Thank You



Well, gang, here it is, my last opportunity to write to you as president of APMA. It has been a fantastic personal experience. More important, it has been a great year for APMA and our profession. It has been very gratifying to hear the comments of people who have read these articles through the year. I want to thank all of you for taking the time to read them. Hopefully, doing so gave you some insight into who I am and how proud we all should be about what we do. Maybe even a chuckle once in a while.

Let me try to begin to say thank you. There are so many people who need to hear or see these words from me. But this is not about me. It is about the 13,000 members of APMA. Each and every one of you is important to what we are trying to accomplish. No matter how good the organization is, it is each individual podiatric physician and surgeon practicing each day who must deliver a competent and compassionate product to the American public. If that were not happening every day, APMA could not be successful. And APMA is successful because of the efforts of so many people.

To all of those in research, instructors and administrators in our colleges, a special thank you is due. Another special group of individuals I need to thank is all of the residency directors. This is a tough and mostly thankless job. Not only thankless, but these directors are badgered by their hospital administrators, having to comply with all of the changing regulations and educational requirements. They still need to guide our new graduates through the maze of basic education to becoming practicing podiatrists. So to all of our residency directors, a very special thank you.

There is a very special group of individuals on whom we depend every day. I would like to say thank you to all of our state executive directors. You are the backbone of the daily activities that keep all of us going. You are always the most gracious hosts when APMA visits your states. For those of you who were so kind to Greta and me when we visited this year, you have my deepest gratitude. As we have worked together over these many years, it is your friendship that I will treasure most.

Another group of individuals whom I want to thank are the executive directors and the leaders of our specialty colleges and specialty boards. In the past we at APMA have not used your expertise to the fullest. We have all made strides to work together to do what is best for our profession. In the next weeks, months, and years, starting under the leadership of soon-to-be president Chris Robertozzi, you will be asked to help answer some very tough questions. How we all work together for the greater good will play a major role in the future of our profession and how we are viewed by our MD and DO colleagues. I know that with your help we will succeed.

We are very lucky. Our staff at APMA is clearly the best in the business. I have the opportunity to interact with the staffs of several major medical associations. From start to finish, ours is the best! So to everyone at APMA, thank you. I know we don't say it enough.

This year cannot end without some comment about two very special people. We are extremely lucky to have both Jay Levrio and Glenn Gastwirth. These two special gentlemen do more for each of us than we can imagine, and much of APMA's success is due to their efforts. I treasure their friendship, and I am humbled by their dedication.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Maggie Kay at APMA for truly catching the flavor and character of what I have been trying to convey to the membership in each issue. Again, an example of the team effort to make everything we do at APMA the best we can.

One of the most incredible things about APMA is that it really is a family—from our staff and Board of Trustees to the staffs, officers, and leadership of all of the components and affiliates. And that includes all of our corporate friends. When you get involved, you are family. That means we can all agree and disagree. Yet in the end, we all know that we are working together every day to provide the best possible care for our patients and the best possible environment in which to practice our profession.

Thank you all for the honor of serving as your president this year. The kindness and friendship Greta and I experienced will never be forgotten.

DAVID M. SCHOFIELD, DPM
President