA Bylaws. Ken Mrock and the Bylaws Committee did duty updating this doctrine last year, and we passed the revisions in December. Our Constitution is this document! The last four pages of the Bylaws define the STMA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Guidelines. Become familiar with both sections. When each of us became a member it was implied that we agree to follow the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Guidelines. If we're professing professionalism and honor as qualifications to being successful in our careers we do ourselves a favor by embracing both documents. When I was introduced to STMA I found the members, above anything else, to be people of high integrity and trust. We need to ensure that each person who finds us sees it that way.



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