A Wonderful Year as President

Greetings MSAA members!  I hope you are all having a wonderful start to your spring!  It has now been three months since our 2019 Conference and Show and turning the gavel over to the new President, Dave Thompson.  The entire year prior to that was a great time and experience for me as the president for our association and I’m so happy I was able to take on that role.

Wow, time really does fly by!  Nine years ago, I started my journey by joining the board of directors for our association.  I can honestly say that time went by quicker than I could have ever imagined. During that time, I was able to work on all the different committees, serve as Conference and Show coordinator, serve two three-year terms on the board, serve as Vice President, followed by President.  I cannot express enough the gratitude that I have for all the MSAA members and the support and shared experience that I received during that time. Our association is full of willing and giving members, and people always willing to step up to the plate in times of need. While being involved, I was able to learn so much not only about our association, but also the auction industry.  There’s no article long enough for me to describe everything that I was able to learn and soak in during this time.

During my year of Vice President, I was able to do what I love while assisting the people I am closest to.  Being able to support my father, Vince, during his presidency was an amazing experience. Not to mention, he completely prepared me for my year of presidency by simply allowing me to work beside him.  Being able to attend all the meetings with my parents, Vince and Jane, and my fiancée Emily, was more than I could ask for, and not what I had expected nine years ago. That year was a wonderful time and I’m ecstatic I was able to share and experience all of it with my family.

My year as President went as good as I could have expected.  Of course, there are always some bumps in the road, but never anything our association couldn’t work with.  I was extremely happy and grateful for the board members and executive committee I was able to work with. When they say, “A chain is only as strong as its weakest link,” that couldn’t be truer in this situation.  Having a strong board, executive committee, and strong association all plays a large part with how things move and get done. I am grateful for everyone who supported me and the association during this time. I would also like to thank the sponsors, vendors, speakers, and everyone who assisted during the January Conference and Show, and for making things run smoothly.  For everyone who purchased a raffle ticket for our MSAF - thank you! All the tickets were sold, grossing $16,000 for our Foundation with the funds to be used for education and scholarships.

Thank you, everyone, for a wonderful time and all your help while I was president.  We have a great association, and I’m grateful I had the chance to work with such a wonderful group of people.

Austin Bachmann – Immediate Past President