

Outgoing President's Remarks
from the
2014 Annual Conference, October 10, 2014
Cincinnati Hilton Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio



One question that I have been asked over the last several months and particularly this week is how do I feel as my term as president comes to an end? My answer is mixed. I feel overwhelmed by the dedication and commitment of the ACR board, section leaders, chapter presidents, staff and members which allowed us to:

- Burn the Lease
- Install an improved website
- Establish the New Voices: Emerging Professionals Program
- Lower the Student Rate
- Renew our academic alliance with Creighton University, which provides ACR members a discount to their online graduate program and enter discussions to establish a new one with American University
- Join with JAMS to create the JAMS/ACR Conflict Resolution Education Grant Program
- Created an opportunity for chapter members to take advantage of the exclusive liability insurance covering the wide range of processes practiced by ACR members.
- Initiate a Professional Development Program
- Bring back the Member Get a Member Campaign
- Approve the Eldercaring Coordination Guidelines developed under the leadership of Sue Bronson, Linda Fieldstone and the Elder Decision Making and Conflict Resolution working with over 20 national and international organizations
- And begin to break down the silo effect by providing all members access to all of our content sections as part of the membership fee; it's what we call the Everyone Gets Everything Plan.



I am proud to be a part of an organization where diversity, equity and inclusion is not just a phrase; it permeates the organization. This year we had 5 member-wide diversity equity teleconferences including 3 that were part of a diversity of practice series. As the first Black female president, I have a responsibility to advance the dialogue and the work of obtaining true equity and inclusion and I, trust that in small way, through Presidents messages, encouraging a day at this conference that had as its sub-theme diversity and having Tim Wise as our keynote I have carried out that responsibility.



I am grateful for the support from the best group of people one could work with, the staff at the MD Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO). There was absolutely no way I could have put in the time necessary to perform the duties of president, as I did, were it not for your constant support. Thank you.



I am extraordinarily blessed to have served as your president and to get to know the person who will be taking over the reins. Let me tell you a little bit about her. In addition to the bi-weekly board monthly board calls, monthly executive committee calls, those with other groups and countless meetings that are involved in being president and president-elect, we had one-on-one calls every week. I found that she has a passion for ACR and the work in which we are all engaged. She has a high degree of tenacity and the energy to match. Now you might hear her refer to herself as the Chief Volunteer and if you were to ask what she plans to accomplish; she might say that is not what she wants to accomplish but rather her role is to carry out the decisions of the board and address the needs of our members. I won't quibble with that-oh she is a judge so the quibbling thing – not a good idea. Let me ask you – how many of you have enjoyed this conference? The board made the decision about the city, the hotel and the date. Nancy, as lead tri-chair, took those decisions and with a great deal of hard work, creativity and a strong force of will, turned those decisions in to what we experienced this week.



She also represents several first ACR – as she describes herself – she is the first female Canadian judge on long-term disability. I have gained a friend and I am pleased to turn over the office and the responsibilities of the Presidency of the premier conflict resolution organization to Nancy Flatters. Nancy, please join me on the stage.



While she is coming to the stage would you all stand? As I get ready to cut the word “elect” from Nancy's badge – the signal that we have a new president – I am asking each of you to renew your commitment to ACR by getting involved at a higher level and support Nancy and the 2015 Board. Congratulations Nancy.



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