

Notes from the Secretary's Desk...

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Winter is upon us and hopefully it is kinder to us this year. Remember that last year we had a polar vortex. Burr! That reminds me of the wonderful weather we had for FNCE 2014 this year. Did you attend? The weather was perfect, making it hard to stay inside. Fortunately the education opportunities and chances to connect with other attendees were plentiful. Great news: we added nine new members at the meeting, so now we are almost 900 strong! Go Research!

So far, my articles in the Digest have focused on ways to keep members connected. This time I decided to elaborate on one of the member benefits at FNCE - the RDPG breakfast. It's free to members and a great way to socialize, network and meet new friends. Who knows -- maybe you will find a new collaborator. Thanks to

everyone who attended and made it a success!

The breakfast officially kicked off with a visit from the Academy President Sonja Connor. She is an RDPG member and a previous Chair. After a hearty meal, our current Chair introduced the Executive Committee and thanked each member with a certificate. Board members then gave a brief summary of their current tasks. I reminded everyone of the many avenues they have available to connect to other dietetic professionals interested in research. Following this segment of the program, we moved to a very special moment – recognition of our two members who have been Academy members for 50 years. Each gave a brief comment and had wonderful words of wisdom and funny anecdotes

from their years of service and dedication to the dietetics profession.

Then came the big moment ... the announcement of our pilot grant and poster winners! The student poster competition was sponsored by DuPont Nutrition and Health - a huge thanks! Three posters were presented. These were selected from more than 17 entries. We were impressed with the quality and depth of each student's research. I know they are our bright, future stars. From these three posters, first, second and third places were selected. Congratulations to all three poster winners! This is a great example of one benefit, out of many, offered by the RDPG. The presentation of these awards was the culmination of the meeting, which was adjourned for more networking and socializing. If you did not attend, I encourage you to attend FNCE 2015 in Nashville, TN.