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Passing the gavel

A YEAR IN REVIEW is all about how our association has weathered the economy and continued to provide educational opportunities to our members. The year focused on providing strong education to our members through another Regional Conference, as well through our monthly newsletter that has provided helpful tips on budgeting, cost savings, and surviving the economy.

It is time to reflect and say "thank you" to so many. First, I would like to send a special thank you to all of our Commercial members who have supported STMA throughout this economical-challenging year. We all know of the effects of the economy on businesses, and the Board and I appreciate how supportive our Commercial partners have been throughout this year. These partnerships on a national and local level have allowed STMA to provide supportive services to our members with reduced costs to the association. Without the generous support of our commercial members, our regional and national Conferences would not be as successful. We truly appreciate the continued support.

Second, a sincere thank you goes to the STMA Committees and Task Groups. The work that has been accomplished by these volunteers shows their true commitment to advancing the sports turf manager. Throughout the year their focus has been on continuing to provide services to members that are important and will assist in furthering their professionalism. Our Committee and Task Group members often comment that as they serve the association, they also benefit personally and professionally from their volunteer service.

I would like to extend a huge "thank you" to our Board of Directors and to our Headquarters staff for their diligent efforts in seeking ways to provide more value to our members, despite the economy. Our focus has been on offering accessible and relevant education to our members, at little or no cost, knowing that our members have restrictions on budgets for training and professional development. I cannot thank our headquarters staff, especially CEO Kim Heck for helping to advance our association and grow membership. Headquarters provides exceptional services daily to our members.

As the Presidential baton is passed to Chris Calcaterra, CSFM, I extend my best wishes to him, along with the rest of the Board. We are still facing economic challenges; however, we need to remain focused on providing member services. I would also like to say thank you to Past President Mike Andresen, CSFM, for his leadership guidance that assisted me in taking on the responsibilities of the Presidency. Past Presidents Mike Trigg, CSFM and Bob Campbell, CSFM, inspired me to pursue the leadership of STMA. From them I learned about real leadership as I watched how they steered the association through some challenging times. And lastly and most importantly, a thank you to all members for allowing me to serve this organization. I am proud to be a member and represent the association.