



November 2015

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The Women of M&A Source

The July 2013 edition of the M&A Source newsletter, the BRIDGE, published an article of mine entitled ["The Trouble with Women."](#) The point of that article, in my opinion, was that The M&A Source did not have enough women in leadership roles.

Perhaps it's time to revisit the premise that we do not have enough women in leadership roles. Let's compare where we were then with where we are today.

M&A Source	Total Members	Women Members	Total Board Members	Women Board Members	Total Committee Members	Women Committee Members
July 2013	265	31	10	1	33	4
October 2015	352	54	10	2	45	12

Our total membership has increased by 87 and more than 25% of that growth is attributed to women joining as new members. Whereas we still have ten Board members, Dora Lanza is not the lone woman on the Board. Patricia "Pat" McDonald was elected to serve a three year term (2015 – 2017).

In 2013 and today, approximately 12% of our members were/are members of one or more committees. While that percentage has remained the same, the number of women volunteering their time as committee members has tripled from four to twelve. Those twelve are Pat McDonald, Laura Maver Ward, Dora Lanza, May Lu, Heather Madland, Amy Cole, Diane Horton, Janet Nykaza, Katie Robertson, Lauren Glazebrook, Ann Knight, and Heather Lockwood.

Even more encouraging is the fact that four of our fourteen committees (Education, Membership, Nominations & Online Education) are Chaired or Co-Chaired by women (Pat McDonald, Laura Maver Ward, Dora Lanza, & May Lu).

In addition to the ladies who volunteer as committee members, we rely on an equally talented number of women who are members of the Meetings Expectations team. A few of the names you might recognize are Director of Operations Manager Ashley Uhl, Senior Conference Manager Darnette Holbert, Conference Manager Maggie Nicholson, Member Services Senior Coordinator Amanda Hammerli and Registration Coordinator Lesley Martin.

In previous years, we also relied on other members of ME's staff, including Kay Ciesla, Christine Hilgert and Lynne Weil.

The classic question "Which came first, the chicken or the egg" comes to mind. Are more women joining The M&A Source because more women are actively participating in leadership roles, or are more women actively participating in leadership roles because more women are joining The M&A Source? Maybe it's both...one encourages the other similar to the old axiom "one hand washes the other."

Maybe more women are [joining The M&A Source](#) for the same reasons that men join us...because the [benefits](#), [education](#), [conferences](#) and networking we provide helps them enhance their professional practice.

Regardless of their reasons, I gladly welcome women into our association. Hopefully they will also get involved with one or more of our committees and become future leaders.

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Chairman: The M&A Source Board of Directors

