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## WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? Chairperson's Corner

By Tara Hansen

I know JFK would have said, "Ask not what your section can do for you, but what you can do for your section!" But, we'll come back to that in a little bit. I would rather focus for the moment on what your section can do for you. The section council held its annual face-to-face meeting in Chicago earlier this week, so this is all fresh and at the top of my mind in terms of making sure the council serves the needs of our members to the best of our ability. We held a lengthy "blue sky" discussion about how we can better serve our membership and make being a member of the Financial Reporting Section a worthwhile investment each year. Knowing how valuable the section activities and research are to each of us and to the industry more generally, I thought I would take this opportunity to point out the tremendous contributions the section makes each year and solicit feedback from the membership as to ways we can improve upon these contributions in the future.

Each year, the section contributes much in the way of educational materials including:

- Sponsoring various research projects and whitepapers,
- Coordinating six to 12 webcasts,
- Publishing quarterly newsletters, and
- Organizing financial reporting panel discussions for the three big face-to-face SOA meetings.

At this point, we have a fairly well-oiled machine to deliver these things to the section, through the section council, friends of the section and the numerous volunteers that pull these materials together each year.

But as a section, what else can we be doing? That is the question that we posed to ourselves earlier this week. At length, we discussed the possibilities and we decided on a few things in particular on which we will invest some additional time. These include investigating the possibility of a one-stop shop for financial reporting educational resources and revival of the US GAAP Seminars. Over the next six months, we'll be putting together a group to revive the US GAAP seminars and to investigate the creation of an app or some web-based resource that would provide all of the financial reporting related resources that we might need on any given day. These two should augment our already healthy list of section benefits. But what else is on your mind? What other activities can we engage in as a section to further enhance the value of our membership? Please do forward any ideas you may have to me at the contact details listed on this page.

Once we get input on ways that we can further provide value to our members, section leadership will reach back out to our friends and members to assist with making these ideas a reality. At that point, we'll heed JFK's famous sentiment and look for you to ask what you can do for your section! ■



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