ceo’s MESSAGE

correction financial management association

Get Involved & Begin Your CFMA Leadership Journey

BY STUART BINSTOCK, PRESIDENT & CEO

The timing of this management and leadership issue of CFMA Building Profits happens to coincide with the planning of CFMA’s future volunteer leaders. As such, I’d like to provide insight into the many meaningful leadership opportunities within our Association.

CFMA’s Officers recently participated in an annual retreat to review member applications and identify the next fiscal year’s treasurer and secretary. The Officers also take this time to select new Executive Committee members, the chairmen and vice chairmen for all committees, and future Mentoring Program clients. And, for the first time, CFMA partnered with the Institute of Certified Construction Industry Financial Professionals (ICCIFP) to help connect them with CFMA members who are also interested in serving as ICCIFP leaders.

You may be wondering, “How do I join this pool of future leaders?” As I travel the country and speak with members about leadership within CFMA, my consistent response is a simple, two-word answer: get involved.

The first step is to get involved locally. Some chapters have more leaders than available positions, while others struggle to fill board seats or create robust succession plans. The highest available position at this level is generally the chapter president. If a chapter president aspires to Association-wide leadership, then he or she should attend Spring Creek before taking office to further develop their leadership skills, connect with other chapter presidents, and meet HQ staff and CFMA’s incoming chairman. Historically, CFMA staff and the incoming chairman have used Spring Creek as an opportunity to scout potential Association leaders and make recommendations for CFMA’s Mentoring Program.

He or she should also look for opportunities to participate on CFMA committees, which can lead to becoming a committee chairman or vice chairman. He or she should eventually consider applying for CFMA’s Mentoring Program, which offers an opportunity for participants to advance their personal and professional development while helping other members grow.

The next step is to aim to become a member of CFMA’s Executive Committee. Each year there are approximately 4-5 open positions with terms that last 1-3 years. Also, consider earning your CCIFP designation if you haven’t already. While not a mandatory requirement, this prestigious designation is strongly suggested; the vast majority of our leaders have attested to its benefit in their own endeavors.

Finally, once all of the requirements have been met, it’s time to complete a leadership application (www.cfma.org/volunteerleadership). There is usually an “open call” for volunteers that is promoted in CFMA Bottom Lines, on www.cfma.org, and via e-mail for those wishing to engage on a committee or other leadership opportunities. The applicants are required to only complete the application once; those with leadership aspirations at the executive level are asked to reaffirm their continued interest in potentially serving at that level on an annual basis.

I can tell you unequivocally that if you ask those members who have served the Association, they will tell you they have received more back from their service than they have given and, in most instances, the time spent has been life-altering.

So, why wait? Get involved today!

sbinstock@cfma.org
609-945-2429

January/February 2019 CFMA Building Profits 5