Fighting the (Time) Famine: Engaging Your Members to Get the Work Done

Elizabeth Derrico
Elizabeth@elizabethderrico.com

Songs with Time in the Title

FIRST TABLE   EIGHT SONGS   PRIZES

Lawyers’ biggest challenge
Volunteering is Important

25% of Americans volunteer their time
San Jose has the largest concentration of millennial volunteers
$184 billion dollars of the volunteer time each year
Engine that runs our work

Why do people volunteer?

MAKE A LIST AT YOUR TABLE.
APPOINT A SPOKESPERSON.
REPORT BACK.

California Lawyers Association 2019 Bar Leaders Conference
Challenge:
How do we align the time crunch with the desire to volunteer?
Old Model versus New Model

**OLD**
- Long term commitment
- Project oriented
- Wait your turn

**NEW**
- Short term commitment
- Task oriented
- Immediate entry points
One volunteer says...

"When I moved to Florida after graduating from law school, I did not have any business contacts in the area. Volunteering at the DCBA connected me with Orlando’s legal community - a Good Start."
Make it easy

Make the pitch early in the membership onboarding process

Be honest

Be clear

CONSIDERATIONS

Assignment #3

Worksheet #3

What opportunities are there in your association to create micro-volunteering opportunities?

Committee and Section Chairs

Clear expectations
Think outside of the one chair concept
Train and orient
Rotate
Liaison
If someone is reluctant, don’t push them
Get rid of stuff that doesn’t need doing
Covert to working groups, task forces
Board Members and Engagement

- Begin at the beginning be clear in the nominating process
- Have a job description
- Understand why they are there, assign accordingly
- Onboard the board to create a shared expectation
- Accountability

Board Meetings

- Don’t meet if you don’t have to
- Limit reporting out stuff that people can read
- Use guests
- Promote debate

Make it work my time!

Assignment #4

What three things will you do differently?
“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

– Dr. Seuss