**Letter from the President:**

Hello to everyone in our wonderful state of South Dakota. I want to extend a warm thank you for electing me to be your current president. This is a very honored position.

I know we are all disappointed that we were not able to go to the NCRAAO/SDAAO Conference in Sioux Falls this year. We do have an opportunity to take in the IAAO conference this year that is going to be virtual.

Things have changed so very much for us since the beginning of January 2020. I would expect we will see various lasting effects of this COVID-19 in years to come. The task currently at hand is to continue to look forward and see how we can best serve our property owners in these changing times and how can we best support each other in the association.

Since our school has been canceled for this fall, I would encourage everyone to take an IAAO online class if you are able to do so. I know the DOR is sending us updates for the various of online workshops that we can get credit for also.

We do not know what this next year will look like. Will we be able to have our 2021 Conference? At this point I am going to continue to plan that yes, we will be able to do that. Our theme for conference will be Hittin’ the Trail to Balance Health, Work & Life. We have our motel contracts signed. If you haven’t already, go to the SDAAO website, there is a link for all the multiple motels that contracts are signed with. There is also a link with a map that shows where the motels are located along with the location of the conference venue.

Continuing Education is important for our line of work, so we are scheduling various types of content for our conference. Hot Springs is known for its healing waters. We know that we can have all kinds of assessing types of classes and knowledge, but if we do not have our health, we can not do our job to our full capacity, so there will be 2-3 health type classes sprinkled into our agenda. We are planning on a lot of fun activities throughout conference so if you can attend, I think you will enjoy it.

I really encourage everyone to be able to get involved with our SDAAO association. That may mean if there is an opening in at the district level, be brave and step into that position. There are various types of committees in our association that a person can be involved with also that help keep our association running along smoothly.

Again, thank you for all of your support. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next conference here in Hot Springs in 2021.

Frances Denison, CAA

SDAAO President

2020-2021