

SPORTS TURF MANAGER
Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
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President's Message

STMA is moving forward. Plans are underway for the biggest and best Conference ever, January 17 to 21, 2001, in Tampa, Florida. This is the 2001 Super Bowl city, the week before the Super Bowl. Our headquarters hotel is the Super new facility, the Tampa Marriott Waterside, and our trade show site is right next door at another Super facility, the Tampa Convention Center. Mark your calendars now; it's going to be SUPER.

Our Strategic Planning committee met in mid-May to fine tune our long-range goals and develop a road map of how to meet them. We're a fast-growing association in a rapidly changing world. Member services must address your needs of keeping fields in top shape over longer playing seasons with ever-increasing field use demands. The Strategic Planning initiative includes methods to deliver the resources you need in areas of education, research, networking opportunities and of informing those within the industry - and watching from the outside about what the role of the sports field manager is and why it matters.

The Foundation Committee is exploring ways to increase support in the vital areas of education for all our membership categories and beyond, research specific to sports fields, and scholarships to encourage more young people to focus on our segment of the turf industry.

I'm also moving forward. In 15 great years with Saint Louis University as Director of Grounds & Materials Management, I've invested a lot of time, effort, heart and soul into the campus, its projects, and its people. I've also gained much in personal growth and professional growth. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank St. Louis University for all the opportunities I've had to develop our athletic field program and special landscape projects. I want to say thank you to all those I've had the privilege of working with over the years and



Rich Moffitt

to express a special thanks to my boss and mentor, Chuck Smith, Vice President of Facilities Services. I'm especially grateful to Chuck and the University for their support of my STMA activities.

I have accepted the position of Vice President of Operations for Munie Outdoor Services, Inc. of Caseyville, Illinois (just across the river from St. Louis, Missouri). They're an established company and STMA member specializing in athletic field, golf course and commercial property construction, renovation, irrigation and maintenance. Over the years, I've had the chance to observe and interact with the Munie company. This contact led to the decision to join forces. The opportunities in this new position intrigue me and, as I'm already learning, they will certainly challenge me.

That's one of the many things that are so special about this industry. The opportunities are many and varied. There's always a new area to explore where the challenges test you and help you to grow and develop professionally.

The ultimate goal, no matter what hat we wear in this industry, is the quality of the playing fields we provide for athletes in every sport, of every age, and at every level of ability.

I pledge my continued support to STMA, to the STMA members, and to the programs and services that will continue to move us forward in the pursuit of our mission and our goals in this ever-changing world.