MAXIMIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Tips to get the most out of your professional organization memberships

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WHERE WE'RE HEADING

Tips for assessing & joining orgs
Making the most of membership
Getting involved
Connecting with other members
Volunteering
Creating content and becoming a thought leader
Getting business from networking

WE DREW FROM...

- Our own experiences
- Members of QRCA
- Those in other industries and other professional organizations
- Contributions from 17 business professionals
TIPS FOR ASSESSING & JOINING ORGS

Assessing the value & fit for you

Weighing costs vs. benefits

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Joining in on the fun
GETTING INVOLVED

So, what does that mean?

“Get involved. Attendance is only the first step. Involvement (volunteering, presenting, having a mentor or mentoring all deepen the experience. It adds a layer of ownership and accountability.”

“Not keeping a meaningful commitment of time/effort spent in membership activity may be the top reason to not gain full benefit of membership. If your organization is worthy, it is not a "You get back what you put in" but "The more you put in, the returns are compounded.”
CONNECTING WITH MEMBERSHIP
It's more than networking

“It will better you as person as you'll feel smarter and better connected. You'll form bonds that allow you to scale, but also have a virtual team you can go to for help or bounce ideas off of.

It will force you to look things differently – get you out of your comfort zone, which is always a good thing.”

VOLUNTEERING
Learning about volunteer opportunities and assessing if they are right for you

“Volunteering to me has been multi-faceted. It's allowed me to step into leadership roles and develop leadership skills that I don't get an opportunity to always do in my day job due to where I currently am in my career.

Volunteering also allows me the chance to work on other areas of interest and develop skills outside of my regular job and responsibilities.”

“Instead of feeling like I needed to wait to know everything there was to know before serving in a leadership role, I just started digging in. Before I knew it I found myself running for the board. It extended my network beyond just a number of people, but the depth of those connections has made a huge impact on my professional success.”
CREATING CONTENT & BECOMING A THOUGHT LEADER

Reputation building, sharing your point of view (it matters!), and making an impact

GETTING BUSINESS FROM NETWORKING

It can work, if it's done right

“I think QRCA is different. Other orgs are so much about networking and, frankly, bullsh*t. QRCA is really all about learning and growing as researchers. There’s a special sauce here that you don’t get anywhere else. And BTW, many of the people I know who are involved in the org (including me) have gotten business just by knowing other researchers. I always know who I’m going to call when I need a partner in Germany, or a partner who specializes in kid research, for example.”
NOT-SO-MAD LIBS
Worksheet

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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