

This year we wrapped up our 50th anniversary celebrations. I would like to thank the volunteers on the 50th anniversary committee, headed by board member Ki-Youn Kim, for their hard work in making the anniversary a memorable one.

Because of COVID, our annual conference was once again moved online. I would like to thank Rhonda Moore and her team for the excellent job they did of staging the conference virtually. Like all of you, I'm looking forward to holding an in-person conference next year.

This year marked a transition as we said goodbye to General Manager Nikki Bereth, who left us to return to school, and to work on her novel. After a diligent search, we hired Katelyn Brown as the new general manager. I'd like to welcome Katelyn on behalf of the SWCC and say farewell to Nikki. I'd also like to thank Janice Benthien, Eva Everything and Pippa Wysong for providing sage guidance during the hiring process.

We also said goodbye to four board members. Thank you, Patchen Barss, Michael Robin, Marg Sheridan and Shirene Singh for your service on the board.

However, as we said goodbye to Shirene, Marg, Michael, and Patchen, we also welcomed Alice Fleerackers and Noelle Chorney as new board members.

As I am stepping down as president today, I'd like to end with some heart-felt thank yous.

First – thank you, Katelyn, thank you for your hard work and efficiency. You're settling in well to your new role and I know we are in good hands.

Thank you, Nikki for your service as General Manager and for taking the time this month to smooth the transition.

Thank you, fellow board members, for your support and your dedication. You're an amazing group of individuals and I've been proud to work with you.

Thank you to all the volunteers who serve on our various committees.

Thank you to our sponsors, who have faith in us and our goals.

And finally, thank you to all our members for your patience and understanding over the past year.

Later in the meeting, I'll be presenting the nominations committee report in my role as chair of that committee. I believe that, assuming the report is accepted, we are well positioned to begin our next 50 years with a healthy combination of experience and new blood. It's been a privilege to have served you for the past year and a half as president. Thank you for providing me with that opportunity.