



“Time waits for no man,” so the saying goes. Sometimes I wish I had just a few more moments as the ARS President—and yet I am very anxious to experience the next chapter with the new President. It has been a whirlwind of a ride. I have been extremely fortunate to have had a very talented and hard-working Board of Directors stand with me during my post at the helm. One thing I am very sure of: the ARS is in very good hands. I would like to thank all the people that I have worked with over the past three years as President. Some left just as I was coming on, and others will stay after my term ends. Each one has contributed to the vibrant life on the Board and has served the ARS membership to the utmost.

I will be forever grateful to Alan Karass for inviting me to run for the Board seven years ago. I am grateful to my Executive Committee: Cynthia Shelmerdine, Vice-President; Ann Stickney, Treasurer; and Tony Griffiths, Secretary, for the many, many phone calls and e-mails that passed through our hands as we helped guide the ARS these past three years. I am indebted to the Board members who served while I was President. Without them, many of the benefits we have as members of the ARS would not be available.

Service on the ARS Board has provided me the opportunity to make many new friendships. I have met so many people along the way while attending Board meetings, partaking in festivals and leading chapter workshops. I will be forever grateful to the ARS for opening my heart to the talented and friendly members we have playing the recorder all over North America.

When I step off the Board, I will miss meeting members of ARS chapters most of all. I guess I will just have to make a point to travel to see other chapters anyway, because being part of the ARS is being part of a huge community of recorder lovers wherever I go. I know the doors are always open here in Portland, OR!

“It takes a village to raise a child,” says the African proverb. It takes all of us to make the ARS the organization it is and will become. As members, we are all responsible for the future of our organization. One does not have to become a Board member to contribute. There are many opportunities to give back both internationally and within our own communities. The ARS will begin running some “help wanted” ads on the ARS web site, Facebook page and through e-mail campaigns; I know there will be something that will stir the call to action in each one of us. It takes the whole community of recorder players to make the ARS strong. We all belong, and we all can make anything happen. Realize that little things lead to bigger things, and that there is help along the way. What do you want? How will you contribute to help make it happen? Let’s band together and together we can make the ARS—heck, the whole world—a better place! I’m in. Are you?