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It's been an odd year to kick off as director of regions in the PSA because we've been poised to re-enter the world of in-person meetings dependent on government advice. So the current team of excellent regional presidents have been sustaining some terrific meetings in the online world in the meantime and although we've had monthly check-ins and I've been delighted to help co-ordinate and put in the odd appearance, I have to say most of the credit must go to the RPs themselves.

As I write we're about to do the first in-person meeting for about 18 months and I must thank Sara Beth, William Buist and the board for developing our Covid guidelines to ensure everyone is as safe as we can manage (for a volunteer board and equally voluntary RPs this is quite a responsibility).

Over the next 12 months the existing RPs and their successors when we switch over will continue this move, subject to Covid and its variants. We will also be looking at how to sustain the welcome but more particularly the accessibility we've had in the virtual world and bring it into the face to face environment. Being virtual has advantages - you live in Brighton and you fancy nipping to an Edinburgh gathering? That's not a problem if it's all online. In person there's a different dynamic.

The RPs have done a sterling job of keeping us going and continuing the PSA's contribution to members' professional development through various stages of restrictions. They've been terrific and I'm sure I speak for the whole PSA when I say I'm really grateful. The next phase will be challenging- and whether we're talking about the current crop or their predecessors, I can think of no team I'd rather be working with.