

## President's Message

### April, 2019

I'm grateful for so many things this time of year. My sweet granddaughter, Sienna, who is 2; warmer weather is headed to the Rockies, my wonderful volunteers and staff; and most of all...**WE HAVE A CONFERENCE DATE!**

I hope you are planning on coming this year. Dallas in the fall should be beautiful. There are so many reasons to plan to attend, if you are able. Here are my favorite reasons to attend:

**#1:** You don't want to miss out on the benefits of networking with your colleagues. It is our social investment for meeting people who have the exact same interests and are highly pertinent to the work we do. It's a great way to expand your network. I know I have met some wonderful colleagues over the 20 years at conference. I know I can depend on these people for any help I might need. If you ask any attendee who has come to the AHVRP conference what is something they enjoyed, they will usually say they have met the best people from around the country.

**#2:** The education you receive is priceless. You will garner so much and gain perspectives from across the nation. Whether you are new to this industry or a seasoned volunteer director or manager; everyone can always strengthen their learning. At times, even though we are surrounded by volunteers, we work very isolated and independently. New ideas, trends and exposure can lead you to some renewed thoughts or spark your creativity for an innovative program. I have always taken away something, whether a new law that I didn't realize or a best practice that I can implement. Many times, I feel inspired by the key note speaker and it touches my life.

**#3:** Vendors! Trade show exhibits feature our industry suppliers. Many of you may oversee gift shops and are on the hunt for new products. Yet everyone can enjoy the products and services that these vendors are featuring. I'm always grateful that the vendors choose to come to our conference and support our industry.

**#4:** Consider the opportunity to submit a concurrent session. You are an industry leader. We want to hear and learn from you. I'm sure you have great programs at your hospital and I want to see you shine. Fight the impulse to say that you will do it next year, we need you this year. Fight the impulse to say no one will come to my session, yes they will. At least fill out the paperwork to present and see if it is your year to be a speaker.

**#5:** Take time for yourself, the most important person. It's admirable to make the commitment to attend as many sessions, speakers and networking that you can fit in; after all, your hospital is investing in you. But it's also a great time to relax and just enjoy being in Dallas. It's your time. It's easy to forget self-care and personal enrichment because we are all so busy with the rush of conference. But try and be mindful of your wellbeing. There is down time. Expand your horizons professionally, but also personally. There are many interesting and educational opportunities around the Hyatt Regency Dallas including Reunion Tower, The JFK history tour, the old red museum, the cattle drive sculptures, all within blocks. Find a new friend and take the opportunity to explore. Or just take the time to rest and relax during those down times. It will be restorative and help you get the most out of conference.

There you go. That is my top five reasons to attend conference. I hope you are planning on attending this year. I know it was a slow start to announce, please if you can, support your industry and our profession with the only thing that matters. **YOU!**



Linda Fisher, MS, CAVS  
2019 AHVRP President