

Presidential Address to NYSCHP Membership

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”

- Helen Keller

Hello and Welcome to new beginnings! I hope everyone and their family remained well during the pandemic. This year 2021-2022, we, the New York State Council of Health System Pharmacists will forge our way forward out of a virtual year. I look forward to re-introducing face to face engagements and having the ability to meet and greet everyone in person. For this edition of the newsletter, I present an excerpt of my inaugural speech as many were not able to attend the virtual House of Delegates. My goals for this year are extensive. My hope is that I can call upon every member to lend a hand in advancing our profession forward.

An inaugural speech, Drew Faust stated can be thought of as “expressions of hope unchastened by the rod of experience” which most often contain lists of a new president’s planned goals and initiatives (Faust, 2007). However, as I thought about speaking to you all tonight, such a list seemed too constraining and too stifling. As I stand here tonight on the threshold of a new chapter in the history of the NYSCHP, my hope and my pledge is to “unleash our most ambitious imaginings”. I stand committed to not only serve each member of the NYSCHP but also to “transcend the ordinary” (Faust, 2007) and bring the council and its membership to new heights.

Having made this pledge to you, I am also reminded of Thomas Edison’s words that “vision without execution is hallucination”. Therefore, I submit two key elements to a reliable execution that will forge our success. First, I pose to all the individual leaders I will work alongside not a set of specific orders to move us forward but rather a concept of leadership as a “compass to steer by” or “a model” to guide us (Faust, 2007). Servant leadership is the spirit by which we, the leaders of the NYSCHP will together undertake our shared work. “In sum, the servant-leader is a steward who holds the organization in trust to the public it serves, while remaining intimately attuned to the needs and situations of those who work in the organization and sincerely committed to empowering others to succeed professionally and personally” (Reinke, 2004). Second, I put forward the NYSCHP strategic plan that we began to formally construct this past year with its three pillars of organizational excellence: Education and Professional Development / Resource Development / Advocacy.

When we look across the United States, NYS has taken a backseat to the advancement of the profession of pharmacy. While other states have obtained provider status for pharmacists, we in NYS still struggle with being recognized as an essential worker or a member of the healthcare team. Our achievements in CDTM legislation have decelerated; forty-seven other states permit pharmacists to administer all CDC recommended vaccines, New York does not. Forty eight states have recognized pharmacy technicians for years, New York just began to recognize Pharmacy technicians this month.

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The NYSCHP is both a source and a symbol of professional excellence for health-system pharmacists, across NYS, we must begin to organize ourselves in ways that allow us to engage and partner with other professional organizations and other disciplines to champion our efforts to advance the profession of pharmacy. We must overcome barriers both within as well as outside the NYSCHP that constrain our efforts and we must find the resources, both human and financial to expedite and succeed in our efforts. Accountability to the future of the pharmacy profession resides with each of us: every pharmacist active or retired, every pharmacy resident, and every pharmacy student. So I call upon each and every individual in the pharmacy profession who are part of a health system across our great state to engage in the NYSCHP and to do their part, however small, to bring our profession to new heights.

Anyone who has worked with me will often here me state the quote by Neale Donald Walsch “Life begins at the end of your comfort zone”. I encourage all of you to embrace and get comfortable with being in an uncomfortable position and assist me in moving the profession of Pharmacy forward in NYS.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Ruth E. Cassidy

References:

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