



From Jim's Desk

ACA's 106th President

When one ACA President's term is concluding and another one's is beginning, it becomes bitter sweet for me as Executive Director. I hate to see the current President leave, but I'm excited for the new one coming in. So as I write this Gary Mohr is about to end his two year term as our President and Tony Parker is about to begin his term.

I realize we are all pretty tired of "the new normal" of being "shut in" and "staying safe" ... at least I am. And except for our 2020 Winter Conference in San Diego, we have faced those "new normals" during the entire term of our 106th President, Gary Mohr.

I've stated many times that Gary was "cheated" out of a traditional presidency. He virtually (another term used a lot today) did not enjoy the presidency like Dr. Linthicum or Chuck Kehoe or Judge Wooten did. He did not speak at chapter and affiliate meetings, he did not travel to ICPA meetings over seas, he did not speak at our 150th Anniversary Congress of Correction in his native state of Ohio, he did not conduct face-to-face Executive Committee, Board of Governors,

and Delegate Assembly meetings. And just as importantly, he did not get a chance to implement policies, resolutions, expected practices (standards), and other programs that past presidents have done. The new normal for Gary Mohr was abnormal. His Presidency was one of being on a screen, a telephone, a text, or an email.

But his Presidency was a life boat for ACA. He stood steadfast in supporting all the ACA full and part time employees in doing whatever, whenever, and however they could in keeping ACA alive.

Many many weeks passed by where Gary and I were on the phone daily, many days several times a day and most weekends too. Texts to each other night and day. Decisions about contracts with cities, hotels, convention services, association services, businesses involving ACA, financial health of ACA, directions for meetings, and other such items were a constant subject that I requested Gary to know about, or have a hand in, or advise me on what he thought was the correct way to go.

In every instant that I called him, he made himself available to talk. And

in every instant he was supportive or willing to give me advice.

Sure, that's what Presidents of ACA are supposed to do, you might say. But this presidential term was different, none of ACA's elected and appointed leadership were together except by electronic methods. It was as if Gary's presidency was in a vacuum that could not be opened. Allow me the privilege of saying I feel badly for Gary and Linda Mohr on one hand, but on another hand I'm grateful that the Mohr's were here when they were. Linda (Gary's wife) lived through Gary being available day and night for ACA and I thank her for her unlimited support.

Yes there's never been an ACA Presidency like Gary Mohr's. Our members and Betty and I are grateful for Gary's steadfast rock solid leadership. Stay safe in this "new normal". I'll end with a statement Gary Mohr often makes ... "It's a great day to be alive!" Thank you Mr. Mohr!

James A. Gondles Jr., CAE
ACA Executive Director