

First of all, I would like to thank APPNA's membership for giving me their vote of confidence, three years in a row. It is truly humbling to see the engagement of the members, and their desire to move the organization in the right direction.

APPNA is the perfect cross-section of the different societies in Pakistan. The organization has the ability to adopt the good that is seen in these societies, and bring these positive characteristics to this adopted land of ours. Lets continue to come together and work with dignity so our incoming generations feel proud of their predecessors.

My first goal is to make sure that we remind ourselves of our shortcomings and learn to accept them. Lets be open with each other and work as a unit rather than different factions, as transparency within the organization should be our primary concern. There is no place for petty politics, and our Officers, Council & Board Members need to be above such trivial matters. Adhering to APPNA's constitution, bylaws, and code of conduct will ensure that the membership can have full confidence in the organization and its representatives.

Additionally, it is about time that we start calling a spade a spade. I ask you, the membership to raise your voice if you see nepotism and ethnic divide. Demand transparency and question outdated by laws that are not compatible with current much larger organization. Let's get together and say NO to any such person whose ultimate motive is to divide and rule. We are all much better than that.

APPNA's goals should be long-term, and should start with serving the community around us, as this is the most important task in today's time and day. We should then focus on establishing a tangible, long lasting project in Pakistan.

As promised, my goal in 2018 is to involve every member in the affairs of the organization who want to serve, irrespective of their political affiliation or thought process. In this regard, I am once again reaching out to all members to please contact me who want to serve in different committees.

The planning for 2018 has already started and different committees are being set in consultation with our esteemed membership. The main goals are to bring everyone together and further enhance the image of our organization.

APPNA 2018 spring meeting has been announced to be held in Chicago. Dr. Aftab Khan, a Kemcolian and current President of PPS is named the Chair of 2018 Spring Host committee. The venue and the dates will be announced later.

This organization has a lot to offer, but we can only bring it to its full potential if we work together. Let's keep APPNA first and foremost, and act accordingly.

Thank You
Iqbal Zafar Hamid, MD
President-elect APPNA 2017.