

A time for reflection and thanks

I write this last article of 2018 as we approach the holidays and prepare for the New Year. Before we move full steam ahead into 2019, I'd like to take a moment to thank all those who support our association and recognize all who give their time, energy and resources as we serve our members.

One of our biggest deliverables to our members is the annual ERA Conference. Each year, we have members who step forward and donate their time to produce a first-class event, which sells out every year, in reflection of the value created by the ERA Conference Committee. Our upcoming conference will be no exception!

More than 50 individuals have volunteered to work on the Conference Committee and sub-committees under the leadership of Committee Chair John Hutson, CPMR, of MacInnis Group and Co-Chair Mike Swenson, CPMR, of Mel Foster Company. Each deserve our thanks for their commitment to our association!

It not only takes people but also financial resources to produce the conference. This year, we have more than 80 organizations who offered their support by sponsoring the conference. This year, we will celebrate ERA's 50th Anniversary Conference with the TTI Family of Companies as our Anniversary Sponsors.

Additionally, at the time this article goes

to print, we have seven distribution sponsors, seven associate sponsors, 10 chapter sponsors, 13 manufacturer sponsors and 44 representative sponsors!

The level of commitment and support demonstrated by our sponsors is greatly appreciated. Our conference reflects the tremendous investment our members make together! It is this collaboration that improves our industry for all.

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support. Kudos to all our chapter leaders!

Finally, let's all take a moment to thank ERA CEO Walter Tobin and his incredible staff for a very successful 2018! ERA is blessed to have such a dedicated team serving our members. Thanks to each of you for your hard work!

Best wishes to all our members for a safe and prosperous 2019!



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I'd also like to thank the individuals who work tirelessly on chapter activities across the country.

Our chapters are the backbone of the association and always have been. They bring programming to the field and give our members the opportunity to network, learn from each other and compare best practices. Like the chapter leaders who have come before them, they know well the importance of connecting locally and developing a network of