***President’s Message***

Trying to pause to write this message seems difficult this time of year. There are lots of moving parts right now, but I can see the end in sight. With apples maturing earlier this year, we are quickly coming to the end of our harvest. We spot-picked our first Gold Rush on October 14th. The cold storages are filling fast, but apple movement is very good so far. Great weekends with sunshine and warm weather have brought out lots of customers. I have heard from many in retail, and it sounds as though everyone has had a few great weekends. Remembering last year, we really could use beautiful weekends this year.

The Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention planning is well underway. The program is currently being finalized and is shaping up to be another great one. Don’t forget to reserve your room if you plan to stay at the Hershey Lodge. Rooms can fill up fast.

I heard that the National Apple Harvest Festival was packed with people this year and, aside from some muddy fields, was a great success. Congratulations to Evangeline Hollabaugh for being crowned the 2024 Pennsylvania Apple Queen.

Wishing everyone a great finish to your harvest!

Until next time, be safe.

SHAP President

Corey McCleaf