

AMPA

Investment

The notion of investing in one's future is intuitively wise. When we think of investment, we often conjure examples of mutual funds, college savings, interest rates, and the like. Indeed, all of these concepts have value, but what is sometimes forgotten is the investment in the longevity of one's career itself; this type of investment is much more complex.

I've seen many who are starting out make what turn out to be poor investment choices in the long run. The lure of a high salary may be what traps them. Or it may be the urge to work many jobs, with the ultimate goal of an early retirement. This is consistent with the work ethic and mindset that saw many of us through the rigors of schooling and postgraduate education. As we get older, however, the supply of this fuel becomes limited. For most of us, something has to change. The high-pressure, low-satisfaction, high-paying positions often come at a cost. The costs can be both personal and financial. Not only can it devastate one's life, as we have tragically seen so many times in our specialties, but it can stunt *lifetime* earning power as well. Working for years to graduate after spend-

ing thousands of dollars in tuition, only to have your career cut short by not having the ambition to work another day, does not secure a stable future.

This is not to say that as one progresses throughout a career he or she should become professionally sedentary. Quite the opposite occurs if one invests wisely in career longevity. While it is true that many outside forces are at play, people have more control than they often realize to mold their career. There are more than enough things that can derail this effort. I don't have to give many examples, such as the omnipresent forces trying to turn patients into customers, for you to know what I mean. Nonetheless, use the power in what you can control to create your own professional future to make the most of your passion, whatever that is to you. *Making* a more satisfying career pays dividends in longevity, life satisfaction, and lifetime earning potential. Fostering that by creating the job that you want, the one that motivates you, and balancing your professional passion with your personal life are the objectives. Your life, wellbeing, and your legacy depend on it.

Christopher J. Fullagar, President

ASTNA

2016: A Year of Great Aspiration and Great Things to Come

As we usher in the new year, we often pause to reflect on the one that just passed and make resolutions for the year ahead. We formulate where we'd like to be by the closure of the year and what we hope to achieve by then. In continuing our 2016 theme, "ASPIRE TO GREATNESS," ASTNA, too, is focusing on our resolutions and where we would like to be by year's end.

We enjoyed a very successful AMTC in California with many new members signing up at the booth, as well as a great luncheon super session where many of our members and friends were able to hear about the accomplishments of our association over the past year. AMTC also launched our new booth, which is both eye catching and functional, featuring pictures of many members in action.

In collaboration with our partners at the Air Medical Physician Association, we are pleased to offer specific membership to advanced practice nurses and will be working together on accommodating the specific needs of our advanced practice nursing colleagues.

We hosted a bumper TraCER Advanced Certification Review Course for the CFRN, CTRN, CCP-C and FP-C exams before AMTC started and received great feedback from participants. TraCER is a course for nurses and paramedics, provided in partnership with our colleagues at the International Association of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics. If you are planning on taking one of these exams, consider signing up for the TraCER course.

We have begun selling our latest publication, *Standards for Critical Care and Specialty Transport*, which is a completely revised publication covering standards for rotor-wing, fixed-wing and ground critical care transport. Several of our other publications, including the Core curriculum, *Principles and Practice*, and the ASTNA Certification Review manual, are under revision and will go to print early in 2017.

ASTNA has been very involved with sponsoring and cosponsoring legislative measures to ensure greater safety

of our members and fellow flight crew with regards to mandating crash-resistant fuel tanks and systems for all helicopters to prevent post-crash fires.

We continue to have a say in current and forthcoming legislation regarding unmanned aerial vehicles/unmanned aircraft systems/drones operating in the same air space that our flight crews operate in, as we all know it is just a matter of time before a mid-air collision occurs, which we want to prevent at all costs.

We have a new board of directors at ASTNA and are honored to have Stephanie Steiner and David Meysenburg join us as the 2 new board members-at-large. We also welcome back Josh Wall, our WWR editor, and Tina Johnson. Brian Solada moved up to the position of president-elect and will be assisting myself, Sharon Purdom (treasurer/secretary), and Nikole Good (executive director) in managing the board and day-to-day functions of our association. We are also pleased to welcome back Steven Neher, who volunteered to serve an additional year on the board, having been immediate past-president in 2015. Allen Wolfe is now serving as ASTNA's immediate past-president for 2016 and will also be taking up the office as ASTNA board liaison on the BCEN board for 2016 and 2017.

IAFCCP

Why International Matters

Several years ago the National Association of Flight Paramedics opted to change its name to the International Association of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics. Despite the lingering image of "that association that changes its name" and having the longest initials, this was done for good reason.

Air medicine and ground critical care are not at all unique to the United States. While the free market economy has given us superiority in the number of aircraft available within the nation, this does not necessarily translate to superiority in clinical care, training, safety, or equipment standards.

One of the early adapters in the international transformation of our association was in Europe. Several air medical services in Switzerland and Germany aggressively pursued an IAFCCP chapter and near universal FP-C certification for their paramedics. Their contribution has been ongoing, providing our association with its first international liaison, helping to raise awareness of clinical and safety practices outside of our normal realm of operations, and spreading the capability of the association throughout Europe. (Exciting new opportunity coming in this area soon!)

Similarly, we were invited earlier in 2015 to attend the graduation of over 100 critical care and flight paramedics from an 8-month training program in Central Mexico. In this state of Mexico, not normally frequented by Americans

We encourage you to take a look at the ASTNA website at www.astna.org to see all the new faces, and we will be telling you about each board member's background in the next few months.

In closing, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to Aspire to Greatness, to be the very best you can be. To never settle for complacency with regards to your safety, your clinical standards, your education, and the care of your patients. Aspire and actively work towards being great! Never settle for mediocrity and second best.

ASTNA will enable you to accomplish great things in 2016. For this to happen, we need you to become a member, spread the word and importance of professional specialty association membership to your colleagues, and become actively engaged in your association and its many activities. Be the one that speaks up, that rocks the boat when complacency and substandard safety and clinical practices occur. Never stop educating yourselves, attend our conferences, TPATC and TraCER courses, read the *Air Medical Journal*, and strive to advance our specialty. We are honored to represent you exclusively as the transport/flight nursing specialty association.

Live out the Safety Lifestyle!

Andrew Veitch, President

or tourists, we found a world class training program supporting a wide network of highly capable ground critical care ambulances and a paramedic-staffed helicopter. This led to the formation of our Latin American Chapter, which you will see us continue to support and grow over the next few years.

Additional ongoing efforts are focused on Haiti and Canada, with potential opportunity in the United Kingdom, South Africa, and beyond. Each time we reach out to other nations and systems, we find that, more often than not, we are the students rather than the teachers. We find amazing practices and processes that we would be well advised to adapt to within our own markets.

As an international organization it is our obligation not only to support the mission and goals of paramedics in CCT roles throughout the globe but also to disseminate the best practices we find and seek to emulate them throughout our home programs to increase education, improve safety, and bring our profession up to the next level within the healthcare profession.

If you have a need or opportunity for us to better engage internationally, please let us know! Contact information is available at www.IAFCCP.org. We look forward to serving your more and more throughout the year!

Be diligent. Be aware. Fly safely!

David Ellis, President

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