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President



As I sit at my computer to write this, my last RCI President's Message, North America is experiencing a bout of what the weather forecasters are calling "unusually cold weather." A "polar vortex" has brought temperatures across vast swaths of the U.S. and Canada to well below zero degrees Fahrenheit, with winds driving the chill factor even lower. I am warm here in my office in mid-Georgia, where we have only had to contend with morning lows in the 20s. My Canadian brothers and sisters are probably chuckling and wondering what all the fuss is about. After all, it is winter. By the time you read this, it will be March and, hopefully, it will be warmer where you are and spring will be just around the corner. Many of us will soon be in the warm confines of the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida, for the 2019 RCI International Convention and Trade Show (March 14-19).

Sitting in front of the fire and sipping an adult beverage has put me in a contemplative mood. Looking back over the last year, I decided I would use this President's Message to say thanks.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the voting members of RCI who entrusted me, those few short years back, with being RCI's secretary/treasurer. Thank you for your vote of confidence in me then, for all your encouragement and support in the intervening years, and especially during this past year as I have had the awesome

opportunity to represent you as president of RCI.

Second, I want to thank Lionel and the staff at RCI. They are the finest association staff on this, or any other, planet. They all work very hard every day to move your association forward. Looking back, it has been an eventful year for RCI, with many accomplishments. These would not have been possible without the efforts of Lionel and the staff. Although at times it felt like I was going Mach 2 with my hair on fire, the staff helped me to navigate through the year and come out (virtually) unscathed on the other side. They made it a joy.

Third, thanks to all my fellow RCI members who volunteer to serve on our committees, as region directors, and especially to the other members of the Executive Committee. I will soon turn the tiller over to "Captain" Bob Card. RCI/IIBEC is in great hands.

Fourth, my profound gratitude and love to my long-suffering (28 years on March 30) wife, Kitty. She is the joy of my heart. Her unwavering support this past year has helped me not only to be a better man/husband, but to be a better RCI president.

And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank God. He has blessed me with a godly wife, good health, a loving family, and a great job. I owe all of that to God and His providence.

I hope to see all of you in Orlando. Be safe, stay warm, and...

Keep Pushing the Envelope!