

President's Message

Troy Smith,
CSFM

troy.smith@broncos.nfl.net



M2MEDIA360 PRESIDENT/CEO

Marion Minor

VP OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Gerald Winkel

VP OF CIRCULATION AND COLLATERAL SALES

Joanne Juda-Prainito

PRODUCTION & OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Mary Jo Tomei

DIRECT MAIL LIST SALES

Cheryl Naughton 678-292-6054
cnaughton@m2media360.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

Phone 845-856-2229 Fax 845-856-5822

REPRINTS

Cheryl Naughton 678-292-6054
cnaughton@m2media360.com

Account Representatives:

Joy Gariepy

16267 W. 14 Mile Rd., Ste 202
Beverly Hills, MI 48025 • Ph: 248-530-0300,
ext. 1401
jgariepy@m2media360.com

Bruce Loria

626 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 500
Los Angeles, CA 90017 • Ph: 213-596-7226
bloria@m2media360.com

Classified Sales/Marketplace:

Glenn Datz

Phone: 213-596-7220
Fax: 213-624-0997
gdatz@m2media360.com

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Value of membership goes beyond features and benefits

AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, so does the STMA membership year. I hope that you have found value in the education and information STMA committees and staff have provided to you. I am often told that the value of membership in STMA is so much more than the services and benefits you can see. That value is not measured in the number of resources available, but in the camaraderie between members and the exceptional ability to connect with one another. I believe that networking of this intensity is very rare within a profession, and it confirms that our culture is one of collaboration.

I encourage you to continue to build relationships within STMA and your local chapter. It makes our profession stronger. I hope that you will renew your membership in STMA and help to make our association stronger. Look for the renewal invoice in early December or go online to renew. STMA can work with you if you need to pay your dues in installments. If you are unemployed, please let us know. We will extend your membership benefits for 6 months, at no charge. I also challenge you to help STMA grow. Tell your colleagues about STMA and ask them to join.

This is also an important time of the year for your leadership of STMA. Elections to the STMA Board of Directors are taking place later this month through December 20. Selecting the leadership for STMA is your right and a privilege of the voting categories of membership. Please take the time to review the candidates' bios on our website and vote.

The conference in Long Beach is just around the corner, January 10-14. If you have not registered, I encourage you to do so. I am excited about the educational program and our exhibition. The conference and exhibition is formatted so that attendees can take full advantage of the educational sessions and then spend time in the exhibition hall without conflicting sessions. This is the one time of year that you can see all of the latest tools, equipment and technology in one place. Knowledgeable representatives staff the booths so that you can get all of your questions answered.

Committees will turn over in early 2012, too. STMA's strong membership programs are directly the result of the nearly 200 individuals who volunteer to serve on a committee. In this issue and on line, there is a short form for you to indicate your interest in committee service. Although STMA is the recipient of this great work by members, I know the rewards that serving on a committee brings to each individual. It is an excellent opportunity to share ideas, hear from peers and make a difference in STMA. If you have not served, I encourage you to sign up, and if you have served, 'thank you'; I hope that you will do so again in 2012.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Smith'.