

## February, 2018

February is one of my favorite month, for many reasons. One of the biggest reasons is because I get the opportunity to let those special people in my life know how much they are **loved**. I am so fortunate to be surrounded by so many wonderful people...family, friends, colleagues and volunteers. Also with it being a short month, it seems to go by so fast! Well this year is no different, and February has been filled with so many wonderful things happening in AHVRP.

At the end of January, Linda, Yo and I had the honor of being invited to the American Hospital Association Professional Membership Group (PMG) CEO (Chief Elected Officer) Summit in Chicago with other PMG's. It was a fast paced 1 1/2 days of board development, but such a worthwhile experience. We learned from each other and I walked away with a better understanding of what other PMG's do, and with the understanding that we are all working toward the same goal--providing the best tools available to our members.

Immediately following the PMG Leadership summit, we headed north to meet as a board and plan the upcoming year. The board stayed at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont, the location of the 2018 AHVRP Conference. The hotel is outstanding! Great food, wonderful service and easy to get to and from the airport with complimentary shuttle service provided by the Hyatt; you are going to **Love** it! The hotel is in a great location with so much to see during your free time. There is an outlet mall within walking distance, a casino, and many wonderful food choices! You can even sky dive for those of you who are brave.

Speaking of the conference, the Annual Conference Planning Committee (ACPC) had their first call this month, and I am so excited by the energy and talent we have on this committee. Rob Toonkel, 2018 AHVRP ACPC Chair and his committee are working hard to offer you a conference you will not easily forget, and I know they will not disappoint! I am so thankful for their willingness to raise their hand to be a part of the 2018 ACPC. As I mentioned to them, raising your hand to be a part of OUR organization benefits us all, not to mention it is Fun!

Speaking of getting involved, if you did not get a chance to answer the call to be a part of one of our many committees, we still have a few openings available. [The call is still open](#), so take a minute and see where you can contribute your time and talents in making AHVRP something we can all be proud of.

AND there is still time for you to submit a proposal for a concurrent session or for a poster for the 2018 Conference. Deadline to submit is March 1, 11:59 p.m. (CT).

Last but certainly not least, I had the pleasure of being on the first call of the Committee of Volunteers, who now officially falls under the AHVRP umbrella. They have changed their name to the Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC), and they are an outstanding group who bring the voice of our volunteer and our patients to the table. I look forward to all they have to offer, and am encouraged by their dedication to our volunteers and our hospitals to make a difference in those we serve.

It sure has been a productive February, and I truly have **loved** every minute of it. I **love** how the simple act of raising my hand has given me the opportunity to get involved in my profession. By doing so, it has given me the tools to make a difference in my hospital and my community. However, more importantly it has given me an opportunity to meet so many of you, and learn what makes you **love** what you do!

Thanks for putting your heart into what you do; it really does make a difference.



Kristyn Ireland, CAVS  
2018 AHVRP President