

August 2017

Dear Maine Paraoptometric Association Members,

As I write this, my last contribution to our newsletter as President of the MPA, I am reminiscing about some of the outstanding moments our association has had this year. Though we no longer have access to the Dana Center in Portland for our spring meetings, we have secured new locations for both 2017 and 2018 thanks to the wonderful help and support of the Maine Optometric Association. We also had the misfortune of losing our Spring Conference speaker this year when her flight was cancelled due to bad weather, a first for the MPA. The conference however was still educational and credits were able to be obtained thanks in part to Dr. Anastasio, Mary Dunn CPOT and the MPA Executive Board. I think our professionalism and perseverance in spite of these setbacks reflects our commitment to the endurance and growth of the Maine Paraoptometric Association.

I am so excited for Maine this year- we were the recipients of two out of three Paraoptometric Awards at the Optometry's meeting. The MPA was presented with the 2017 **Bridgeway Award** by the American Optometric Association Resource Center at the Optometry's meeting in June held in Washington D.C.. This award has a \$650.00 value to be applied to starting a state library of educational materials for the MPA members to advance their skills and knowledge in the field of Paraoptometry. At this same meeting Sally Greeley CPOT was presented with the 2017 **Paraoptometric of the Year Award**, at the national level. Both of these awards are huge achievements and great recognition for our state association!

While at Optometry's meeting we were able to enlist the help of several new speakers for our future meetings. I enjoyed this opportunity at the meeting to interact with other Paraoptometric state leaders. I would like to encourage any member who is interested in becoming part of the MPA Executive Board to contact me at your earliest convenience. These volunteer positions can be time consuming on occasion, but I can assure you the experience is both rewarding and exciting.

I want to thank you, the MPA members, for all of your patience and support as we faced a few challenges earlier this year. I would like to thank the pharmaceutical and optical sponsors who have helped our association this year. I would also like to thank the Maine Optometric Association for the opportunity to speak to them at the December 2016 and June 2017 business meetings. The Maine Paraoptometric Association greatly appreciates all the support we continue to receive from the MOA membership and continued interest in our mission.

Sincerely;

*Heather Tibbetts CPOT*

Heather Tibbetts, CPOT

2017 President of Maine Paraoptometric Association

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