

January, 2018

If you are anything like me, you might be wondering how 2018 got here so fast! It seems my days often fall away quicker than I would like with all that I have on my to-do list. However, those who know me know that I embrace the new, the clean slate and the opportunity to refresh and start again. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of AHVRP. What started oh so many years ago has continued to “refresh” annually to provide value to our membership.

I am proud to call Michigan my home, and am fortunate to live in a beautiful town nestled on the shores of Lake Michigan with my husband and two teenage daughters. Life for us is busy, as you can imagine, with two active girls. We spend much of our free time poolside, as both girls are heavily involved in swimming and water polo. My husband and I quickly figured out that the poolside view is the best, so you will often find us slightly damp, timing the events. Sure, volunteering for my kids swim events is fun, but the true pleasure comes when we get to experience first-hand the mere minutes (or seconds) watching one of our daughter’s race. I realize that is much like our own volunteers. In giving of their time, they often find special moments, which are enlightening, meaningful and exciting, which encourages them to return.

No one will tell you working in healthcare is easy; it is often filled with sadness, defeat and heartbreaking stories. However, we must remember, it is also filled with joy, perseverance, hope and love. I believe the good far outweighs the bad, and our teams work is never done. We are blessed to have individuals willing to share their time, talents and tenderness with our patients, guests and staff. This is why I love what I do; it is energizing. We must commit to sharing our stories about how volunteers have helped our patients, our communities and each other; we need to hear about the difference we are making!

It is an honor to serve as your 2018 President, and I am excited about those chosen to serve with me this year on the board. We have extremely talented individuals giving their time and talents to carry out the vision of AHVRP.

To continue for another 50 years, AHVRP also needs YOU! It is my hope that each of you will take advantage of all AHVRP has to offer you, in each step of your journey:

- Networking with other likeminded individuals
- Taking part in the vast number of educational and webinar offerings AHVRP offers our members
- Getting involved on AHVRP Committees and the Board
- Taking advantage of the opportunity to become CAVS certified
- Going outside the box and trying something new.

I hope this year will bring you Golden Opportunities! With new community outreach programs, and growing patient experience initiatives, we have the opportunity to be creative, innovative and to make a mark in the communities we serve.

Let’s make this Year Golden,



Kristyn Ireland, CAVS
2018 AHVRP President