



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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"Everything has to come to an end, sometime."

– L. Frank Baum, *The Marvelous Land of Oz*

Everything must come to an end, sometime – and that includes my term as 2021 chapter President. What a year it was! We started the year in a virtual world, with the chapter continuing its vast array of remote educational and networking events. As we moved further into the year, we kicked off our in-person events with the Welcome Back Party in May and continued forward from there, concluding with our Annual Retreat and Winter Break Party at the end of the year. Although the year was not completely as it was pre-COVID, a sense of normalcy started to return, and it was wonderful to see event attendees in person instead of through a computer screen.

Also, at the end of the year the chapter hosted an appreciation luncheon for our tremendous Legislative Action Committee. As I look back upon the past year, one area that stands out in particular is the continual communications pertaining to the pandemic. The chapter board worked closely with the LAC to interpret and explain the steady stream of executive orders and regulations for the benefit of our members and the chapter alike as we started to contemplate how to safely commence holding in-person events again. This included helping to secure the adoption of the COVID-19 immunity law, which was so critical to our member community associations across the state.

The end of 2021 marks not just the end of my year as chapter President, but also my tenure on the chapter's board of directors. Having held every position on the board's executive committee from Secretary to President, I

developed a keen understanding and appreciation for how hard the various components work together to make the New Jersey chapter the great success that it is – including maintaining our standing as the second largest CAI chapter in the country!

So, in that regard, I want to recognize our wonderful chapter Executive Director, Angela Kavanaugh, and thank her for her guidance and friendship over the years that I have served on the board and particularly during this past year. I believe that Angela and I took the same picture together at nearly every in-person event this year, and it was so much fun driving around the golf course during the Golf Outing in June! I will miss our frequent e-mails, phone calls, and texts, which were certainly not limited to the workday.

Along with Angela, Jaclyn Oskierko, Robin Surgent, Brooke Stoppiello-Nevins, and Jennifer Farrell worked tirelessly to not only keep all of the virtual events going, but they pivoted without much notice to organizing and publicizing in-person events while still maintaining a virtual presence through events that continued online, including the 2021 Leadership Summit. Although much of their work went on "behind the scenes" so to speak, they all serve as the bedrock from which our chapter continues to grow and develop, including through all the uncertainties of the past year.

The chapter would not be nearly as successful as it has been without the effort and input of all the members of our chapter committees. The committees carried on with

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events, messaging, and support of their members and the chapter without missing a beat. The hard work by the chairs and committee members helped to ensure that the chapter stayed engaged and connected with the overall chapter membership throughout the year.

And speaking of the chapter members, I would like to extend a special thank you to all of you. Your engagement has always been integral to the chapter's ongoing success and this year was no exception. Whether it was attending or sponsoring a chapter program, reaching out to legislators in support of a pending bill or reading an issue of *Community Trends*[®], your support over this past year was incredibly important and appreciated.

Finally, I would also like to thank the members of the chapter board with whom I have had the pleasure serving with this past year. Working with all of you as we navigated the ups and downs of the past twelve months was a highlight of my time on the chapter board. I wish incoming 2022 chapter President, Jeff Logan, the best of luck as he takes the reins in January. I have every confidence that the chapter will continue to thrive well into the future with all of the component parts working together as one cohesive team.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season and a happy and healthy new year! ■