

January 24, 2022

My dear friends and colleagues,

I want to thank you for the amazing opportunity that I have had to learn and grow from all of you over the past 24 years. I remember when I began in 1997, and Anne Uno was President! She quickly asked Dick Vodra to interview me and decide if I was right for the job since he would be the next President. He said – You're hired! And then we began! Actually, our meetings all started in this hotel, which was the Double Tree Hotel at that time, and this is where ICFP met. How ironic that we are ending it all here today!

And, it was Mary Ginn who taught me what a CE was, and how to file them! It is a good thing I always had some creative writing skills in my back pocket! We have needed them on occasion! Aren't you glad she taught me about obtaining CE?!

And, it was Glenn Kautt who brought me kicking and screaming into the email world! He even came to my home to help me install the first software that I needed to get started with email! (Perhaps you are not as happy that I learned these email skills, since you probably get a few too many of those from me on occasion!)

And, my first Mid-Atlantic Retreat was run with Gary Altman long before we became FPA. FPA took off, and we all expanded this job and grew countless new endeavors, like full time work (and then some), The Charity Gala, the Outstanding Achievement Awards, the Chapter Leaders Conference, and all of the events and Symposia!

I have known many of you through weddings and funerals, through the first born and twins! And I have laughed and cried with many of you over the years.

When I began this job in September 1997, my wonderful children were 8 and 4. Today, Josh is married to Bekah, and working as a District Manager for a wine distributor in Richmond. (I tell people wine must just run in the family!) And Hannah is in Seattle as a Civil Engineer! It certainly is a good thing that I did not grow older during these many years! I am sure none of you grew older, either!

It is with a heavy and joyful heart that I remember all of these blessings throughout my years here with you. It is a bittersweet occasion because I know I will miss you all tremendously. But, I also know that I have left you in wonderful hands with Kristin. She has over 20 years of experience with chapter leadership, and will lead you in an awesome and magnificent manner! And, I have passed my big stick on to her, so don't think about getting the least bit out of line!

Thank you for all of the amazing opportunities, all of the learning and growing, and all of the laughter and tears. I will miss you all and wish you all much success, happiness and many blessings, as I have found working with all of you.

Much love and appreciation,

Peggy

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