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President's Message

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Looking ahead to a great year...rain or shine!

STMA started its 29th year with a very successful Conference and Exhibition in Orlando last month. Our surveys from the conference are still being compiled, but our first reports are confirming what we heard during the event: the educational sessions were excellent and the trade show was outstanding. Thank you to our speakers and to our commercial exhibitors. Our surveys will provide us with great feedback and guidance for next year's program.

Beginning in early March, STMA will be sending out the 2011 Call for Presentations. I encourage you to submit a conference presentation idea for consideration by the Conference Education Subcommittee. The 2011 Conference and Exhibition will be in Austin, TX, a new location for our conference that promises to be a vibrant and welcoming city for our attendees. Austin also offers several exciting sports venues to visit during our off-site tours. Our conference education program strives to blend academic and peer-taught educational programs on topical and relevant management practices, and we rely on your presentations to achieve this balance.

If you missed attending the 2010 conference, or wanted to attend sessions that were offered at the same time, the conference outlines and handouts are online for your use. On the STMA website, go to the Conference tab and click on 2010.

By early next month, our committees should be fully engaged. Thank you to all who submitted Committee Volunteer Interest forms. I am pleased to report that every member who signed up to serve as a volunteer was placed on an STMA Committee. If you signed up to serve and have not heard from a committee chair by mid-March, please contact STMA Headquarters. Committees are very important to the work of STMA. Our network of more than 20 committees, subcommittees and task groups provide valuable perspective and insight on the programs and initiatives set forth by you in the STMA Strategic Plan.

Spring is often equated with renewal. However, as we ready our facilities and fields for spring sports, many of us continue to face debilitating economic challenges. Those who are just beginning their budget year may be starting with a very streamlined 2010 budget. Those of us who are already into our budget cycle may be continuing to feel financial pressures. It is my sincere wish that the challenges you face are not insurmountable. I hope that you will rely on your association for the tools and resources to help you meet those challenges and overcome them. I want to assure you that STMA is committed to your success, and I encourage you to contact me, any board member or our association headquarters' staff for help. I look forward to a positive and productive 2010 for you and for STMA.