This will be my final editorial for the Journal of Emergency Nursing as the President of ENA. What an amazing experience this journey has been, affording me opportunities that few get to experience and the chance to meet thousands of our members, each of whom has energized me in one way or another.

As I reach the sunset of my presidency, my memory wanders to 6 years ago when I first chose to run for the Board of Directors. As I gave my introductory speech at the candidate’s forum that year, I made a commitment that if elected, I would only seek one term on the Board of Directors. My rationale for this was simple, I wanted to set the example to allow as many members as possible to have opportunities within ENA. By serving only one term, I would free up the chance for others to be able to replace me on the Board of Directors.

Of course, I kept that commitment, serving a single term followed by the positions of President-elect and President. I have never once regretted my decision. As I have looked at the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors at each election over the past six years, it has been filled with very qualified individuals, many of whom either could have or actually have served our Association well. Each Board member who has been elected has brought a new dynamic to the Board and new ideas to our Association. I believe that my commitment to running a single term will ultimately serve our Association well.

This year, as President, I was tasked with appointing several hundred people to various committees, external liaison positions and other appointments. I was guided by my original commitment of serving only one term on the Board when making these appointments. I made a conscious effort to seek out members who had either never served our Association before or who had not served in a long time. My goal was to bring new talent and ideas into ENA.

I am proud to say that over 60% of those I appointed this year fit the category of "new talent and ideas," having never served within National ENA before or not having done so for a period of time. Fifteen percent of these appointments were actually from ENA’s “emerging professionals” group (those who have been an emergency nurse for five years or less). Not wanting to overlook the experience and dedication that our seasoned members bring to these appointments, the remainder of those chosen included members who were currently serving ENA in one way or another.

On numerous occasions, people have commented to me how innovative and energetic the Association has felt this year. I have to believe one of those reasons was the infusion of so many new people to the various appointments, bringing new talent and ideas to our profession.

As my Presidency comes to an end, I am prepared to make another commitment to our membership and that commitment is that I will finish my remaining term on the Board of Directors as Immediate Past President and then step aside to make room for others, including our emerging professionals, encouraging them to bring their expertise to the future of ENA. I am sure there are times when my experience will serve the Association well and I will gladly step forward to serve when asked, but my goal will be to support the leaders that follow me to succeed. I am certain there may be times when I will disagree with decisions that are made, but after politely making my position known, I will quietly accept the wisdom of those who follow me.

In order for me to make this commitment, however, I am counting on our membership to continue...
enthusiastically stepping forward to serve the needs of ENA. I want to specifically call on our emerging professionals to step forward and volunteer to build on the foundation that many of us have left for you. My final words as President will be the same ones that I uttered during my first speech at the 2017 General Assembly—“Dreams are the foundation of the Future—but dreams realized are the foundation of success.”

Letters to the Editor

The Journal of Emergency Nursing (JEN) invites readers to submit letters to the editor. While the focus of such letters can be a topic of special interest to the letter writer, all letters must be relevant to emergency nursing practice in order to be considered for publication. Most frequently letters are in response to a recent article published in JEN and provide additional information or discussion.

Letters to the editor must be no longer than 1 page, double-spaced, using 12 font. Letters should be submitted to JEN Editor-in-Chief Anne Manton at apmatc@comcast.net and JEN Managing Editor Annie Kelly at anniebkelly@comcast.net. Please include name, credentials, city and state, and email address.

NOTE: In addition to letters submitted for possible publication, your comments, suggestions, and feedback are also welcomed and encouraged.