

By Jeffrey C. Thomson



Value in Volunteerism

IMA couldn't excel without the valuable contributions of its cadre of volunteer members. If you haven't participated in programs or on committees at the local and/or global level, now's your chance to give it a try.

Dear IMA Member:

For the past year, I've been writing to you about value—from my “creating value through values” philosophy (that underlies our strategy) to the value of your IMA membership and IMA's Annual Conference & Exposition. Now I'd like to talk about value in another sense—the value of volunteerism at the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA®).

While the staff at IMA Global is responsible for running the organization's day-to-day operations, it's our volunteers who make the organization excel. Members of our Board of Directors provide strategy and risk oversight, our Advisory Committees advocate on behalf of our members and provide subject-matter expertise, and our network of chapter and council leaders helps create and deliver the member experience locally.

The value that IMA's volunteers bring to the association is priceless and provides a “competitive differentiator” in terms of presenting many chances for someone to

make a difference. Not all professional associations offer members the array of volunteerism opportunities that IMA does. Our vibrant community of volunteers at the global and local levels makes IMA unique. It's the efforts of our volunteers that created IMA more than 90 years ago, that are responsible for our current success, and that will help us on our journey to growth and increased influence in the profession. If you want to participate in advancing our thought leadership and in shaping the future of the management accounting profession, then IMA is the place for you!

IMA's volunteers are passionate about their profession. They organize local events, mentor students, review and conduct research studies, write for IMA publications and other periodicals, participate in media interviews, present at conferences, participate on very visible and influential advocacy panels—and the list goes on. In return, volunteer roles provide a wonderful opportunity for members to gain leadership experience (not to mention enhance their résumés), enjoy a personal sense of contribution, receive recognition through awards, and have a stake in the future of our profession. At the

same time, it's a great way for professionals to keep pace with the latest trends on the job, obtain knowledge needed for career advancement, and build a professional network of valuable contacts.

At this point, I hope I've inspired you to become one of IMA's valued volunteers. I encourage you to get involved with your local chapter (or even help form a new one if one doesn't exist in your area). From there, you can find a wealth of opportunities to help deliver the IMA experience locally. On the global level, IMA seeks volunteers to fill leadership roles on our global Advisory Committees and on the Board of Directors each year. I encourage you to learn about these opportunities and consider how such service can help you in your professional and personal development plans. (See the Governance section of IMA's website, www.ima.net.org, in the Members Only area for information.)

Remember, there truly is value in volunteerism—to the organization and to you as an individual.

What do you think? Call or e-mail me at any time at (201) 474-1586 or jthomson@imanet.org.

Sincerely, Jeff Thomson
IMA President and CEO