As my presidency officially comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of our CAHPMM members, vendors and the Board for the incredible support and encouragement I have received. CAHPMM continues to grow and evolve as a direct result of your involvement in our organization.

Looking back on 2007 as I took office, many headlines touched us in very deep ways - some things making news were the collapse of a large bridge on a busy Minnesota highway, a huge break through in stem cell research and, closer to home, the late October California wildfires. Behind these headlines are many professionals working together to achieve a desired result. Supply Chain professionals are an integral part of these teams.

As I mentioned at our 2009 conference, October 2007 was the time I spent what felt like endless, often scary, hours in the San Diego Kaiser Permanente disaster command center. During those frightening October days, much of San Diego was in various stages of evacuation or actually burning. Qualcomm Stadium had up to 50,000 people in need of many types of assistance. The smoky air stung our noses and lungs and masks were a needed accessory for many weeks.

Through those uncertain times, we learned much about our dependence on each other in the medical community. So many amazing stories were shared about how the absolute best in humanity came through during some very uncertain times.

One of my dearest memories of the firestorm is of a Halloween parade in front of our administrative building. In order to give the employee’s children in the quickly set up child care center a sense of normalcy, our Pediatric Nurse Manager proudly led a group of costumed children up and down the cul-de-sac. Many of these children had lost their homes to the fire storm. However, this Nurse Manager recognized the need to provide emotional stability during a time of complete chaos.

When I think of the children in that parade, I still feel a tug on my heart and get a tear in my eye. As part of my role as the disaster command center Logistics Chief, it was my absolute honor to ensure that the peanut butter sandwiches (sliced, of course, and in kid friendly triangles) and crayons were provided to the child care center as part of my daily duties. A small thing? Perhaps. However, it meant a lot to those kids.

2008 was not as eventful as 2007 and for that I was grateful. Having some times to rejoice as Michael Phelps won major gold was a welcome respite.

No matter what our roles in Supply Chain Management may be, we represent companies that demonstrate commitment and dedication to serve our fellow human beings. Our supplier partners provide value and innovation to help provider organizations with cost containment and savings efforts. As employees in hospitals, surgi-centers or medical office buildings, we continue to find creative (and often near heroic) ways to support our
respective Administrations achieve many challenging goals. I think I can speak for many of my peers when I say that our jobs are rarely boring and no two days are ever alike.

As I reflect on my time as a CAHPMM member and then on the Board, I feel a sense of profound gratitude for the opportunities I have been given. I have learned so much from our members and have developed some terrific friendships along the way. The CAHPMM Board members spend long hours working on the annual conference – and I am honored to have had this experience with them. A heartfelt thank you goes to each Board member.

As our new President, Bob Cuthbertson, takes the helm, I know I leave you in good hands. Bob is a visionary who has enormous talent and respect in the world of supply chain management.

In closing, I want to thank my current fellow Board members and our past presidents as well. I stand in awe of the energy, intelligence and leadership shown by these individuals. Their time and talents are truly what dreams are made of. May God bless each of you as we begin this new decade. See you in November!

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Why not?

Bob Cuthbertson
CAHPMM President

I had attended the CAHPMM Conference on a regular basis for a number of years. I was very content to sit towards the back and listen to some very good speakers and educational sessions.

Six years ago I was approached by Rick Silva, who asked me if I would consider a position on the CAHPMM Board. After thinking about it the only answer I had for myself is “why not?” I had always considered the Board Members the leaders in the field in California if not the whole country. How could you not look at Alan Weintraub and Jean Sargent and not be impressed with what they had accomplished at their facilities and in their own careers. You saw the tireless efforts of Laurie Clayton and Rick both who have served on the board for years. Watching the two of them you began to see how much work happens behind the scenes. Then there was our outgoing President Vanessa, who arrived on the board just a bit before me. Vanessa is one of the most genuine, caring people I have ever met. Charlie Kirkpatrick is our Vendor Liaison. I’ve know Charlie the longest of any of the board. Due to this fact, Charlie has heard both the good, bad and everything in between.

My board career started as a Board Member at Large. This compares to being “The Apprentice”. You are given various tasks to complete that you just hope you don’t screw up, but mainly during your first term, you watch and learn. Watching these professionals put on an outstanding conference while actually having a good time and enjoying each others company is an experience in itself.

It seems like it was just yesterday that my turn on the board started. I worked my way through the ranks of Secretary (for the record was my least favorite) to Treasurer and onward to the Presidency. I am humbled by the people I am following. Not only the current board but the officers of the past, Mike Birowski, Deborah Achtenberg and many more I never met. I hope I can muster a fraction of the leadership they provided.

I have a great team that joined the board after me. Wes Gibbs has the outstanding qualities of a superb (yet maybe a little warped) sense of humor combined with an outstanding dedication to the field. Coby LaBlue has an attention to detail and accuracy that is amazing to see in action. You want proof reading? You want figures checked? Give it to Coby.

Overall it’s been very satisfying. The learning experiences, the friendships and yes even the occasional disagreements have all made for a very rewarding experience.

The most important thing I have learned is CAHPMM isn’t a one man show. It’s a team of dedicated individuals that care about making healthcare better. I hope I can take the lessons learned from each of my mentors and with their help keep CAHPMM fit and growing in these tough times.

Most of you are already leaders. If you weren’t you wouldn’t be in your role, so when Rick Silva approaches you about becoming more active in CAHPMM – just think

WHY NOT?

TAKE A TRIP ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS!
October 12-14
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
VISIT: www.cahpmm.org for full information and registration details
Welcome Back JEAN!

CAHPMM is extremely excited to welcome Jean Sargent back to the west coast. Jean had left us to accept a position at the University of Kentucky.

She is now back in California as Director of Supply Chain at USC Health Sciences.

Jean’s vast experience in Central Supply and Material Services make her invaluable to the CAHPMM Board and we are glad she’s back!

After all Jean’s years at rival UCLA we aren’t sure how she will handle the college football season, it will be fun to find out.
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The 37th Annual CAHPMM Conference will be held October 12, 13, 14, 2010 at The Cliffs at Shell Beach. Please mark your calendars and we hope to see you there! Visit www.cahpmm.org for lastest info and to register.