

SUPER Conference!

If you were in Tampa for the 12th Annual STMA Conference & Exhibition, you KNOW what a huge party it was! But just in case you were not among the crowd - here's a little taste of what you missed.

The weather on Wednesday was great, perfect for golf and for the tours. With 225 people going on the Super Bowl game and practice fields tour, the hotel lobby "staging area" for loading the buses was filled with STMA people. The sound level kept growing with all the conversations as people connected with old friends and made connections with new friends.



family reunion!

The Wednesday night first time attendees reception was a half hour casual get together that included a welcome and the introduction of the officers and board members. Then all of this group walked to the other side of the hotel to open the welcome reception. This was a really fun time. The bars and food stations were strategically placed around the ballroom so you could sip and munch your way around the room, visiting all the way. Magician Joe Cole mingled with the crowd and worked his magic up close and personal throughout the evening. It was after 10 pm before the crowd thinned out.

I'm not sure if the conversations kept going all night or not, but starting bright and early Thursday morning, there was plenty of networking going on over coffee and the continental breakfast and as the group moved into the general session. A fire alarm sounded to move the group to lunch. The false alarm prompted some great remarks about the "hot" topic and speakers that were "really smoking."

With Lee Roy Selmon scheduled to come directly to

the hotel from an out of town recruiting trip, all of the staff members were on the lookout for him. We asked the hotel personnel to keep an eye out for him, too. The giant spy operation was so effective, he was literally ushered from the hotel front door to the speakers platform.



Special thanks to Lee Roy and to Bucky Dent for their great presentations and for proving once again that nice guys can be successful in professional sports.

Our Trade Show was a HUGE Success this year! We had a record 217 booths representing 131 companies - AND - next year promises to be even bigger!

Thanks go to Awards Chair, Tim Moore, CSFM, on the great double screen presentation he put together to introduce the Award Winners. As one of the Field of the Year award recipients told us, to see your field on the screens, hear the announcement about your program and go to the front of a packed room to receive the award to the applause of your peers, is one truly awesome experience.

There were so many other "great moments" the hum of sharing in the round-table discussions, the super feedback from the Sunday tours, all the parting comments of "See you next year!"

So make your plans now for the 2002 Conference & Exhibition in Las Vegas. Just call for details!

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