

As your President-elect, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the 40th Annual APPNA Convention in Orlando, Florida. I am confident that the Host Committee has gone above and beyond to make your stay as enjoyable as possible.

When I was asked to write a message for the Summer Journal, multiple different thoughts crossed my mind, but in the end, I decided that it would be best to communicate to you the number of issues that plague our organization today.

My biggest request is for all of you to take a more active role in the functioning of the organization. When the members are involved, the leaders of the organization are held to a higher standard, and this will ensure that the leadership is functioning in accordance with the rules and bylaws of APPNA.

This brings me to my second point, which is to make sure that the Constitution and bylaws of APPNA are consistently implanted and executed. The founders and leaders of APPNA created these rules to ensure that all disputes and concerns are addressed within the APPNA arena. It is an injustice to the reputation of the organization to involve the court of law in resolving any issues a member of APPNA may have. The current leaders of APPNA have the responsibility of upholding these rules and ensuring that no member takes advantage of the system.

We also need to look at different modalities that will increase the stream of revenue for projects created by APPNA. We need to create partnerships among different organizations so that our combined efforts bring better results. To add onto this, we need the different projects by APPNA to be tangible and long lasting. Since these projects cannot be completed in one year, CONTINUITY of these projects by future leadership is essential.

Young physicians and women professionals should be encouraged to participate in the affairs of the organization, and this can be accomplished by giving them more leadership roles. Strengthening the structure and broadening the representation of the organization is vital to the future of APPNA.

We need to continue to project a positive image of our organization by utilizing paper, print and social media, and taking advantage of these resources to help APPNA reach its highest potential.

We need to change the misconception of APPNA being only a social club by diverting our energy to Education, Healthcare, Advocacy and Philanthropy.

In this day and age of political mayhem, we all have to stand together and start participating in the main stream political arena. We will have to support those who have the courage and will to stand tall and represent us.

Please help me create a culture of transparency and nonpartisanship among ourselves and help bring everyone together. We need to leave a legacy of excellence for our incoming future generations.

As far as all the routine activities of APPNA are concerned, rest assured that they are already in the final planning phase and will be brought to your knowledge, way in advance.

I look forward to working with you in 2018.

Iqbal Zafar Hamid, MD  
President-elect 2017.