

To Everything There is a Season

By Jeffrey M. Baill, Yost & Baill, LLP



I recently announced that I would be resigning from the Board of Directors at this year's annual meeting in Austin. After 18 years of service to NASP, I feel it is appropriate to leave the Board and make space for other volunteers to leave their mark on our association. While this is not an easy decision to make, the timing is right for me and for NASP. Having been to every Board meeting since the formation of the NASP, I can assure you that the organization is in a strong position, structurally and financially, to serve the membership well into the future.

Although I am not one to dwell on the past, I would like to review some of the significant events that have occurred during the history of NASP, as they are instructive for the future. The subrogation industry has changed dramatically in the last two decades and I believe NASP has played a crucial role in making that happen.

Before NASP, there was no connection between people in the field. There was no mechanism to collaborate with each other. There was no way to explore options as an industry to become better at what we do. There was no reliable benchmarking to help companies measure how they were performing against the industry. There was no certification program to demonstrate to the world that subrogation was a unique field, requiring a specialized expertise. There was no way to organize and defend the industry against attacks by outside parties attempting

to limit the rights of carriers to subrogate. There were no national subrogation conferences focused on providing educational opportunities to all practitioners including, insurance professionals, attorneys, and experts. There were no electronic forums to inquire and share information on the latest defective products and other helpful information. There was no effective way to network with each other.

All of the above has changed by people coming together to volunteer their time and efforts for the good of the industry. It is remarkable to think about all the time and energy I have witnessed from so many people giving back to the field they work in. Twenty years ago, if I had told someone that there was a dedicated subrogation conference with over 60 distinct educational programs, they would have laughed at me. Some still can't believe it today.

Our world, and particularly our field, gets more complicated every day. Spoliation, Daubert, notices, artifact exams, and on and on. We need each other to excel in our profession. Although many of us compete with each other, we are still better together, educating each other for the benefit of all. That has been one of the most amazing things about NASP. Watching competitors working together to help our companies and policyholders has, and continues to be, inspiring to watch.

A lot has happened in 18 years. I have been blessed to have had a front row seat for most of it. I hope I have been helpful during my tenure. My motivation has always been about NASP, and nothing else. Eighteen years on a Board is probably too long for one person to serve. Boards need new voices and new blood to continue to innovate and change for the future. I hope my leaving is a catalyst for continuing positive change in the organization.

Although I am leaving the Board, I am not leaving NASP. I intend to continue with the status I am most proud of: a NASP member and part of an industry that does great things for our companies, our policyholders, and society.

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