



# Dr. Die Cast



## Volunteerism and NADCA: Are you ready to get involved?

**Volunteer:** A person who performs or offers to perform a service voluntarily.

Volunteerism is described in numerous ways depending on our perspective. We're all familiar with the story of 4 blind men who are touching an elephant. One is certain that an elephant is a serpent because he feels only the winding trunk. Another can reach only the torso and is sure that the elephant is as big as a wall. The various descriptions continue as others touch the elephant's legs, ears and tail. Your experience of NADCA might be like those who only experience a small part of the organization.

Let's face it; NADCA is composed mostly of volunteers. We may have paid to become members but the additional benefits we receive come in direct proportion to our involvement. Perhaps we have attended NADCA training courses. And yes, a fee was paid to attend. But where did the knowledge or training material originate? Many of the manuals were the result of dedicated companies, universities and individuals who contributed their time and energies to perform experiments and document the results to be shared with the die casting industry.

Each local chapter includes a board whose members arrange speakers, topics, golf outings, scholarships and training courses. For those of us

who live in the upper Midwest, we often take for granted how close and convenient it is to attend a meeting. I am always amused by those who complain they simply can't drive 45 minutes to attend a meeting or class. In some of the rural or less industrialized areas, members travel great distances just to attend a meeting. For example, for several years the Chairman of the Los Angeles Chapter 30 traveled from Vancouver, British Columbia to attend meetings in Los Angeles. The Southeast Chapter 15 is composed of several states including Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. Members may have to drive 8 or more hours just to attend a meeting.

What drives these men and women to give of their time? Certainly they are interested in the success of the industry, but a closer look will usually reveal that this is not their only volunteer activity. Generosity is in their blood! I have met men and women who regularly volunteer in several other areas of life. I know of NADCA board members who serve on school, library, township and church boards. They volunteer in prison and jail ministries, assist with refugee resettlement, assist in building homes and schools in third world countries. They serve the homeless, sing or play

instruments in church choirs, collect toys and gifts for the poor and many more. One business owner friend of mine dedicated his Wednesday evenings to working in a soup kitchen serving the homeless in a large Midwestern city. At the end of the evening he wrote a check to pay for the entire meal. None of his regular customers knew why he was always unavailable on Wednesdays. All of us have benefited from his contributions to some of the key technical committees and research.

I have to credit that a great part of my success in this industry is due to my participation and interaction with the NADCA members. It started with attending technical courses and has deepened with involvement in the various NADCA sponsored technical conferences and expositions.

How does one get involved? You can start by attending local chapter meetings. You can locate the chapter nearest you by visiting the NADCA web site and looking under "Membership" and "Chapters" or at [www.diecasting.org/chapter](http://www.diecasting.org/chapter). You will find a map of the United States with the various chapters and locations. Contact information is available for various chapter board members who will be happy to guide you along the way.



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