Hello to all of our MSAA members. I hope you are staying healthy and safe; we're living in a crazy time right now, the ever changing world.

I would like to say "thank you" to everyone for attending this year's Conference and Show. We had an amazing, snowy, windy, and cool weekend! It was great to see everyone who participated in all of the great education seminars and see the networking with all of these awesome members!

I also wanted to say "thank you" to our members who participated in the marketing contest. This area of the show has been growing, so thank you so much for your participation.

I hope you all had a chance to visit with the vendors this year as well; I had a great response from them, because our association really enjoys talking - imagine that!

As I am sitting here writing this, the thought of family comes to my mind, that is what this association has become...one big family.

While we are facing new challenges in the auction industry due to COVID-19, and most of us are at a position of "Stay at Home," this has really put an impact on our businesses. The changes that are taking place daily have not made it easy to do "day-to-day" business; we are all in the same boat. The struggle has been seen all over the nation. If you are fortunate enough to be able to be in business and be considered "essential," consider yourself very lucky. Many are unable to do so. There have been a lot of questions raised as to who and how the Governors are deeming essential workers; this is what I have been able to gather for Minnesota anyway - workers in "critical sectors" are exempt, this is about 78% of jobs - according to most state officials. Everyone in my opinion is an important asset to any company/business they work for. Truth be told, these drastic measures have been put in place to protect everyone, so this "Stay at Home" is for everyone's own well-being. A wise person once told me, "This too shall pass;" these are some words to truly live by, especially today!

I know we will all survive because the auction industry adapts to change every day - at any given time situations change and we can pretty much do anything on the fly!

I hope that everyone is doing the best you can, making the best of these changes, and remember at the end of the day, family is here for you.

Take care and all the best!
Happy Spring,

Erika Ediger-Connolly

MSAA Board of Director