



May 2006

Dear AFP Colleague,

As professional fundraisers we are responsible for seeking out the resources for our organizations that enable them to meet their missions and to accomplish their visions. Likewise, as individuals, we are responsible for seeking out the resources that develop us into the best fundraisers we can be.

As members of AFP, we have many resources available to us. We pay a fee for the privilege of membership and there are resources available through AFP International and the local chapter that we may overlook – perhaps because we've forgotten they exist – or because we were unaware in the first place. For example:

- Members with experience to share: At the chapter level, you can connect to anyone through the Member Directory or connect in person at the monthly meetings. Internationally you can find any member in over 176 chapters around the world through the afpnet.org website.
- Fundraising best practices: The AFP Fundraising Resource Center is happy to find any member whatever fundraising materials, background, or statistics they need. The bi-monthly *Advancing Philanthropy* magazine keeps us updated on current issues in our profession. And the Audioconferences, free to our Orange County members, are presented by the best fundraisers in the business.
- Career support: The International website maintains career opportunity postings and, in June, our chapter will also go online, providing greater access to more individuals to help you accomplish organizational goals. International regularly conducts and publishes fundraisers' wage and benefit surveys (along with conducting many other fundraising research projects). AFP International even has a Career Planner section on its website, where members can set goals, align education and maintain activity records online.
- Philanthropy awareness: Orange County was the birthplace of National Philanthropy Day and AFP International adopted it and spread its message. Today, we can educate our organizations' constituencies through our local endeavors while International brings a higher profile to the national audience and provides us with the opportunity to bring even more recognition to our local philanthropic heroes through a national awards program.

These are but a few of the resources available to you as a member. If you would like to learn more about how you can really use all the resources to your fundraising advantage, consider attending the lunchtime May 18th Member Orientation. Please contact Kristie Kee at 714-997-3585 with questions or to register.

Have you heard the story about the tree-chopping contest, where all but one logger set about chopping down his tree? The lone logger was sharpening his ax to be more effective - and he won the contest. If we sharpen our axes by effectively using the resources we've purchased, we've increased our ability to have that balance we seek in our lives. And our organizations win!

Looking forward to seeing you at the May 23rd luncheon meeting where the resources of education and networking reign!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances A. Rozner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frances A. Rozner, CFRE, Chapter President

AFP Orange County Chapter Mission Statement

To advance philanthropy for the greater good, through education, training and advocacy.