

President's Message - Melanie Hilkewich

Dear Colleagues:

As I write this, my term as SAMRT President is coming to a close. It is a time to reflect on the past year and all the good work that has been and is being done.

Let me first say what an honor and privilege it was for me to serve again as your SAMRT President. I am truly humbled to have had such a wonderful opportunity.

I would also like to tell you that your association is in good hands, both in your new Executive Director, Debbie Schatz, and in your current Council of dedicated peers and public representatives.

Even though we have been through a year of transition, work continues to be done. The annual registration renewal process is nearing completion, credentials have been reviewed, and an excellent joint conference and Annual General Meeting was enthusiastically attended by SAMRT members. We even had a successful election for two new Council members!

Your SAMRT Council continues the work of reviewing its financial position. As discussed at the AGM, we will need to ensure funding is available to meet the future business needs of the association. As a regulator, our #1 priority is to ensure public safety with qualified licenced operators. Sometimes that means there are complaints that need to be reviewed through our disciplinary process. The number of complaints each year can be difficult to predict, but we do know that they are expensive to resolve. We also know that our website has some software upgrade work that needs to be done to make it more user friendly and to improve functionality. There is no point in having a website that members find cumbersome to use during the renewal process or they can't find the information that they need. Having both appropriate reserves and funding methods in place will help ensure that we continue to protect the public and serve you as well. In order to accomplish all these things, we may find there is a need to increase dues. You will receive ample notice if this is the case.

Finally, this message is a call to each and every one of you. We need volunteers. We need Council members. There will be a call again for nominations this spring. Or, if you prefer committee work, there are usually a few options there as well. I like to think of volunteer service as a professional duty. We all need this association, we all need to help it and we all need to carry the load. So when you see the emails looking for Council members, do give consideration to the request. If you are a manager, do urge and support your staff to participate. It's a chance to learn something new, to sharpen your own skills, and definitely to have fun!

Finally, however you choose to celebrate this holiday season, may it be peaceful and blessed!

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Hilkewich RTR ACR CTIC FCAMRT