

President's Message

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There is no 'I' in TEAM, but might there be a 'you'?

STMA's annual Conference is a highlight of every year and 2013 in Daytona Beach was no exception. The only way Conference is so successful is due to a great deal of teamwork (a tease for what is coming below). The camaraderie of our membership and the energy exuded from this annual gathering of professionals that hail from so many different backgrounds and locations serve as my springboard to tackle another year. I suspect it is similar for many of you as well. Special thanks to all of our vendors and sponsors as you are the primary reason for the financial success of our conference. Thanks to a phenomenal line-up of speakers and a new educational format that kept our participants actively engaged in learning for multiple days. Every conference is unique and I always wonder "Are we going to be able to top this next year?", and the answer is invariably "yes." I hope that you are already planning on joining us in 2014 in beautiful San Antonio.

I have the opportunity to do something a little different for this issue of *SportsTurf* in telling you about the value I place on teams and teamwork, especially my colleagues on the Virginia Tech Turf Team. But let me call a quick timeout and tell you about another team that I too often forget to mention (but is of utmost importance to me), my family. My wife Lisa is the coach, our kids Rachel and Adam are 5-star recruits, and I think I am the waterboy (H/T to Adam Sandler), but it works. Your STMA Board is also a very successful team and two members that just completed their terms deserve special recognition: Ron Hostick and Jay Warnick. A job well done, men. Your time and commitment has been invaluable to STMA. I welcome to our team our newly elected directors Andrew Gossel (K-12 Schools), Phil McQuade (Professional Facilities), and Tim VanLoo (At-large). Congratulations! The Board looks forward to the new insights and talents you bring to the group.

Another team that always gets a number one seed is our STMA Headquarters staff. Kim, Leah, Nora, Kristen, and our newest member, Shant—you all are the best and are a major reason we continue to be a thriving association. Thank you so much for everything you do every day.

And when I ponder the phrase "take one for the team," I think it applies to a former STMA Board member who was scheduled to be featured in this issue until a change in his job status altered his membership category: Martin Kaufmann. Marty demonstrated the utmost in professionalism in how he handled the entire situation and placed STMA firmly above his personal desires. Marty, I think you are our MVP for 2012; thanks for your service to the Board, but especially for how you handled a difficult situation.

Join the STMA team in some way in 2013. There are great things to be accomplished through a little teamwork. ■