

**Message from the Incoming Chair, Tom Argue**  
**Delivered at the Aging Services Annual Meeting, January 21, 2010**

First, I would like to express my profound appreciation for my dear friend and outgoing Chair, Denise Vachon. Her unwavering commitment to and confidence in the future viability and relevance of this organization has been in my opinion, the single greatest reason that ASMENH has grown in strength and vision after a challenging period in our organization's history. I look forward to her continued involvement and know that all of us join in thanking her for her tireless work and many contributions.

At the same time, this success story has been the result of many hands working together. With Denise's leadership, and each and every Board member's hard work and vision, together with the crucial support of Nancy Hooks and the entire AAHSA organization, Aging Services is financially sound and poised to meet future opportunities for growth and service.

We have an exceptional Director of Member Services and Communications in Rosie Goettel. We are fortunate to have someone of such high caliber and professionalism representing our organization and helping to keep us on track. I know I will rely on Rosie a great deal in the coming months and have confidence that she will allow for a smooth transition in leadership.

I'd also like to acknowledge Peter Warecki for his enormous help in fine-tuning the financial reporting and management of our finances. His expertise in this area has given us a clear picture of our financial strength and allowed for an accurate budget planning process. In addition, I look forward to working with Justine Vogel as she with equally capable talent assumes the role as Treasurer.

As we look to the future, there are numerous challenges on the horizon that will require the involvement and participation of the members of this organization. There are many opportunities to play an active role in advocating for the issues that affect all of us. Our legislative committees working in collaboration with the guidance of our Advocacy Representatives Attorney Valerie Acres from Sheehan, Phinney Capitol Group for New Hampshire legislative issues, and Attorney Craig Nelson of Doyle and Nelson for the Maine legislative issues, are always in need of members who are willing to participate in monthly conference calls and to testify on behalf of the organization when needed.

We encourage and welcome the participation of all members in the activities of the organization. Our strength, our ability to influence the public policy that affects each of us, depends on our willingness to work together for a common cause.

Aging Services of Maine & New Hampshire has made a real difference in the lives of the people in our care. I am proud to belong to an organization representing the very best non-profit senior health care and housing providers in our region and I look forward to working with all of you in continuing to further our mission of compassionate care and social accountability.