

Winding it down for 2022

What a wonderful conference we just had in Houston! It was so good to see you all and to have a chance to catch up after this past year. I don't know if it is just me, but it seems that our down time gets shorter and shorter with each passing year. We are rushing into the next game with little to no off-season break.

I want to take this time to thank everyone for your confidence and support during this past year and the years leading up to it. It has truly been an honor to serve on the TAAO Executive board and as President this past year.

When I first became involved in TAAO, I was welcomed with open arms by people from all over the state and all areas of our profession. What a wonderful feeling! I was encouraged to become involved and grow. I was mentored by some wonderful professionals who I now and will forever call my dear friends. Because of this organization, I have made connections and relationships that will stand the test of time.

It is so very important to have a team of individuals that you can lean on when things are tough. Those individuals who you can trust to tell you what you "need" to hear and not what you "want" to hear. Those are the people who will build you up when you are lacking confidence in yourself and rein you in when you get a little too far out into left field. That shoulder to cry on and hold you up when the weight is too much to bear alone, and that group that will snort laugh with you when you need it the most.

**Thank you to my** team for doing that for me. You all know who you are!!

I also want to thank all my committees for the hard work that you put in. We changed up a few things and everything worked out great. You all showed what it means to truly be a team and work for the good of all our members. You are **all** MVP's this year.

To our TAAO staff, you are all rock stars. Thank you all so much for your hard work, dedication, and passion that you show for TAAO. Without you guiding us behind the scenes, we would be lost. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

This year I experienced firsthand the true heart of so many of our members as they reached out and gave selflessly to help fellow members and chapters during tough times. Your service to others shines within you. You are true leaders.

Finally, I must thank my family for their support. My husband, sons and parents have all come together to help me cover the home front when I have been traveling for education or working late hours. I thank God for each and every one of you every day.

Have a great next year and remember that it takes the whole team to hold this winning association together.

*Michelle L Berdeaux*