

## AND JUST LIKE THAT...2021 COMES TO A CLOSE

I began the year as SAHRMA President with high hopes of getting back to regular SAHRMA activities as much as possible. I was determined to have in person meetings again, as I am one of those social butterflies that likes to see people face-to-face. Unfortunately, the pandemic wasn't going away as quickly as we all hoped. In fact, with new Covid variants popping up throughout the year, we almost had to retreat. Fortunately, the Covid vaccines allowed for members to feel safer at public events and SAHRMA's program offerings also continued to include a virtual option. I would have loved for all of us to be in one room again, but I just had to accept the fact that this is our new normal. We know that some members actually prefer the virtual option and have become accustomed to its convenience.

Adapting to a new way to deliver programs was just one of the challenges of 2021. Another huge challenge was membership and volunteer engagement. SAHRMA addressed this by adding additional program options, increasing our social media presence, and adding more interactive/fun events throughout the year. The goal was to have something for everyone. In addition to our traditional general meetings, annual South Texas Symposium, and Employment Law Conference, SAHRMA also hosted virtual morning Coffee Talks, monthly membership mixers during happy hour, a competitive fundraising event at Top Golf, a mid-year volunteer team building event at Chicken N Pickle, and our finale holiday/membership appreciation luncheon.

With a nonprofit organization like SAHRMA, volunteer leaders are the lifeblood of its operations. I just can't thank the 2021 Board of Directors, Chairs, committee members, volunteers, and student chapter sponsors/ambassadors for all of their hard work to keep SAHRMA's initiatives alive in yet another challenging year. I was personally committed to being the best leader, cheerleader, coach, and friend that I knew how to be.

My hope is that, in my role as President, I enabled/empowered/facilitated a positive impact on the HR community, enhanced the organization, and added value to SAHRMA membership. It has been such a whirlwind and has been such a pleasure to serve alongside some of the best HR professionals around! I look forward to even more exciting initiatives in 2022. Thank you, SAHRMA volunteers for your service and thank you members for your continued membership!



2021 BOD Holiday Dinner