

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*

*- Martin Luther King, Jr. -*

As I make my exit as the president of The El Paso Society for Human Resource Management, this quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. could not ring more true for me. The past eight years on the board have been nothing short of fulfilling. When I joined the board in 2009, I was not clear to what my impacts would be on the organization. I had no previous board experience and the nexus between governing an organization and directly affecting change in the community was not crystal clear. I went in with the intention to not only “make a difference in the HR Profession” but to become a better community member by giving in any and every way I could, all while further advancing the mission of a wonderful organization. Through guidance and others’ experiences and leadership, I was able to understand that for a nonprofit to be truly successful, all parts of the organization are mutually valuable and must all work together in a balanced and intentional way to accomplish longevity.

It is truly hard to believe how quickly a year has passed and that I am writing this article to the EPSHRM constituency as I prepare to transition to immediate past president. As I move forward, serving on the board of directors at EPSHRM has ignited my desire to do more, be more, and serve more.

It was certainly a busy year, which is probably why it passed in the blink of an eye. To recount, we had very successful monthly membership meetings with quality and relevant HR professional topics. We have several networking events and fundraising events such as the golf tournament, picnic and The Chihuahuas outing. We presented at our local Chamber of Commerce and provided feedback to our local community as a subject matter expert on a topic effecting our country as a whole. In addition, I am truly grateful to all the sponsors who truly came thru this year in order to provide all the different membership activities we provided to all in 2018. In addition, we gave away scholarships and honored our award recipients for their efforts in representing our profession at the highest levels. We once again donated to the National SHRM Foundation which in turns supports scholarships in our profession at a national level.

It takes a collective effort to make an association like ours viable, and I think it is only fair that special thanks also go out to all the volunteer members on our Executive Board and the rest of our Board Members. There are many other volunteers that may not serve on our Board but have volunteered, fundraised, assisted with several events thru out the year in which certainly deserve a big thanks.

EPSHRM plays a vital role in our profession, and I hope that in 2019 each member will find a way to serve the organization that serves you. We will continue to monitor legislation that affects your ability to practice your profession. We will continue to provide affordable networking and continuing-education opportunities. If you have stepped up in the past, we thank you. If you have not yet, now is the time.

I thank you all – the members of EPSHRM – for allowing me to serve you as president over the last year. It has been an honor, a joy, and an experience that I will always cherish. I have met many new, interesting colleagues, made many new friends, and enjoyed it to the fullest. I look forward to seeing you at all upcoming EPSHRM events in 2019.

Regards,

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EPSHRM President