



Terence D. McDonald, DPM  
is the President of the  
Florida Podiatric Medical  
Society (FPMS)

## The Giving Season

by Terence D. McDonald, DPM

**D**uring this time of year, we hear a lot about Giving. “Tis the Season to Give”, “The Spirit of Giving”, “Give til it hurts”, “I don’t give a s\*#t”. By the time the New Year rolls around, we become pretty jaded about Giving. I myself have become a bit of a Scrooge over the last few years. The holidays have started to represent a plethora of responsibilities that I must fulfill. This is the result of years of volunteering for many different, worthwhile causes. The problem is, like many people who are involved, you start feeling that a lot of your fellow humans are sitting around while you do all the work. Those emotions lead to resentment for the very thing you are volunteering for.

There are many jobs that I volunteer to do for Podiatry. I am a Past President of the FPMA, I serve on several committees within the Association, and I also serve as a Delegate to the APMA House of Delegates and serve on the APMA’s Legislative committee. It’s a lot of work and sometimes it can lead to some feelings of resentment toward my fellow Podiatrists. However, I do get to do one job that puts things into perspective: I am the President of your Society. In that role, I get to give out the money you have donated. I get to read letters from parents of children who received orthotics we funded at the Judeo-Christian Clinic. I get to hand students plaques and checks at Barry University’s White Coat ceremony and graduation and I have received letters from recipients telling me how much it has helped them. I have also received cards from children and parents who have been awarded a scholarship to attend a Diabetes Camp and they have let me know how it changed their lives or made coping with their disease a little bit easier. These moments are when I understand all those holiday slogans I get tired of hearing. I understand that when we give to someone, through our time or our money, we receive so much more than we give. I understand that I volunteer for some things because I get feelings of joy from it.

To those of you who have contributed to FPMS, I would like to say thank you, and please keep giving. Your generosity is making a difference. I hope that when you write a check or mark the box on your dues statement, you get a small amount of the joy that you give me. I really appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for our profession.

May your holidays be filled with Peace and Joy and may God bless you and your families in the New Year.

