

**Message from the Outgoing Chair, Denise Vachon  
Delivered at the Aging Services Annual Meeting, January 21, 2010**

First, join me in once again in congratulating Tom Argue and his board for their election to the service of this wonderful Association.

This is now Tom's time to lead, and it's his podium. But, if you'll permit me, I'd like to share a few reflections with you all.

I am reminded of the old adage "time flies when you're having fun."

Those of you who have visited my office know that...well...it's not always easy to find what you're looking for. But sometimes you find what you're NOT looking for. Such was the case about two weeks ago when I came across the comments I shared when I was first elected to the Chair some four years ago.

It was about the time that we had a major transition in the executive position of the association. We were beginning to understand the extent of the financial challenges we were facing. And there were moments when we even wondered whether this Association could keep it together.

Time has certainly flown for me over the past few years.

As I reflect over my time as Chair, I am pleased and proud to look back on our work together, our progress together, and our success together. And there are many who share in that success.

I'd like to thank Craig Nelson and Valerie Acres for their work on our behalf in Augusta and Concord. Craig and Valerie deliver one of the most important services we offer to our members – Advocacy.

Craig and Valerie watch for the legislative potholes, regulatory entanglements and the opportunities that must be taken. Thanks for having our best interests in mind and for representing those interests so well and for having our backs in these tough times of regulation and reimbursements.

I'd like to thank Sheila Deringis. Sheila started with NNEAHSA about the time that I was elected Chair. She set us back on track with education programming and meetings for networking. She also played a pivotal role in putting the Association's financial house in order.

I'd like to thank AAHSA. Without our national association to prop us up, back us up, and cheer us on, we would be hard-pressed to be where we are today. Larry Minnix, AAHSA's CEO and all his staff have been there for us at every turn, and have provided us with the help we've needed when we've most needed it.

And AAHSA's biggest gift and asset in our eyes is Nancy Hooks without whom SO much of what we have accomplished would not have been possible. Nancy, we owe you, personally, a great debt of gratitude. You are our unsung hero.

Two weeks ago, I also came across my notes from the interviews we conducted with Rosie before she was hired. Rosie came to us full of optimistic positive energy, and promised that she could and would do all the things that this organization needed her to do. Rosie has delivered on that promise well above and beyond what we could have asked for.

She has brought professionalism and experience to the position. She has delivered in the areas of member communication, educational planning, and opportunities for networking at new and higher levels than ever before.

Rosie has been a tremendous support to me, personally and professionally, during my tenure as Chair. I can't possibly thank her enough for all she has done. Thank you, Rosie, from me and on behalf of the entire membership of this Association.

The Board of this Association is among the most committed and most talented I have ever had the pleasure of serving with. When the going got tough, this group pulled together, focused on what we knew we had to do, and started rowing together in the same direction. I am so privileged to have served with you all. And I cannot possibly thank you enough or adequately for your confidence and support.

The members of this association have all contributed to our success. You have been there when we called, you've responded when we've asked, you've gathered together for our events, and you kept the faith. And I thank you.

And there is one final group who deserves my sincere gratitude, because, without them, I could not have been able to hold this office or join forces with all those I've mentioned to work toward the success of this Association. They are The Board and Leadership Team of The Park Danforth. They are holding down the fort today as they have so many times while I am here with you. My Board has been generous with their understanding, and their support. I could not be more grateful to them for their part in giving me this opportunity.

Together, we deliver this Association to our next Chair and the next Board ready for its next chapter. We deserve to congratulate each other for the successes we have had, and we must remember that our work is not done.

You entrusted me with your confidence and your support. I have been humbled by that confidence, grateful for your support and friendships, and privileged to have served as your Chair.

So with that, may I say that it is with great confidence about the future of this association under his leadership and my pledge of support that I introduce you again to Tom Argue, our new Chairman of the Board of Aging Service of Maine and New Hampshire.