

Message from Immediate-Past President

Dear Friends:

When asked to pen down my message, I did not want to delve once again on what we have achieved together last year. Rather than living in the immediate past, it is time for me, and I am sure you to look ahead at the future of the organization. However, for me, and as an organization, we need to reflect as that provides invaluable wisdom.

In words of Confucius:

“By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.”

Reflecting back as an organization, we have achieved a lot, and I can honestly say that I gave it my best to fulfill my responsibilities as President, learned a lot, am a better person for the experience, and humbled by your trust and confidence.

Of course, in addition to bringing in new initiatives and thought processes, I followed, imitated and tried to enhance some of the great initiatives of my predecessors, and remain forever indebted to them for what they brought to the organization. In doing so, I tried my best to recognize and involve my predecessors, especially the recent leadership, which only enhanced everything that we achieved in 2016. Of course imitation is easy when you have the brains behind the work you are imitating, involved in the process of enhancing what they established. I am grateful to all who joined forces to support me with their wisdom and passion for APPNA.

Sometimes in APPNA our main failure is to re-invent the wheel, believing we can do it better, even when we are imitating, and live in the world of “replace or reinvent” believing we will leave some indelible mark on the history of the organization. This somehow has been our main shortcoming as an organization and its leadership. If not for that innate and misdirected desire of imposing ourselves afresh on the organization, we would have had a lot more to show for the 40 years of APNA that we are celebrating this year. This actually is something which I can say from years of experience, which as any truth can be bitterest.

Without directing our attention to any single person or group of people, if I have any thought process to share with the current or any future leadership, whenever we try to take away those who are the brain behind an idea or a project to soon from the project, we in most instances, write the death warrant for those ideas and projects. We should only change the leadership of an idea or project once it is gelled and solidified. That’s the only way I know of strengthening the building blocks of an organization. Sometimes as leaders we delve into “self” before the organization, which results in a net sum of “zero” and the organization stands still. I am sure, soon most won’t remember me. However a project of APPNA, which has had an effect on the organization, even initiated a decade or two back, will never be forgotten. Let us as an organization, remember to build on our strengths, and give credit and continued involvement to those who have brought something positive to the organization, while we bring something new and effective with the transition to every new leadership. It is like Legos, you can only add new ones on a strong foundation, if we want to build an unassailable castle. Let us build the organization, not our personal egos. If we were to do that, it is my firm believes we can achieve more in the next 10 years, than what we did in the last 40.

Once again I am grateful to all of you for the trust and faith in me, and the support you all provided. I hope we were able to build the organization, just a little, together.

M. Nasar Qureshi, MD, PhD