



Guess who is back?

“Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in”

Michael Corleone (Al Pacino)

I would like to thank the members of the Medical Gas Professional Healthcare Organization (MGPHO) for allowing me to become the next president of MGPHO. It will only be through your support and dedication to MGPHO that we will continue developing the organization as a center of excellence in the medical gas services industry.

I would like to recognize all the hard work that the last Board of Directors - Richard Miller, Al Moon, David Mohile, Scott Jussel, Corky Bishop, Jason Sweatt and Rickey Rutherford, - has provided over the past years, and I would be remiss if I failed not to sing the praises of all the support and work we have received from Cheryl Moon. Each of them is dedicated to the ideals of this organization. Their enthusiasm is contagious. It is something you feel instantly when you walk into one of our annual meetings and Cheryl greets you with a smile, prepared to help.

As some of you know, I was one of the founding members of MGPHO. I have been the VP–Structure (6 years), VP-Education (4 years) and past President of MGPHO (2 yrs). Additionally, I was on the Board of Governors in a dual role for MGPHO (6 yrs). During the last 12 + years as one of your officers, I have worked closely with all the present and past board members and I am grateful for their dedication and support. I look forward to working constructively with the existing and new board members in the days ahead to do what is right for all of the members in this organization.

As I begin the days ahead as your president, let me share three themes with you: **tradition, challenge, and action.** MGPHO was founded by a group of people that had two things in common. First, they were medical gas verifiers. Second, they shared a common belief that patient care was priority number one. This, alone, gave them more in common than anything that might try to pull them apart and that tradition remains a bed rock of faith for all.

When you attend an annual MGPHO meeting, you see verifiers, design engineers, hospital facility staff, doctors, chemist, respiratory therapists, biomedical technicians, equipment manufacturers, gas manufacturers, novices to the medical gas industry, and people from a single-person company to Fortune 500 companies, ... talking and sharing war stories, enjoying the creative

atmosphere that MGPHO has developed. When you walk into a MGPHO meeting, you don't see competitors, you see people interested in improving patient care, improving the industry, improving their knowledge, and improving their business. Taking advantage of the opportunity to talk with each other, our members here have experiences and perspectives that are invaluable. The educational seminars are the best in the world.

Over a decade ago, our charter described our mission to elevate the standards of safety, quality, integrity, and honor in our profession. Those are the ideals that set us apart and those are the ideals that bind us together. That mission describes our challenge today. "To assure safety and reliability for patient care" remains both our tradition today and our challenge tomorrow. We realize that with the size and complexity our population, today's economy, and healthcare reform, sadly, it is unfathomable to any authority of jurisdiction (departments of health, fire marshals ...) to be asked to inspect every health care facility. That is why it is imperative that the AHJ's have a trusted resource to guide them. We are an essential ingredient to the integrity of our regulatory system, and that is why verification is the hallmark of our profession. Without it, the "rule of compliance" will be seen as nothing more than an instrument of burden. That must never be. That's why MGPHO has been at the forefront of all of the organized efforts to assure competent testing criteria for new medical gas installations. That is why we advocate the principles of NFPA, ASSE, CGA and other standards and codes. It was in our charter over a decade ago and it remains a part of our mission today. Proof of our commitment comes from our membership in the form of our standing committees, Education, Legal, Membership, Structure, Finance, Ethics and Credentials, each of which is engaged to preserve and advance the integrity and the respect of our industry.

Education Committee - The mission of the Education Committee is to provide ongoing educational experiences for the membership, and to encourage membership participation in these initiatives.

Professional Development Committee (Credentials) – The mission of the Credentials Committee is to provide professional opportunities for the membership, and to encourage membership participation in these initiatives and provide a forum to set standards of practice.

Finance Committee - The mission of the Finance Committee is to oversee the financial health of the organization.

Membership Committee - The mission of the Membership Committee is to recruit new members, to retain current members, to initiate and facilitate communication between MGPHO and its members, to survey members for demographic information, and to develop membership benefits.

Legal Committee - The mission of the Legal Committee is to be responsible for all activities pertaining to codes or ordinances as they relate to this membership.

Structure Committee - The mission of the Structure Committee is to be responsible for review of the bylaws and policies and operations of the organization, and to propose changes to the Board and the membership.

Ethics Committee – The mission of the Ethic's Committee is to monitor membership complaints and ensure ethical behavior in the organization.

Time and circumstance thrust challenge upon us. In the 21 century, we have aging healthcare facilities, an economic downturn, new standards and codes, an aging population, new technologies and other challenges. We are looking for ways to improve our barriers to entry, maximize economies of scale, cut costs, add value engineering, and develop/implement new solutions that will serve us now and into the future. For many of us, this is not an easy task since we are in the service industry where our deliverable is the validation of our word and performance. We work in a profession that serves and meets the needs of others, and only by working together will we find solutions to address this and other issues that we face on a daily basis. While no one knows what the future will bring, I do know that by being a member of MGPHO I have a network of professionals I can turn to for help. The MGPHO website has a plethora of resources on all issues that impact the medical gas service business. I encourage each of you to take advantage of all your membership benefits and make www.mgpho.org one of your favorite sites. MGPHO exists for and because of you. The BOD is continually looking to expand our services to provide each member with the tools and resources we need. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me via email at Keith_Ferrari@Praxair.com, or through the MGPHO website

From our tradition comes the challenge to continue what we've been doing, the challenge to do it better, the challenge to do it right and the challenge to excite the minds of those generations preparing to join our ranks. I look forward to serving you in the days ahead. The challenge is daunting, but the cause is right. Confident of that and with your help, I know that the cause is heavy, but the burden light.

And so, in closing, I ask:

Is there any further old business? Of course there is.

Is there any new business? You bet and may it be so, forever.

Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Keith Ferrari, CPD, CMGV
MGPHO President