

My role as President-elect has been a year and half of learning, serving, and shadowing our illustrious and industrious President, Nicole Imgrund. During the course of this past year, I have had the pleasure of joining Nicole in a number of meetings with national office and other chapter presidents; and with the national president; and the CEO of CCPA to mention a few. All of these additional meetings are held to help chapters share information about regulation, PD opportunities, and other information that might assist us to better serve our membership. As President–Elect it has been my pleasure to assist Nicole when she was unable to attend or Chair a meeting—which certainly did not happen very often, nonetheless, my job was to be ready in the unlikely event she was not able to (you would be amazed at well she multi-tasks!)

In addition to attending the various Board and Executive meetings, as President-elect, I took on three major activities this year. First was to focus on finding ways to connect with members. By making use of the membership directory, regions were reorganized, membership lists were sorted, kept current, and checked monthly for their accuracy, then forwarded to Regional Directors to have a means of connecting directly with the members in their regions. This was one way to ensure that every member received communication from us, inviting them to connect, converse, and communicate their needs with us. Along that same vein, was to work with Nicole and Nina, our Communications director to revamp our newsletter, again to assist members greater opportunities to communicate directly with us and fellow members. The newly minted “Connect & Refresh” will be coming to your inbox soon!

Second was to work with Nicole and other members of the Executive to host a number of activities at the national conference, again with the intent of reaching to our members, while hoping to attract new members. We staffed a Chapter information table at various times during the conference; hosted a well-received social evening; and offered the Chapter’s “Conversation Café” workshop which gave us the opportunity to meet some new members, while promoting the good work we have been engaging in in the past few years and gather some information in terms of what members would like to see the board focus on. These events were well received, enjoyed by all, and our objectives were met—we connected and communicated with current and prospective members, gaining more information about what members are seeking.

Lastly, I have been working on updating our bylaws; proposing changes that makes policies and language clearer to assist the Board to be more efficient and effective. We are a relatively new chapter and as we have grown, we have come to realize that we have outgrown some of our Bylaws as well as required new ones to accommodate our current status. This will continue to be an ongoing process; for growth requires change.

I remain committed to helping this Chapter grow and look forward to what the next year brings! I want to thank everyone who has assisted me and this Chapter over the past year, most especially Nicole for her patience, generous mentorship, and tireless efforts on behalf of this Chapter—it has been quite a year!

Respectfully,

*Kathy Offet-Gartner*