

During the Student Leadership Institute in Washington DC this year, Art (OSU president elect) and I learned a great deal about strengthening professional relationships between our chapters and our State Association. We learned that a strong symbiotic relationship between student pharmacists and OSPA is beneficial to all.

As per discussion during the July meeting, a problem that OSPA faces is retaining membership of newly minted pharmacists after graduation. We, at Pacific, can relate to this issue because we have a similar issue of retaining APhA membership for new practitioners as well as the renewal of APhA membership for P3 students.

I believe in OSPA's mission statement of "Leading Pharmacy, Advancing Healthcare" it is a reason for why we are all in the field of pharmacy. But the real question is how? How are we educating, advocating, empowering, and engaging our student pharmacists while they are in pharmacy school of the benefits of our state organization? How can we give opportunities that allow us to grow in OSPA so that they understand the value of OSPA membership?

As student directors, we can only do so much in announcing to our respective peers about the opportunities that are available (OSPA Annual Convention, Lane County, etc.). But how do we speak for the students who want to get more involved that is both flexible and enriching?

As Dr. Fortner and I discussed, we propose that we have a system that mirrors the one that the current leadership system that OSPA holds: President-elect, Current President, and Immediate Past-President, as well as a board of student pharmacists (who are interested in being more involved) who can help our current officers with their respective roles. This allows for a students to be "educated, engaged and empowered" so that they can advance our profession with symbiotic relationship between the mentor and the mentee. If both OSU and Pacific University both have this system in place, it helps solve problems that OSPA faces. Not only does this allow us to continue the momentum of the current work we are providing for OSPA and provide a continuum of bright leaders for OSPA, it provides a natural conduit for OSU and Pacific University to collaborate together for Oregon's interest.

