

Volunteers . . . the quarterbacks of CSHP!

Janice Munroe

Volunteers really do make a difference! Volunteers are the quarterbacks of team CSHP! They have the opportunity to make the difference between success and failure in all of our initiatives. Whether they are active at the branch level or at the national level, they are truly the driving force of CSHP.

Some people may feel that volunteering reduces their valuable spare time; however, volunteering is not as time-consuming as you might think, and it offers its own rewards. For example, volunteering allows you to actively support an idea that you believe in. There is nothing more satisfying than knowing that, as a volunteer, you are a member of a successful team that has made a difference. As well, by becoming actively involved, you have the opportunity to meet people from across Canada. These contacts can be invaluable when you are looking to other practitioners for information to help you in your practice. Chances are that they will be able to put you in touch with the person who can answer your questions.

I have personally experienced these benefits. I became a member of CSHP while I was a student at the University of Manitoba. Since then, I have been active at the branch level and, more recently, at the national level. My devotion to our association grew when I attended Council meetings at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Saskatoon in 1992.

Most people probably assume that these meetings are boring and should be avoided at all costs. However, I found that the energy and enthusiasm of the Council members (all volunteers) was infectious! When I returned to Winnipeg after the AGM, I was about to begin my term as past-president of the Manitoba Branch.

This was my chance to taper my involvement with CSHP. However, after witnessing the enthusiasm of the Council members, the last thing I wanted to do was "retire". Instead, I wanted to become more involved in the growth and development of our profession. I didn't want to be an armchair quarterback — I wanted to be on the front line, calling the plays, making a difference.



Many CSHP members feel the same way. This year, on the CSHP membership renewal form, members were asked to indicate their interest in volunteering for committees or task forces. Over 300 members responded to this call! Given that CSHP members are very busy with work and family, it is inspiring that they still wish to volunteer for the benefit of their profession.

Many of the volunteers who expressed an interest on their renewal forms will be recruited to participate on established committees and task forces. Others may help to identify the need for and develop new committees and task forces. Some people may be interested in becoming a representative to an external organization. There are opportunities for everyone! As a result of the work of these volunteers, all CSHP members — indeed, all Canadian pharmacists — will benefit!

It is predicted that Team CSHP will be a leading force in the year 2000. Plan to be on the field rather than in the stands!

Janice Munroe, BScPharm, is President-Elect of CSHP.

