

# President's Message

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## Board approves new membership category & internship grant

**F**ALL SPORTS ARE IN FULL SWING, and it is great to be fully back at work after the NFL lockout. As someone very close to it, I realize how important it is to have a strong process in place to get to a positive end result, which is not much different than how most businesses operate.

It is similar our STMA governance processes, which includes our board and committee work. STMA has very specific processes to follow when bringing new items to the board. These items can be brought by committees or individuals, are placed on the agenda, and have discussion during the board meeting with action taken on a different day. This process helps to insure that sound decisions are made by the Board on your behalf.

I am happy to report on two items that the Board approved at its recent summer board meeting. A Retired Category of membership was approved after months of work by the Membership and Bylaws committees. The goal of this new category is to keep retired members involved in STMA. Information can be found in this issue's "STMA in Action" section (p. 40). All voting members will have the opportunity to approve this Bylaw's addition in November.

Another item that I am pleased to report on is the creation of the Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant, established to assist students with the expenses of completing an internship. The grant recognizes Gary's commitment to mentoring students and providing an exceptional internship experience for them. His internship programs are legendary and have made our industry stronger. The Scholarship Committee is finalizing the grant application, and it will be awarded with our other scholarships and the Terry Mellor Educational Grant later this fall.

Our committees continue to amaze me with the work that they are accomplishing. STMA is very fortunate to be the recipient of involved and committed volunteers. Thank you!

Several committees see the results of their work this month with the delivery of your 2012 Conference and Exhibition brochure to your inbox. I hope you are as impressed with your Conference program as I am. This program was put together by the Conference Education, Exhibition, and Tours committees. Congratulations to these committee members for developing an excellent educational experience for our members! This is a must-attend event, so start planning now.

I also want to thank our Commercial partners. Because of your sponsorship of our programs, exhibiting at our show, and by advertising in this magazine and in our other publications, STMA is able to enhance its products, services and experiences it provides to membership. I extend a very heartfelt 'thank you' from the Board for your continued and generous support of STMA.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that I announce those who recently attained certification since January. They are Chris Denson, CSFM, UNICCO, University of Miami; David Presnell, CSFM, Gainesville Parks & Rec; Michael Tarantino, CSFM, Poway USD; and Elvin Ulmer, CSFM, City of Laurel (MS). Congratulations!

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

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