

As August turns toward September, it often fills me with mixed emotions. The days of sandy toes and beautiful sunsets are replaced with fall leaves, bonfires and back to school! As a child, the anticipation of finding out if I was lucky enough to get the "best" teacher was mixed with the excitement of seeing friends I hadn't seen all summer and finding out who was going to be in my classes. Football games, dances and social activities rounded out the excitement of fall.

As I think about the upcoming Annual Conference, I am filled with the same anticipation as when I was a child. Old friends are coming together, along with the chance to meet new friends. The anticipation is building as I think about the education, socialization and networking opportunities. I am excited to see what the Annual Conference Planning Committee has in store for the 50th Anniversary; to learn from the best of the best; to be invigorated, rejuvenated and inspired. Couple that with recognizing the award winners and hearing about their dynamic programs. But most of all, I can't wait to see YOU!

If you won't be joining us in Chicago, don't despair! While our Annual Conference is something we are very proud of, your membership in AHVRP has so much to offer you! Stay tuned for new ways to engage with members and gain networking opportunities to learn and collaborate with each other. There are so many reasons to stay involved with AHVRP. Tell us about those great programs your volunteers are executing in your hospitals and in your communities. Share your successes with us here in an issue of Connect. We want to be your biggest cheerleaders.

Let AHVRP remind you of that first day back to school in the fall. Collaboration, celebration and successes are what we are most proud of. Take advantage of all AHVRP has to offer. You won't regret it.

With gratitude for all you do,



Kristyn Ireland, CAVS
2018 AHVRP President