

## **President's Message**

### **January, 2019**

I wanted to wish all of you a very Happy New Year 2019. I am always excited for the New Year. It gives me the opportunity to reflect on the past year, think about the future goals for the New Year, and I feel like I have a clean slate and excited for what I can accomplish. I try not to set too many New Year's resolutions because as much as I would like to say coming off the holidays, I'm never going to eat another cookie, by January 2<sup>nd</sup>, I already have a broken resolution.

Instead I set small goals and professional development is a goal I always have for myself. The volunteer paradigm and healthcare has dramatically changed since I was involved in hospital volunteerism in 1990. However, there is one thing that always remains steady and true. Volunteers are integral to the success of the hospitals. We all have loyal and committed volunteers who help drive our customer service and our patient experience. I believe each of you would agree that we no longer have the volunteer forces that are willing to stuff envelopes at the hospital. Volunteers want meaningful positions that speak to their skill sets and are providing their valuable time wanting to make a difference. So, we as leaders need to always develop professionally to meet this changing world. My theme this year is transformational leadership, educate, empower and inspire. You are the catalyst in your offices to facilitate change in your volunteer world. I challenge you to always be the best leader that you can be no matter how hard the journey. Whether it is to take webinars, attend conference, utilize the DVS toolkit, or this is the year you will get your CAVS; your investment is in yourself. As you continually enrich your leadership and abilities, that cascades to your volunteer department and to your volunteers. You are their inspiration, their guide and their leader. You were led to this position because it is your passion. Now, you just need to continue to feed that passion and purpose of your leadership with all the opportunities that are available to you.

I'm excited to be President for 2019. I am always available to you. Please reach out if you need anything. Membership is what drives AHVRP, so we want to assure that your membership satisfies what you need in your profession. This is your leadership, your legacy, your purpose. You are the transformative power. What you do matters. I heard this quote recently and it resonated with me "do something today that your future self will thank you for." I love that quote because it inspires me to take that time to be the best that I can be even though it might be difficult. In 2014, I finished my Masters. I wanted to quit so many times. I would come home tired and the last thing I wanted to do was to read 20 business articles, answer discussion questions or worst, spend my weekends writing 10 to 15 page papers. I thought I am too old and it has been too long since I've been in school. I started to convince myself, I can't. But, I persevered. I stayed the course and finished. I'm so glad I did. It made me a better leader.

Thank you for all you do. Thank you for bringing your unique self to your volunteers. Set small goals professionally for yourself and make that time for your professional development.



Linda Fisher, MS, CAVS  
2019 AHVRP President