

When I look at the calendar it is hard to believe that we are already half way through the year. The 50th Annual Conference and Exposition is right around the corner, and I couldn't be more excited! Have you made your reservation to attend the hottest ticket in Chicago this September? The Annual Conference Planning Committee has been diligently working to make this an event you won't easily forget. I can't wait to experience all that is in store for this 50th Anniversary!

The theme this year is "Golden Opportunities, Patients, Communities, YOU!" In today's changing face of healthcare we are called to look outside the box at to how we can provide needed services to those we serve. What does that mean to our volunteers and those of us who lead our volunteers? In many instances it means that we need to move our mission outside of the traditional walls where we have served for so many years. It might mean going into new ventures with what was once a competitor, but is now a collaborator. It might also mean developing new programs for our volunteers to continue serving those our communities serve. Wherever this new age of health care is bringing us, it is up to YOU to continue to thrive in it.

In my opinion, there isn't a better time to be a part of something larger, somewhere where you can learn, collaborate and grown. Gone are the days of the traditional information desk volunteers. Now we need to have volunteers providing exceptional service to our customers in ways we haven't even thought of yet. What better way to do this then networking with others who share the same understanding of our complex roles. There is no group like ours who understands what we do. With your personal membership you can develop these personal relationships for both professional and personal growth.

There is no time better than the present to take advantage of all AHVRP has to offer you. While I believe that there is no better opportunity for professional growth than the Annual Conference, I do understand that it isn't possible for everyone to attend. Fortunately your membership with AHVRP is so much more! Two of my favorite benefits are our webinars and the list serve. Many of our members have realized that their greatest membership benefit is our FREE webinars. With multiple options offered monthly, there is always an opportunity to fine tune your knowledge or learn something new. If you haven't taken advantage of the opportunity, I encourage you to do so. With the variety of topics available I am certain you will find something worth your time.

My second favorite benefit by far is the list serve. Have you taken the time to sign up for one of our list serves? Did you know we offer three different options, and you can choose to be include in one, two or all? The choices include: DVS, Retail and Hospice. I am continually impressed by the networking exhibited by our members on the list serves I belong to. Are you a member looking for feedback or assistance? Post your question on the list serve and see what our members have to share.

Together...we can turn our challenges into golden opportunities!



Kristyn Ireland, CAVS
2018 AHVRP President