

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 847-763-9565 Fax 847-763-9569

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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Always moving forward

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that I announce those who recently attained certification beginning January 1. They are: Steve Berg, CSFM; Adam Dixon, CSFM; Kevin Hardy, CSFM; Joseph Kovolyan, CSFM; Shaun Lynch, CSFM; Sarah Martin, CSFM; Nick McKenna, CSFM; Matt Rogers, CSFM; Don Scholl, CSFM; Kevin Taylor, CSFM; Rusty Walker, CSFM; and Jason Wigington, CSFM. Our certification program continues to gain momentum and interest from our members and their employers. One very important aspect of this program is employer support. STMA has developed a brochure specifically for employers that points out the value of certification and the importance of absorbing the costs for their sports turf manager to become certified. I believe in certification, and I hope that you will consider the value that it can bring to you personally and professionally.

Committee work is underway. We have very healthy participation from every segment of our membership. This tells me and your Board that you have confidence in the committee system as a way to help advance STMA. That is exactly what our committee system is designed to do. Your ideas and insight really provide perspective to help develop the right programs that are important to the membership. Our Committees work on initiatives that are well defined in our strategic plan, and as our committees tackle these initiatives, the entire association's strategic plan presses forward. Over the previous 4 years, committees have helped us to achieve nearly all the initiatives in our 5-year plan. Your Board will be developing a new plan during its summer board meeting for 2012 and beyond.

This is the time of year that I know local chapters become hard-pressed for volunteers. We are all so busy with our field management programs in the spring that often very little extra time is available to help our chapters be successful. I encourage all of you to take an active role in your chapter. Be sure to renew your membership in your chapter. Offer to host an event, or provide your arms and legs to help others plan and hold an event. It is only through volunteerism that our profession flourishes. Involvement helps the chapter, but it also provides tremendous rewards back to you. If you are not a member of your local chapter, STMA has a complete list online or you can find contact information at the back of this magazine (p.55).

The 2011 Regional Conference is set: June 15-16 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The steering committee has been meeting and is developing 2 days of excellent, hands-on education. There will be a trade show and a night out at a Tennessee Smokies minor league baseball game. The next three locations have also been set for the regional conferences: 2012 in Ohio at Paul Brown Stadium, 2013 at BYU-Provo in Utah, and 2014 in Baltimore. Exact dates should be coming soon. For more information about this June's conference in Tennessee, see the article on page 54 in this issue.

Enjoy the season!

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