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President's Message

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Volunteers working on multiple initiatives

It is so gratifying to observe our committee process at work. STMA's 20 standing committees, sub-committees and task groups are completely engaged in their work for this year. To date, more than 200 members are involved in service.

Committees began in March with the appointment of members who indicated interest in volunteering, and many committees will work through the STMA Conference in January. Usually more subcommittees are appointed throughout the year to help facilitate special projects. This year is no exception; I've added four Task Groups to focus on specific initiatives: the environment, our international outreach, future conference planning, and one to delve into our committee process and structure to be certain that we are using our volunteers effectively.

Because of various committees' work, I activated the Bylaws Committee. There are issues dominating committee discussions that may need to be more clearly defined by the bylaws. Although our bylaws were recently updated, it is a dynamic document—to be revised as necessary—and viewed as a valuable resource for STMA to promote sound decision-making.

Using the bylaws as a guide, your Board of Directors governs the STMA through its quarterly board meetings. I invite each of you to contact your board representative if you have topics you would like your board to discuss.

The Conference Committee and its four subcommittees (Conference Education, Tours, Exhibition, and Student Challenge) will be finalizing much of their work by next month so that you will have the conference program in ample time to make your case to attend. One element that they added to the brochure that you will find helpful is the "takeaway" of how each session will provide value to your facility. I encourage you to go online to the 2010 conference page where you will find ideas and resources to help with your attending.

Another task group, the Northwest Regional Conference Steering Committee, will have completed its work by late July. These volunteers represent four chapters: Intermountain, Northern California, Oregon and Pacific Northwest, and they have helped to develop the STMA Northwest Regional Conference and Exhibition. The conference is being held in Seattle, July 21-22 at Safeco and Qwest fields, Virginia Mason Athletic Center and Starfire Sports. Fourteen top educators and practitioners will conduct classroom and on-field education. Attendees will view the latest products and equipment at an outdoor exhibition, and will be treated to a Mariners vs. White Sox game at Safeco. For a complete schedule, go to www.STMA.org.

STMA plans to host more of these events within its chapter network each summer. Learning together and from each other connects us as sports turf managers and that linkage builds a strong foundation for the profession. STMA realizes that the national conference is not always affordable for multiple attendees from your facility. These regional conferences provide a high-end learning experience for great value for your entire crew. I hope many chapters are able to come together in the future for education and fun under the STMA regional umbrella.