

## Position Statement

Once again it is an honor to be running for the COMMON Board of Directors. COMMON has been a valued part of my professional life for over 30 years, and I have enjoyed volunteering over the past 21 years. This history has given me the opportunity to advance my career by learning from peer-to-peer education, speaking and interacting with attendees, being a vendor in the expo, and serving with other dedicated professionals on numerous committees. I became involved as a volunteer when identified as having a needed skill set based on my local user group activity. Now, I have the ability to continue to give back to the community that mentored me.

As a previous member of the COMMON Board of Directors, I know the organization inside and out. I speak with many of you at conferences, and we have discussed what you need from the organization, as well as you have shared your concerns and needs for the organization with me. I share many of these concerns as well. The finances and the “on-going concern” of any organization are always a priority and I want to ensure the board leads responsibility and with accountability in this area. My education, specifically my MBA from the University of New Haven in addition to my BS in Computer Science from Hofstra University allows me to be a productive contributing member of the board. In this crazy COVID-19 time, it’s important that we work outside the box to insure that COMMON is a valuable resource to you and your career. We have to look beyond what we have always done, and look to what will work for our membership today and in the years to come.

During my tenure at COMMON I have been involved with the creation of the IT Executive Conference, established the Young i Professionals, lead the effort to bring back the Fall Conference, and created a volunteer structure responsive to the needs of our community. I feel my contributions have been beneficial and know there is more I can contribute on behalf of our community. In 2016 these efforts were recognized when I received COMMON’s most prestigious award, the Distinguished Service Award.

Outside of COMMON I am equally dedicated to the IBM i Power Systems community. In 2011 IBM established the Champions award for Power Systems and I was one of the first recipients, an honor that I continue to hold. In addition, in 2018 I was named the first Lifetime Power Systems Champion.

Looking to the future of COMMON I see exciting opportunities for us to evolve as an association. I want to help develop multiple and diverse avenues to reach additional members. By continuing to create new products for our members we can expand on our reach into the community. We know we have great education and advocacy, like all organizations now we need to reach the next generation. COMMON’s Education Foundation (CEF) has partnered with the best colleges in the country offering IBM i and information technology education. I have been on the board of the CEF since 2005 and am strong sponsor of the CEF’s endeavors. I have written Pete’s Perspective for COMMON Connector for the last 9 years to bring new ideas to our readers. Among my most valued experience has been serving 3 years as the President of COMMON. Being the conduit for our team is an honor and great responsibility. Bringing the ideas, efforts, and visions we create along with the volunteers from all committees to the membership is an amazing experience. I was fortunate enough to be supported by tremendous talent on the staff, board, and volunteer committees; I look forward to supporting the next president and executives of COMMON in the same way.