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Elena Preston, SHRM-SCP

July 2021

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**COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**  
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**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**  
Maria Manus Painchaud, Chair

**MARKETING:**  
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**MEMBERSHIP:**  
Sandra McNeff, Chair

**PROGRAM:**  
Melissa Cochran, Chair  
Kelly Lacasse, Co-Chair

Dear HRAGC Members, and HR Professionals:

This year marks the 37<sup>th</sup> year of our HRAGC chapter! In some ways, it is hard to believe we are already in the middle of July. And yet, we also know at times the last year has felt so much longer than 12 months. The expectations and reliance on human resources professionals throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and navigation to normalcy have been high and felt by us all. As you continue to support your organizations and employees, HRAGC remains committed to supporting you as a professional and as an individual.

I am incredibly proud of what this organization has been able to do for our members and community and I hope you are too! HRAGC wasted no time modifying its approach in response to the pandemic and spent the last year ensuring we maintained and improved our ability to provide vital resources to our members. During the last year:

- We held all of our Board and Committee meetings virtually without **missing a beat!** This allowed us to stay connected and “see” each other even when meeting together wasn’t a possibility.
- We **safely offered 9** professional development programs and hosted a virtual member social.
- **More than 17** HRCI and SHRM recertification credits (each) were made available to our members. **80%** of those offered for HRCI were business credits!
- We launched a new platform which will enable us to provide **members’ only content** including recordings of previous meetings that can be watched on demand and for credit! Stay tuned for more information this fall.

The work we do is important – not just in our professions but in our community. We encourage you to join us! Whether you attend professional development sessions, join one of our diverse committees, or volunteer at one of our community events, we are thrilled to have you.

I’d like to take this opportunity to recognize the leadership efforts of our 2020-2021 HRAGC President; Carol Kilmister. We are unbelievably grateful for Carol’s leadership. I am honored to have served alongside Carol and am thankful for her continued support of our members and willingness to volunteer her time and expertise for the betterment of the organization. Carol will remain a member of our Board of Directors in the role of Past-President and will be representing the chapter on the NH State Council this coming year.

As your calendars begin to fill with fall activities, we want to remind everyone that the HR State Council of NH is again teaming up with the VT HR State Council to offer the *Twin State HR Conference*. This year’s conference will take place on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with a **bonus** in-person event on September 17<sup>th</sup>. To learn more and to register, please visit: <https://vtshrm.shrm.org/2021-twin-state-conference-info>



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As I assume the role of President, I can't help but reflect on our organization and its impact. Among the many things these last 15 months have taught me, it has reinforced the importance of a strong network of HR colleagues to share best practices with, seek guidance from, and provide support to each other. I have personally benefited from many of our members' wisdom, advice, and genuine support not only during the most difficult moments of the pandemic but throughout the last 10 years of my membership.

I continue to be a proud member of HRAGC and I hope you will join us in continuing its legacy of developing and advancing both the human resources profession and HR professionals. If you have not yet renewed your membership with HRAGC, or joined as a member, I encourage you to do so. **Your insights, participation, and support are invaluable.** We are grateful for you and look forward to a promising year ahead.

Take care, enjoy your summer, and we hope to see you all soon!

Sincerely,

Elena M. Preston, SHRM-SCP  
President, HRAGC - NH Chapter