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Chairperson's Corner

By Mario DiCaro

The Joint Risk Management Section was established in 2006. It is a joint venture between the CIA, CAS and SOA and requires many volunteers. I love volunteer work both in the CAS and my community. I did some research to see if other people had similar experiences as I have had when volunteering their time. The short answer is yes, so I can mostly base my remaining comments from my own experience.

Here are some reasons I've hesitated to volunteer:

- I felt unqualified
- My motives weren't pure
- Some aversion to the people I'd be working with
- Didn't have time

Volunteer work is the *best* place to be underqualified. Why? Because you aren't getting paid! The worst that will happen is you ease up on your efforts and somebody else steps up to help or take over. Or you ask for help and some experienced person shows you the ropes. You won't usually get put on a volunteer job that requires skills you don't have or can't learn.

I sometimes join projects hoping my involvement will be good for me professionally or personally without really caring about the project itself. For example, in college I joined a few service activities because I wanted to spend more time with girls I was interested in. Guess what I learned in my research? That's normal, your help will be valued anyway, and you may end up getting what you're after! Even if you don't get any money, you might feel like you did. The London School of Economics determined that volunteering weekly is correlated with a rise in happiness equivalent to having your annual income rise from \$20k to a range of \$75k–100k.¹

What about the people? I've made new friends on every volunteer job I've ever been a part of. Working together is bonding.

Research shows volunteering is correlated to career advancement. It may have something to do with the people you meet and the people skills you learn.

There is an old saying "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it." If you are *not* busy, then you have some time to volunteer. If you *are* busy then you will find a way. Volunteering is worth the effort, you can make time.

If you are reading this I'd guess you already volunteer in your actuarial organization and community. If so, please share this article with your colleagues who may be new to the actuarial profession and are not yet volunteering.

There are a lot of opportunities to get involved. There are people-focused projects on diversity, math-focused projects on curve fitting, environmental-focused projects on climate change. I'm saying there is something for everyone, so get involved a bit and have fun!

Follow these links to find out more about volunteering with your actuarial organization:

<https://www.casact.org/community/>

<http://www.cia-ica.ca/professional-development/volunteering>

<https://engage.soa.org/volunteeropportunities>

Feel free to contact me or one of the individuals below to start getting involved:

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ENDNOTE

- ¹ <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/volunteering-and-its-surprising-benefits.htm>