Leaders are rarely born. Opportunity can appear at the door of a potential leader, but an individual’s persistence and intention are key components of successful IIA volunteerism.
BEING AN IIA LEADER TAKES VISION

A volunteer leader at The IIA is a person who takes pride in the profession and wants to make a difference for the future; one who is forward-thinking; one who takes a stand for professionalism and competency; and one committed to elevating the practice of internal auditing.

Serving more than 180,000 members from more than 170 countries, The IIA has a broad range of volunteer opportunities through its committees, chapters, and institutes.

When you joined tens of thousands of other practitioners as a member of The IIA, the door to professional growth opened wide. Becoming a member was your first step to realizing your leadership potential.

For members of The IIA who take on volunteer leadership roles, the benefits increase exponentially. IIA leaders are selected for their competence, professionalism, and leadership qualities. As a result, they receive training, professional recognition, and opportunities for continued growth in their profession. IIA leadership also brings many benefits to the volunteers’ organizations.
BEING AN IIA LEADER MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Leaders inspire change, instill passion, and drive direction when they effectively communicate their ideas and share their knowledge and expertise. They provide vision for setting goals and lead the charge for carrying them out.

The IIA’s volunteer leaders make a difference in their chapters or institutes, their organizations, and their profession at large, by taking on a visible role in elevating the internal audit profession and enhancing professionalism. They set an example for others by advocating for conformance to the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* and adhering to The IIA’s Code of Ethics under the International Professional Practices Framework® (IPPF).

IIA leaders give back to their profession by sharing best practices, experiences, and knowledge, and through mentoring future leaders. This will contribute to a sustainable future for the internal audit profession and long-term success for The IIA.

“Volunteer work gives me credibility and respect – both from my company and from other fellow auditors. To be trusted with shaping a sustainable future for The IIA and for our profession is a tremendous reward and brings a sense of true belonging, trust in yourself and your knowledge. It makes you proud of being an internal auditor.”

Charlotta Löfstrand Hjelm
CIA, QIAL, Chief Internal Auditor,
Lansforsakringar AB
Stockholm, Sweden
“When I reflect on how volunteering with The IIA at the local and then at Global Committees and Board level has influenced me, I instantly realize the positive impact both on my professional career and at a personal level. Volunteering provided me with the opportunities to enhance my knowledge and experience and be abreast of all contemporary matters. Volunteering has also provided me with great networking opportunities with enthusiastic, self-motivated auditors from all over the world who team up to enhance and add value to our profession.”

Karem T. Obeid
CIA, CCSA, CRMA,
Chief Audit Executive
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

BEING AN IIA LEADER BRINGS OPPORTUNITY

- You will develop leadership skills, including those associated with problem solving, directing others, public speaking, strategic planning, teamwork, conflict resolution, and time management.
- You will gain exposure to current professional issues that impact your organization.
- You will interact with colleagues from different types of organizations representing government, industry, and academia.
- You will grow professionally as a result of being challenged to find solutions for issues that impact auditors in different industries or countries.
- You can hone your mentoring skills to build the next generation of auditors to support the future of a growing global profession.
- You will make lasting contacts that can provide advice, guidance, moral support, and friendship.
- You will have an opportunity to share experiences and identify best practices that add value to your organization.
- You will gain satisfaction from contributing to the profession you embrace.
- You will see lasting changes result from your work on behalf of the profession.
- You will experience firsthand the valuable diversity of our worldwide membership.
- You will receive local and international recognition for your contributions to the global profession.
BEING AN IIA LEADER INCREASES YOUR VALUE AND IMPACT

Among the many benefits to your organization, your IIA leadership involvement will result in:

- Continued professional education and leadership development opportunities.
- Improved communication skills, level of confidence, and teamwork capabilities.
- Enhanced professionalism through exposure to best practices.
- A training ground for future leadership roles within the organization.
- Exposure to new cultures and innovation.
- The identification of new tools and trends that enhance your internal audit function.
- Access to an expansive network of resources and contacts.
- Enhanced visibility and credibility of your internal audit department.

Employer support is essential for members who take on an active role and volunteer for The IIA. Organizations are encouraged to contribute some time and funding to permit their staff to become truly involved in activities.

“Over the years, I’ve acquired a host of technical skills from The IIA through certification, courses, and conferences. As well, my involvement as a volunteer leader has given me the chance to develop a huge variety of strategic skills, such as leadership, negotiations, strategy development, and more. You can’t buy that kind of professional development!”

Carmen E. Abela
CIA, CCSA, Managing Director, Windreach Consulting Services
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN IIA VOLUNTEER LEADER

Whether you have three hours a month or three hours a week to devote to volunteer leadership, there is a place for you — locally or globally — at The IIA.

Locally:

■ Serve on the board

■ Chair or serve on a committee

■ Write an article for your institute/chapter newsletter or website

■ Support and lead the development and execution of programs, events, and local training for your institute/chapter

■ Recruit new members

Globally:

■ Serve on one of The IIA’s global committees that appeal to your expertise or abilities

■ Become a global board member

■ Contribute or write for one of The IIA’s publications

■ Serve as an IIA conference session presenter

■ Become an IIA seminar instructor

■ Represent The IIA at a college night or other special event

■ Volunteer to plan activities for International Internal Audit Awareness Month in May and other advocacy initiatives

■ Attend local events to share with other members and leaders your own best practices and solutions to problems

■ Serve as a quality assessment team member

■ Provide translations for IIA materials and web sections

■ Participate in IIA surveys and research projects

■ Participate in The IIA’s social media: LinkedIn, Google+, Facebook, and Twitter
TAKE THE ROAD TO IIA LEADERSHIP

1. Inform your chapter or institute leaders of your interest in volunteering at a local level.

2. Learn all you can about The IIA’s many international volunteer committees.


“The IIA has had a definitive impact on both my career and professional development. As a local chapter leader, I’ve developed stronger communication and leadership skills by facilitating board meetings, organizing events, drafting succession plans, balancing a budget, and setting long-term chapter goals. I’ve worked on national committees and task forces to create solutions for chapters across the country. As a result, I’ve improved my interpersonal skills, networked with other audit professionals of varying experience levels, and gained insight into leading practices in the profession.”

Seth Peterson
CIA, QIAL, CRMA
AVP, Internal Audit Manager, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA