



Giving Back

By Mark Eddy, CPA

This is my final column as your 2009 AHIA Board Chair. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve and learn.

Many people have, or will, reach a point in their careers and lives when they realize how fortunate they have been and that it is time to give back. We don't ascend the summit alone. Our families, teachers, mentors, and business associates have been there along the way, lending a helping hand when it was needed. Giving back can take different forms in different arenas. It may be cash, gifts or time. It might be given to religious, civic or business associations. It may even be given to an individual: a child, an unfortunate or a younger business associate who is trying to 'learn the ropes'. My realization that it was time to give back came around my fortieth birthday. At that time, I sought out several avenues where I might be of service to a wider audience. AHIA was one of those entities where I began giving my time. My participation in the Association has never been a chore. I have enjoyed every moment spent making new teammates and friends, and trying to make a difference in our profession.

This has been an incredible year. The uncertainty in the economy, government, and our industry provided the mix for a magnificent challenge for your Board. We have focused on issues such as member engagement, member retention, membership growth, educational offering attendance, additional educational offerings, technological enhancements, improved audit library resources, expanded networking capabilities, *New Perspectives* and AHIA visibility, and (of course) budgets and financial statements. Through it all, I discovered a talent pool of teammates who strive for excellence to make AHIA the best for its members. You should be proud of your teammates who serve on the Board and the several committees where the Association's work is actually performed.

I encourage each of you to consider giving back to the profession by becoming more involved in the AHIA. Run for the Board or the officer track when you believe you are ready. This is where strategy is developed and committee oversight occurs. However, all actions happen because of member involvement on committees. A Board member serves on each committee as a liaison, but our goal is to have non-Board members serve as committee chairs. Beginning as a committee or task force member will allow you to begin your involvement by giving as much time as you are able. You will learn how AHIA works and your ideas will make a difference. As you have more time, perhaps you might like to chair a committee, get involved in coordinating a regional seminar or webinar, teach a class at the annual conference or write an article for *New Perspectives*. Opportunities abound and I assure you will have a grand time while serving your teammates.

I extend my personal thanks to all who contributed this year. You have made this a year I will always remember. Please forgive me if I miss your name—it is unintentional.

1. The staff at RC: David Stumph, Barbara Trumbo, Sally Kittredge, Allison Mendrys, Kristi Klinke, Chris Henson, Ruth Gleason Roth, Linda Pocsik, Carlos Fierro, and Denise Graf.
2. The Board: Debbie Radke, Mike Fabrizius, Barbara Winburn, Heidi Crosby, Steve Gasparich, Kelly Nueske, Debra Muscio, and Dan Pantera.
3. The Budget and Finance Committee comprised of the Board Officers.
4. The Editorial Committee: Phyllis Hall (chair), Alton Knight, Rebecca Busch, Sri Ramamoorti, Justine Dover, Mark Ruppert, Renee Jaenicke, Glenn Sumners, and Ken Spence (editor). Congratulations on winning the

(1) Most Improved Magazine & Journal and (2) Regular Departments & Columns awards from APEX Communication Concepts.

5. The Annual Conference Committee: Amy Greenhoe (chair), Bob Michalski, Dagmar Herrmann-Estes, Steve Chadwick, Kristin Irwin, and Lester Lukin.
6. The Regional Seminars Committee: Charles Bumpass, Mike Peppers, Cecelia Bishop, Lois Pierson, and Glen Mueller.
7. The Spring Seminar Committee comprised of Board members.
8. The Education Committee comprised of Board members and sixteen new volunteers: Adam McKenery, Andrea Claire, Isabel Berrigan, Blair Bautista, Deborah Hall, Darren Skolnick, Edwin Byers, Jeda Farris, Joel Lamm, Lisa Cudmore, Joseph O'Keefe, Peggy Panos, Rachel Simons, Rober Lund, Sarah Fletcher, and Shirley Komoto! We are looking for great new ideas for regional seminars, CAE roundtables, webinars, and other new educational concepts we haven't thought about yet.
9. The Membership and Awards Committee: Debi Weatherford (chair), Cheryl Donegan, Marta Gonzales, Joyce Lang, Vickie Patterson, and Karen Young.
10. The Nominating Committee: Ken Spence, Gary Flaming, and Debi Weatherford.
11. The Technology Committee: Gail Hormats (chair), Robert Breighner, Roger Brown, Joe Cannella, Bill Daniels, and David Richstone.
12. All the seminar/conference instructors and contributors to *New Perspectives*.

Sincerely,

Mark Eddy, CPA

Chair, Board of Directors