

# President's Letter

Michael Kennedy, President

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Where has the year gone? Over the years, I have been told by past AZHFMA presidents that their year went by too quickly. Now I understand what they were telling me. It seems like only yesterday I was writing my first president's letter and wondering how I could live up to the presidents before me. Being your Chapter President has been a truly exceptional and humbling experience. Our year together has seen a great many changes in our industry and in our chapter. This year, our chapter saw a passing of the torch. Linda and Bob Cherner from Silver & Cherner, after being our management team for the last 19 years, decided it was time to retire and do some traveling. Over the years, Linda and Bob have not only been a key part of everything we do in our chapter, but they have also touched each and every one of us with their kindness and friendship. Before retiring, Linda and Bob did an exhaustive search for the perfect company to take over the responsibilities of managing our chapter. KCA, founded by Katherine Christensen in 1991, had the perfect blend of association management experience and the dedication of being a true partner to the associations they serve. This experience and dedication was put to the test at our recent Spring Conference. Cathy Herring, our KCA representative, rose to the challenge and did a remarkable job. She coordinated the activities, juggled the schedules, made all the hotel arrangements, and executed the thousand other things that need to happen for a successful conference. She did all of this while still finding time to meet the chapter members and make sure everyone was enjoying the conference. Although Linda and Bob will be missed, they have put us in good hands.



This past year has been our 5<sup>th</sup> official year in our Quest of the Shelton. As most of you know, the Shelton is the highest honor a chapter can receive. To achieve a Shelton award, a chapter must have 5 consecutive years of exceeding goals in education, membership, satisfaction, financial, and certifications. I am proud to say we are in the running! Regardless of

whether or not we win the Shelton, this journey has focused our chapter to "Go Beyond" what is expected. We have listened to you, our amazing members, and have implemented your great suggestions. Without you, we would not have achieved all that we have over these years. However, we are only as good as we are today and tomorrow is a new opportunity to further improve our chapter. As I look to the 2016/2017 chapter year, I am confident the Arizona chapter will continue to improve while sustaining its excellence. Ryan Reiff, your incoming president, joined the board in 2011. He was at the initial board meeting when our chapter decided to go for the Shelton, and thus the Quest was born. Since I first met Ryan, I knew he would make a great chapter president, and though he lives in Colorado, his heart is firmly planted in Arizona HFMA.

In closing I want to thank all the members of the 2015/2016 board. Without each of you and your dedicated committee members, we could not have achieved the success our members have enjoyed. I also want to thank the chapter members and our chapter sponsors. You have all made this year very memorable with your kind words and support. My time on the AZHFMA board has been the most rewarding experience of my professional life.

Thank you all for this incredible opportunity to serve you. I highly encourage each of you to be involved in our chapter. I promise, you will not regret the journey.

Sincerely,

Michael Kennedy

AZHFMA President 2015/2016