SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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President's Message

What's Up?

by Steve Guise, President

s I'm writing this column, I can't believe it's already July. Before you know it, it will be January 12th of the year 2000, and we'll be together again in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Regal Riverfront Hotel, just across from that famous Arch, for our 11th Annual Conference & Exhibition.

Our Conference Committee has developed an outstanding educational program, the exhibit details are all in place, and, as I write this, there are just a few more details to wrap up before the information packet can be finalized. By the time you read this - things should be nearly ready to mail to you.

If you're looking for information on the Conference prior to receiving that packet, including the details you might need to include in your year 2000 budget, please contact Headquarters. They'll get you whatever you need.

Now is the time to speak to your boss and/or your budgeting department to secure the time and the funds to allow you to attend. The education package put together by our Conference Education subcommittee is one of the best I've ever seen. And Rich Moffitt, our President-Elect, is looking forward to hosting all of you in his home city of St. Louis. One of the sites for our Wednesday, January 12th, Seminar on Wheels will be Rich's facility - Saint Louis University - where participants will see the results of major field reconstruction and construction projects. Other great stops on this tour are the Rams practice facilities and the St. Louis Cardinals home field, Busch Stadium.

Rich is gearing up to take the reins from me at the St. Louis Conference. I can tell you that Rich Moffitt will make a terrific STMA President. I have relied on Rich for many years to provide guidance on many issues that our Board of Directors have had to deal with. Rich's



Steve Guise

involvement on the Board was a major factor in the financial success of our organization, both when we were struggling to reach the break even point and over the past four years as we've developed a financial position to allow us to begin to develop more of the member benefits this organization is all about. I hope that you will all join me in supporting not only his nomination and election, but also his leadership as we continue to move forward into the new millennium.

Also looking forward, your Board of Directors met in June in Tampa, Florida, to visit potential facilities for the 2001 Conference. With the dates January 17 to 21, 2001, we'll hit the city just before the Super Bowl.

Last, but definitely not least, it's great to hear on TV or radio, read in print, or hear through local architects the positive comments on our members' work on the field. I was watching a Major League Baseball game last week and the announcers said something like, "Well, we don't have to worry about the condition of this field. The grounds crew always has their field ready for play." It's gratifying to know that STMA members in all our membership categories are being recognized for their knowledge and abilities in providing better and safer playing fields.

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