

WHY AM I VOLUNTEERING MY LIFE AWAY?

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I was asked by a member of the Chapter's Magazine Committee to consider writing an article on volunteerism, as I saw it, and share some of my views on the same since it appears I never stop.

Back in the early years of my presence in Nevada (1997), I was selected to receive an award at that year's Chapter annual awards banquet. What could that award be that I felt I need to bring to your attention other than the "award of awards" in Nevada; the Gary Lein Award, which is not automatically awarded annually? Yes, I did win that award along with Gary Lein, CPA (2 time winner), John Leach, Judy Farrah, Ron Wright and Andrea Worth?

What was that award then? It was "The Ever Ready Bunny Award" because I was told that I keep going and going and going and going from the committee's point of view. I am sure that some people would just like me to go away, period, but that won't be happening for a while fortunately or unfortunately depending on your point of view. The award could have been meant as an insult, who knows, but I was honored to be recognized as someone who was giving time to the industry that has been part of my life for over 30 years.

As most of you know, I owned a small management company (as compared to today's mega companies) for a long time and dedicated my life to my clients. I sold my company to get my life back as I was working 7 days a week for 12 – 15 hours a day.

When I sold my company, I decided that I would ensure that whatever position I took in this industry would be all about helping Community Managers to do their jobs and making their lives easier. I hope that some of you feel that I have succeeded in doing that as I have definitely tried.

Since CAI's Mission Statement is about education, I feel strongly that education honestly helps to make a manager's job easier when working with educated members of the board vs. uneducated members of a board.

Can that education be challenging at times? Yes! Managers do not have a lot of time to go to every class offered in this industry. At times, they only find time to get the minimum of hours necessary to keep their license, 18 hours over a 2 year period. Many of our prestigious DCAL members go to every class offered in their attempt to learn as much as they can to fulfill their fiduciary duties as directors. They learn new information at all of these seminars, of which the manager may not be aware. I used to love my directors to bring me new information, which I

checked out to ensure they heard correctly, but loved that they learned and were able to fulfill their roles better as fiduciaries.

Since I learn something new at each seminar that I attend or facilitate, whether teaching or as a student keeping my Community Manager license up to date, our DCAL members learn a lot as well by attending any seminar available for their attendance.

I started out my college career to be an elementary school teacher like my Mother. After having my own child, however, I decided that if I was so impatient with my own child, teaching others might not work. Little did I know that adult education would appeal to me so much later in life.

Most people are VERY surprised to hear that I am an introvert and self-conscious in front of people. Can you imagine the energy that it takes for me to get in front of a group??????

There is nothing more rewarding than hearing from someone you have touched and helped to solve an issue or issues through my help. Have I been tempted to take my toys and go home at times? Yes!

CAI has quite a few committees and are always looking for help on those committees. Consider giving back like I have. It can be very rewarding and the relationships you build when working with fellow volunteers can last for a very long time. You get out of any organization the amount that you put into the same. Try it as you will like it.