

# Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

It was great to see so many of you in Tampa. I wish that I could have visited with each one of you personally. Most of those I did get to visit with said that this was the best STMA Conference that they had ever attended. Then there were the 300 individuals that were attending their first conference. Indications are that most of this year's 1,100 plus attendees are already making plans to attend next year in Las Vegas. It is not too early to book your room. Simply contact the Riviera Hotel and Casino at 1-800/634-6753 and let them know that you are part of the STMA group and wish to make your reservations for next January 16 - 20 and for as many nights before or after the Conference that you care to vacation. Our rates are good for 3 days on either side of the Conference dates.

Those of you that were unable to make it to Tampa missed a great Conference. There were more people pre-registered for Tampa than there were members in January of 1996. Over 130 companies filled 217 booths at the Tampa Convention Center. Over 650 people attended the Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening. 225 people took part in Wednesday's tour of the Super Bowl facilities at the same time as 63 people attended Floyd Perry's seminar and 80 people took part in the first STMA/Textron Open Golf Tournament. The Category Sessions on Wednesday afternoon were well attended by people that offered some very good ideas to help STMA grow even more. The portions of each of the sessions that I sat in on were all very positive and constructive.

Close to 70 people sat in on the 3rd Annual COTS Session for Chapter Officers. Many ideas were shared to help all of our chapters better serve their members and potential members and to grow. Four new chapters were approved that brings our total to 23. Welcome to the new Mo-Kan, Nebraska, New Jersey and Virginia Chapters. Quite a number of people requested information on how to start a chapter in their area. Make sure that you are doing your part to help a chapter grow in your area. Contact the office if you need more information.

Surveys are being sent to all attendees to obtain their feedback to help in planning future Conferences. If you didn't attend and still have suggestions that could help you get to a future one, we'd like to hear them also.

Talking about surveys, make sure that you respond to the Every Member Survey that you have just received or are about to receive. The survey itself was being finalized as this column was written. This is the first time that all mem-

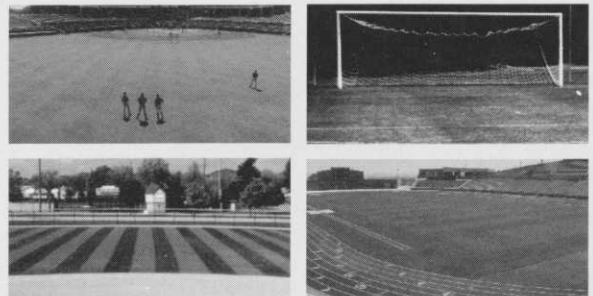
bers of STMA have been asked to provide some very valuable information all at the same time and it is very important that you all respond. The bigger the response, the more valuable the collective results will be.

Did you get to see the show on CBS the night before the Super Bowl where they saluted some of the unsung heroes of the game? They interviewed George Toma and he commented on how important all of the individuals on his crew are and that he wouldn't be anywhere if it weren't for his crew. Many of the Award Winners at Friday's banquet echoed similar comments. Besides taking time to talk to 225 of you on the Seminar on Wheels Tour, George reported that well over 100 of you just stopped by the stadium to see the Super Bowl field while you were in Tampa. He had instructed Security to usher anyone that identified himself as an STMA member to George and he graciously took time for each one that stopped by. Be proud of yourself, your profession and the job that you do ... "and then some."



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