I joined CSSA (and ASA) when I was a junior at Penn State, in what is fast becoming the dim and distant past. At least one motivating factor for me in joining the Societies was to get the journals; flipping through bimonthly issues of Crop Science and Agronomy Journal left me excited and bewildered. Look at all this interesting work! I don’t understand most of it!

While the journals were my entry point to the Societies, other opportunities flowed from my membership, from interactions in the undergraduate section of CSSA through committee and editorial board service, to lifelong friendships and camaraderie.

But I wonder today, in an era of easily accessible publications through institutional subscriptions to the Digital Library, what is the entry point for new members? And given that we all can get publications electronically, does Society membership provide benefits that outweigh the cost? To me, the answer is an unequivocal “yes.”

Your Professional Home

Society membership provides a professional “home.” Membership provides opportunities for leadership, committee service, and professional development. Awards provide peer recognition of a member’s career accomplishments. Interactions obtained through Society functions build our individual networks, providing opportunities for future collaboration and expanding our horizons. The Annual Meeting gives students and early career professional members a spotlight to show their presentation skills and meet the community of researchers in their field.

Our Society provides publication opportunities through journals and books; proposals for new publications are always welcome. Members benefit by publishing in Society journals and books.

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