

## President's message: And for all a good year!

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As I sit down to write this last message as president of the CAI New England Chapter, the organization finds itself in the final weeks of working with chapter volunteers and leaders who have given so much of their time and expertise over the previous 12 months while at the same time getting to know many new volunteers who will take part in achieving the goals and objectives of the chapter in the coming year. While volunteers may step down from leadership positions to provide that leadership opportunity to others, they thankfully never stray very far from the work of the chapter. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of members who continue to work tirelessly to make CAI and the New England Chapter the best that it can be. As one of the largest and most respected chapters in the country, it is fair to say that their commitment has been acknowledged and their efforts have paid off.

It is with thanks and gratitude to all board members, committee chairs, committee members and chapter supporters both past and present that we look to the future and 2009 with optimism for the continued success and ongoing achievements of CAI-NE. While new faces will appear at meetings in the coming months, it is the support of the many familiar faces that keep the chapter strong. The growth and livelihood of any volunteer association hinges on the involvement of new members bringing new ideas and the support of experienced volunteers guiding the way.

The 2009 economic situation may be uncertain, but members and volunteers have ensured a more certain future for the New England chapter. Guided by the chapter's strategic plan great strides have already been made and guided by this plan will continue into the coming year. While there are no guarantees in life, inspiration to move forward is best captured in a quote by Franklin D. Roosevelt when he said "The only limits to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith." It is with certainty that members come together to realize the tomorrow of CAI, and we welcome the continued opportunity to work with volunteers in realizing that tomorrow.

With best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy holiday season and prosperous New Year. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.

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