

Dear APPNA Family:

Please join me in congratulating the APPNA summer convention host committee on organizing a wonderful meeting. I along with you, look forward to a productive meeting, forwarding the agenda of APPNA.

While APPNA's strength maybe the democratic elections and a new team with fresh ideas every year, this may also be our main weakness. We all have expressed our concerns about continuity of efforts and projects in APPNA. If every great new effort taken up each year was consolidated and strengthened by teams to follow, APPNA today may have had a lot more to show for its years of existence. Luckily the idea of continuity has started to take strength in at least some circles in APPNA and I do hope it becomes second nature for this organization – "Continuity does not rule our fresh approaches to fresh situations" (Dean Rusk).

We all remember the famous Steve Jobs quote "Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people." Fortunately we have always had a great team of dedicated members who have given their time and talent whole heartedly to APPNA year after year. While we bring in fresh faces each year, we have to build mechanism to ensure involvement of those who initiated an idea and ensured its fruition. We also have to abandon the "one man" approach of leadership, if we would like to see the organization reach its full potential.

Generally this page is dedicated to recounting the past years achievements. While the exhaustive list have been shared with all of you previously, I will recount some of the key efforts which I hope this and future years leadership will continue to strengthen. To mention just a few;

- College scholarships for Pakistani Descent students in need of financial support
- Limited term loans for Pakistani Medical Graduates writing licensure exams and residency applications in USA
- Scholarships (tuition) for deserving medical students in public medical schools in Pakistan
- Establishing and furthering joint efforts with international organizations and private enterprises to further healthcare in Pakistan, such as the APPNA-USAID joint programs initiated last year

In the same vein I hope the future leadership will continue to strengthen this year's community effort – Involvement with Food Banks nationally.

The amount of monies which we sometimes spend on entertainment has always been a concern for me. I believe we can have a wonderful entertainment program at our meetings without breaking the bank. The membership has expressed their concerns on numerous occasions and the council has deliberated upon it extensively. The onus always remains on each year's leadership to ensure the same.

Wish you all a wonderful meeting and our families a fabulous time in Orlando.

Warm Regards,
Nasar Qureshi
Immediate Past President