



How I Learned to Appreciate the Importance of Collegiality

Here we are, approaching the halfway point of 2023! I hope everyone is enjoying the early summer so far. In May, I had the pleasure of attending the WSMA Leadership Development Conference in Chelan. You can read more about that later in the issue. At the conference, one of the things I enjoyed the most was catching up with other SCMS members. Some of these folks I knew previously through work, but most I met through SCMS.

Member Collegiality/Volunteerism is one of the 4 Pillars of Focus of SCMS, and in my opinion is one of the greatest benefits of membership. I will admit that prior to COVID-19, I didn't attend many social events with SCMS. I didn't know of anyone else that was going, and attending an event with a bunch of people I don't know is nightmare fuel for a shy introvert like me. I joined the Board of Trustees in 2020. There was one dinner at the Spokane Club in February, and of course, shortly thereafter, everything shut down.

Most of my time with SCMS has been over Zoom. I got to know my fellow Board Members through two-dimensional boxes on my computer screen. When we had our first member mixer in 2+ years last August, it was like walking out of a gray hole into the light. Even my shy introversion was overcome by the delight of just being in the same garden as my colleagues and being able to talk with them face to face.

Being able to meet colleagues across specialties and organizations is a unique benefit of membership in SCMS. It just doesn't happen elsewhere. And we can't continue to offer events like membership mixers without the support of our members and sponsorship from local businesses and healthcare organizations. Thank you for your continued membership with SCMS. Please invite your colleagues to join and encourage your organizations to cover the cost of membership. And please join us for our summer Membership Mixer, which will be held August 22nd in the Spokane Chronicle Building downtown. I look forward to seeing you there!

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