My Fellow APPNA members,\r\n \r\nWe stand at a crucial moment for the future of APPNA. Facing grueling circumstance and an increasing bias against our community within the United States, our duty to serve as a force for positive action will define who we are as an organization. It is time that we, influential and resourceful of the Pakistani diaspora, unify our voices to advance the core values of our identity; a message of peace and hope.\r\n“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, his background or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” Nelson Mandela confessed this truth in the face of adversity in his time, as we do today. Teaching love in the face of ignorance is no easy task, which is why it falls upon those ready and willing to assume leadership in this endeavor.\r\nGreat works are not accomplished through strength alone, but by perseverance. I served APPNA for the past two years as Treasurer and Secretary to the best of my ability. APPNA has come a long way since our inception 40 years ago, and I am proud of the good work we’ve done. Much of that work has primarily focused on helping Pakistanis in Pakistan, and more recently, helping young Pakistani physicians adjust to life in the United States.\r\nBut I believe APPNA’s potential is far greater still. It is time to reclaim a sense of ownership to our mission, develop new leadership, and increase our membership to realize this potential. APPNA’s individuality is rooted in our Chapter and component societies which represent us from across the United States. As physicians, we have been endowed with a gift of healing and the privilege of earning the trust of the common amongst us. We must use this gift to bridge the valley between what we are and, if united, what we could be.\r\nThe events of 2015 have clearly demonstrated the dire need for our involvement in the North American side of APPNA. I have dedicated myself to serve and help APPNA transition to this new era of great challenges and opportunity. With this charge and common cause with you, my fellows in APPNA, announce my candidacy for President-Elect of APPNA 2017. \r\nOur organization’s democratic system, with Chapters in most major North American cities, is in a position to improve the quality of life for fellow Americans through healthcare. Through action that betters the life of our community, our work can directly challenge the biases of the ignorant.\r\nAs President, I will establish free clinics through our Local Chapters and encourage involvement from you, our members, to help find better ways to seamlessly integrate with the Pakistani community in America. Donating our money, time, and labor will mend bodies; contact and communication with our community will heal their misunderstanding of our values.\r\nI will encourage young Pakistani-Americans to realize their potential as productive members of our growing community. I will do this by involving our organization at the local level, as with school boards, city councils, and other places where we can greater contribute to the fabric of mainstream American society and culture. And, of course, our efforts to help our Pakistani brothers back home will continue unabated. \r\n \r\nI will listen to our colleagues and friends in the course of this vision and look past those with selfish, vested interests or ambassadors of pessimism. APPNA’s grassroots members demand their vote must change the culture of our organization.\r\nThere is only one way to ensure your vote will count; stand by your convictions and vote for what you truly believe in. We will never let odds stop us from doing what we know in our hearts is right.\r\nI wish you all a happy holiday season and a happy new year. I look forward to your support in changing the culture of APPNA and realizing our vision for a greater organization. I look forward to serving you as the President of APPNA 2017.\r\nWarm Wishes for a peaceful and healthy New Year, God bless Pakistan, and God bless United States of America.\r\n \r\n \r\n