January was a busy month for A&WMA and I think we are all excited to enter February with so much already accomplished in 2019. A special thank you to all of our volunteers who came together in Quebec City for another successful set of Intercouncil meetings. It really says something about our Association when we can pull together over 50 people for a long weekend to sit in a conference room planning conferences, sharing Section and Chapter success stories, working on our educational and young professional programs, and doing other important work to better the Association. I’m happy to report that we even found some time to enjoy the winter weather—racing downhill and enjoying the festive après-ski that Quebec’s winter wonderland has to offer. If you know absolutely nothing about Intercouncil, please send me an email—you are missing out on a fabulous opportunity for professional development and networking.

Speaking of professional development, this month’s EM focuses on the topic of environmental education. Are we ever really done learning? I know I often find myself saying, “Today was not a waste, I learned something,” and that is a sentiment I really hold fast to. That process of learning starts well before we submit our first Association membership application—and I’m proud to say we at A&WMA don’t wait until we receive it to start educating. We offer lifelong learning opportunities, beginning with the educational research guides (ERGs) that the Education Council has developed for outreach to the K-12 community. The ERGs serve as templates that educators in elementary, middle, and high schools can use to provide environmental education to their students. Once students move on to college, we continue the education with programs that our Higher Education Division develops to encourage interest in the environmental field and the outreach that our Sections and Chapters provide to Student Chapters. And then, the hard work of educating professionals creeps into the conversation. That is truly a team effort, from the work our Technical Council does in putting together the Annual Conference and other specialty programs, to the webinars that our small committee of volunteers organize to respond to those technical topics that require a quicker delivery to market, and the annual Leadership Training Academy that is organized by our Sections and Chapters Council.

As you page through this month’s issue, I challenge each of you to think about how we can continue to improve our educational programs and expand their reach. We have a very comprehensive pool of over 4,500 members with knowledge to impart! Share your ideas with our leadership team by sending me an email, giving me a call, or reaching out to one of our Board members. Educating students, members, and the general public helps fulfill our core purpose of improving environmental knowledge and decisions by providing a neutral forum for exchanging information.

I’ll close by quoting Mahatma Gandhi: “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” Here’s to living forever! em