



How to Use Your Society Membership

NETWORKING A membership association is a network of people with common interests, so the real value comes from getting to know other members. A membership association is also a circle of advice and support. All the members need and give advice at some point in their careers, and they know that this support and advice are available to them because they are part of a community. As dues-paying members of the group, they feel comfortable reaching out to each other, both to receive and give **Career Guidance**. With this in mind, the #1 most valuable way to use your society membership is to attend [Society Events](#), where you'll be able to meet peers and build your network.

If you are unable to attend events in person, the second best use of your membership is to work with staff to schedule **Member Introductions** (meetings you can take on your own time), and to leverage society tools like our [LinkedIn Group](#), [Member Directory](#), [Job Board](#), [Industry Recruiter Network](#), and [Career Development Network](#), which are available online.

Please do the following to begin the **Member Introduction** process:

1. Write and send one paragraph about yourself: who you are; your career background & career aspirations; and your industry interest areas. We will use this paragraph to formally introduce you to other society members via email.
2. Make a list of 5-10 people you would like to be introduced to. You can find people by looking through the [Online Member Directory](#) or by looking through the members of our [LinkedIn Group](#).

As a society member you have access to both of the groups listed above. Please tell us if you need instructions again for how to log into the Member Directory, or if you need instructions for joining the LinkedIn Group. We will watch for confirmation that you were able to access both groups, and then we'll set a due date for your list of names. Once we have your list of names, we will send a formal introduction email to each person (and copy you), asking if each would be willing to network and meet with you to discuss the CFA Program and the local investment industry. **If you feel comfortable doing your own reach outs**, you should still follow steps 1 and 2, but you would send the emails (or make phone calls) yourself. You are welcome to cc society staff.

The best success comes from setting deadlines for yourself to accomplish each step, and to plan to meet with people within one month of initially contacting them. Remember, reaching out to other society members is not a cold call! These are *warm calls*, because you share membership in CFAMN.

CAREER GUIDANCE

1. You can make a list of 3-5 specific career questions (the ones that are most crucial for you right now). These are the questions you will ask when you take the meetings mentioned above.
2. And/or you can contact any of the coaches in the CFAMN [Career Development Network](#), and work with them on getting answers to your questions.
3. Additionally, if you are actively seeking employment, you can make an appointment to meet with any of the [Industry Recruiters](#) who are part of our society network.

To begin your **Member Introduction** process or ask other questions about society membership, please contact the CFAMN office at support@cfamn.org or dial 612.930.4000. Thank you!