

## Belonging Is Doing

Do you remember the first organization you ever joined? Perhaps it was the Cub Scouts, the Brownies, or a backyard group that practiced a secret ritual under a sheltering tree. It is probable that you have been joining other organizations at nearly every opportunity ever since. In high school and college, in your religious and community life as well as your business and professional activities, you have found a need to identify yourself with groups. This need is as old as the history of man.

Unfortunately, it isn't enough just to join an organization. The secret societies of our childhood didn't last very long, because once we had learned the password and the ritual there wasn't anything else to do. Inducting new members isn't all there is to successful group effort. Ritual, no matter how well designed, will not in itself perpetuate an organization. The most successful organized groups are those in which all members contribute their time, their efforts, and their talents toward a common objective or objectives.

Each of us, from time to time, should audit our memberships in the groups we have joined. There are some basic questions we should ask ourselves: Are we working for the group? Are we contributing our ideas and talents? Is the group better because we belong?

What have you contributed to ASTD lately? It isn't enough just to pay your dues, carry the membership card, and occasionally attend a chapter meeting. This is an important group activity to you. It is directly related to your professional competence. The exchange of ideas, programs, skills and techniques with other members may mean the difference between your success or failure as a training director.

On the basis that individual benefits are usually in direct relationship to efforts expended, our Society deserves your best efforts.

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