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The More We Give, the More We Get

Actor Leonard Nimoy once said, “The miracle is this: The more we share, the more we have.” Stewardship is the sharing of one’s time, talent, and treasure, and treasure is often interpreted as money. Charities survive largely because generous donors share their monetary treasure; in return, those donors receive the satisfaction that comes from helping others.

Even AICHE’s annual dues bill includes spaces for additional contributions. But as a volunteer organization, AICHE depends even more on its members’ time and talent (although the AICHE Foundation would not refuse a monetary donation to advance its philanthropic programs; visit www.aiche.org/About/Foundation/index.aspx). I hope you’ll take advantage of the many opportunities to share your time and talent. For instance:

Let’s start at the local level. Local sections are the backbone of AICHE. Join a section and attend its meetings. Serve on a committee or as an officer. Organize section meetings; speak at a meeting. Mentor younger engineers and students.

If there’s no section nearby, you can also join — at no cost — the new Virtual Section (<http://virtual.aiche.org>). The virtual section meets in cyberspace at 9:00 pm ET on the fourth Thursday of each month.

The Young Professional Advisory Board (YPAB) has compiled a step-by-step guide on how to start and maintain a YP group in a local section. If your section doesn’t already have one, get one started — whether you are a YP yourself or a more-seasoned engineer. A core of individuals under age 35 can help appeal to new graduates, and may reinvigorate the section with new ideas.

Become an AICHE Ambassador. After being matched with a student chapter in your area, you attend chapter meetings and share your personal experiences with the students. They will benefit from your valuable insights, and you will gain satisfaction from helping future chemical engineers, building relationships, and helping AICHE grow larger and stronger.

Nominate a colleague. AICHE administers more than 60 awards, including 15 Institute and Board of Directors awards and numerous committee, division, forum, and student awards and recognitions. While preparing award nominations is somewhat routine in the academic community, it is less common in industry. Many industrial practitioners are well-qualified for these awards — including the six new awards created specifically to recognize achievements in industry (*CEP*, Jan. 2009, p. 18). The Awards Committee has extended the deadline for nominations for this year’s industry awards to April 15 (see p. 55 and www.aiche.org/About/Awards).

You can find out more about these and many other ways to get involved at www.aiche.org/MemberCenter/GetInvolved.aspx.

You might be wondering, “What’s in it for me?” The learning opportunities are virtually limitless. You can keep up to date on the latest chemical engineering developments and emerging technologies. You can build a diverse network. By taking a leadership role, you develop valuable organizational and communication skills that you can apply on the job, and you can help shape the future of AICHE and the chemical engineering profession.

One good thing about volunteering is that whatever your interests or level of experience, there’s a role for you to play. I hope you’ll join in making AICHE a better organization for all of us.

Cynthia F. Mascone, Editor-in-Chief

