

President's Corner....



I would like to express a special thanks to the entire membership for your vote of confidence in electing me as NALTA's 2008-2009 President. This distinction is definitely a great privilege, but at the same time, it carries with it, great responsibilities. I am pleased and am truly excited about my new role. Although the bar has

been set at a high level by my predecessor Olga McGee, in many ways we have tremendous momentum that I hope to carry forward and perhaps add some new perspectives and ideas. As we move into a new year, there are many items that the board has and will be discussing to continually improve on different areas that will effectively impact our members. If you have ideas and/or suggestions, please contact me so that I can present them to the board for consideration.

With our membership soaring, it is becoming an extreme need to take advantage of new innovations and meet the varied needs of our members. One of the items I would like to have the board strongly consider and focus on is our proposed Website Evolution Project. We are attempting to do a complete redesign of our website. This site will gradually add a whole host of new functionalities for member exchange. We currently have a committee that will be working on evolutionizing our website so that the members can have easy access to on time information, online renewal of membership, "e-Registration" for conference, change of address updates, possibility of linking directly to our chapters and more. Several of our local chapters have and/or already testing or taking the plunge to move forward with the progression of their increased membership and in order to meet the demand are installing their individual online membership website. In order to integrate our membership information, we must be on one accord so that the process can flow smoothly. Who knows, we may be able to offer our members CPLTA online testing in the future.

The board will be working with this committee to bring comprehensive methods to better serve our members. We want to be careful and use the best source of getting this informational stage up and running having protection against cyber crime and other digital security matters. This project may take a while as we test and tweak out the errors and inconsistencies, but we look toward a more innovative source

to offer our members. Our desire is to have a process that will be easy, secure, convenient and faster than registering by snail mail. It will eliminate the need to mail in a Membership Registrations for New or Renewing members. We have talented members that can assist our webmaster in achieving this great need of NALTA. If you are computer savvy and would like to assist with our potential upgrade, please let us know, we value your help? Together, let's make it happen.

As you can see this is just one of the many items that the board will be addressing this upcoming year. Our national board is comprised of members that you chose to serve and we will do our best to work on areas that will impact the greatest needs of our organization.



The fourth quarter came upon us faster than we expected and during this time of the year, we must focus on our Renewals and New Membership applications. Please note that this year's membership deadline has been moved **from March 31st to January 31st** in order to have all of members shown in our NALTA Directory. Please began processing your

membership applications and send them along with your payment to Sarah Adamson, corresponding secretary, as soon as possible.

We look forward to having another great conference as you join us in Scottsdale, Arizona the week of September 16 -19, 2009. So mark your calendars and begin making plans to join us for another journey of educational excellence and great professional development opportunities. Jan Warren, CPLTA, will be our 2009 Conference Coordinator. Jan and her education committee have already begun locking in exceptional classes for the conference.

NALTA has a proud tradition of supporting its members and providing excellent conferences. I look forward to continuing and building upon that tradition. The mission for NALTA this year is to increase and to strengthen our organization through increased membership.

Finally, as we plunge into the upcoming New Year, I encourage you to get involved on either the local or national level. Volunteer to assist on any of the committees. You would be surprised of the impact that you can have on making our organization much better. NALTA needs your expertise and helping hand as we move forward to another productive and rewarding year.

Respectively Submitted!!

**Leverne Hearn, CPLTA, CMM
2008-2009 NALTA President**