

President's Message

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Memorable experiences

I want to thank you, the members, for making STMA a priority in your professional life. It has been one fast and exciting year. Where other professional associations have struggled, the STMA continues to provide exceptional services and sound educational resources to its members—all while engaging in new initiatives. Some of these initiatives are the under-design website redevelopment, image enhancement, and international outreach. Other areas of focus include improved member services and recruitment, and the environment. The STMA's philosophies, strategic plan, and current and past leadership of boards, committees and headquarters have led to a vibrant forecast for STMA's future.

I want to thank our commercial partners who have been a constant source of support to STMA. Through their generosity, STMA has enhanced its programs to its members. The Board and I truly appreciate your commitment through yet another difficult year.

Second, a sincere thank you to all committees and task groups for giving your time and talents to STMA. The participation of these volunteers is critical to our success. Their work shows a true commitment to advancing the profession.

I would like to recognize and thank your Board of Directors. Throughout this year they have worked diligently to provide the best value to our members as we traverse these unprecedented economic times. The Board has worked towards the future by planning for it. My goal a year ago was to "drive for a financially stable organization that values its membership and continues to contribute to them." I believe STMA is accomplishing this.

I would be remiss if I did not say a huge thank you to headquarters staff and our CEO Kim Heck. Kim and her staff are a unified team and provide the most exemplary customer service I have experienced. Their responsiveness enables STMA members to concentrate on what we do best: provide safe, beautiful, and efficiently managed sports turf venues for our clientele.

As the presidential baton is passed to Troy Smith, CSFM, I extend my best wishes to him and the board. They are well prepared and equipped to manage through any future challenges. Past member surveys indicate two things that members value most from STMA: networking and mentoring. I have truly experienced this myself, and I have many of you to thank personally for your judgment, knowledge and guidance through my years.

As we lock our offices and close our maintenance shop garage doors, we often are too busy with the happenings of the day or overlook the impact we have on the lives of so many athletes and families. The "human" aspect of belonging and being part of a team is universal. In all of us is a desire to succeed and win. It is rewarding to see this reaction in every youngster that finishes a season and is handed an award. Our facilities and fields truly capture this kind of excitement as a memorable life experience. I am profoundly proud to have served this association and hope that all of us never lose sight of capturing and reliving those moments on our fields.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Calcaterra".