

# President's Message

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## Let's get together in San José

**A**s cool-season Sports Turf Managers are seeing the finish line of a long season and warm-season Managers shift gears, it's time to talk continuing education and recharging energy. This *SportsTurf* issue provides a comprehensive run down of the upcoming San José National Conference and Exhibition. Conference Chair Abby McNeal, CSFM, and all involved with the entire event have certainly rolled out a dynamic opportunity for all of us to grow educationally and to certainly recharge batteries.

Credit starts with Abby, but continues to the many members involved in Conference planning. "Thank you" to the Conference Education, Exhibition, Tours, MLB/MLS/NFL, Student Challenge, Logo Painting committees, as well as the many subcommittees and task groups that put together a dynamic week for us in January!

This Conference gets better each year, and this year I think we've taken some exciting new steps to fulfill the mission of being the "must attend" event for anyone involved in managing sports fields and facilities. Please dig into the complete program and make the case to administration that you need to be in San Jose for the Conference. If you've never attended the National Conference, STMA's website has a great document to help convince your administration that the continuing education offered is important for you to take advantage of.

Surveys tell us the Conference is STMA's number one member benefit and the networking provided at the Conference is critical to your success. Please take advantage of the best STMA has to offer!

Election of officers for 2009 will be taking place next month. Board service and working on behalf of membership is an honor. The slate of candidates will be loaded with superb candidates. With the strong chapter system we have in place and the long roster of committee volunteers, more members are evolving into national leaders than the STMA can possibly offer as Board candidates. This is a great dynamic!

The reason STMA thrives is due to the exceptional engagement by committees and a visionary Board of Directors. Combine this with a CEO and headquarters staff that works tirelessly for all of us, and it's no wonder STMA is becoming more and more valuable to each of us as well as the green and sports industries. When you receive your ballot, please learn about each of the candidates and be sure to cast your vote. Your vote is important in defining STMA's future direction.

As the end of the year approaches, you will be invited to consider volunteering for a 2009 committee. I heartily encourage you to answer this call. Committees are the lifeblood of STMA, and I know from my personal experience that the work is very gratifying. Your ideas and insight help to move our association forward, yet members often remark that committee work offers another avenue for learning. Please take advantage of all of the learning opportunities available through STMA and enhance your personal and professional development.



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