

Michael L. Fisher  
SCORE Inland Empire #0503



Michael Fisher joined SCORE July 25, 2013, shortly after retiring from over 52 years of working, to give his experiences back to small business. Michael has been with the Chapter for four years and has served as secretary on the executive board. He has volunteered to be a master mentor to new mentors, and was involved in the opening of the Murrieta Innovation Center near his location. He has been nominated for citizen of the year for Murrieta and continues to do an outstanding job for our organization.

*"I always wanted to be associated with this superb volunteer organization, but was always busy working and at that time it was mainly for retirees only. However, it only took me 3 months after retiring and relocating to Murrieta, CA. to join the Inland Empire Chapter." – Michael*

**What is your professional background?**

I was a Retail, Shopping Center and Commercial Real Estate Executive, who relocated regularly to help fix challenges and create opportunities for improvement in many locations throughout the USA. I oversaw multiple locations, new store buildouts, a new start-up company, and was actively involved within each of my local communities.

**How long have you been volunteering for SCORE? What year did you start volunteering?**

I started volunteering in July of 2013, which has now been four (4) years of helping small businesses.

**How did you learn about SCORE, and what prompted you to get involved?**

I learned about SCORE when I was still working and used a SCORE volunteer 38 years ago to guide me through acquisitions and mergers of small regional companies. After receiving this help, I said to myself, when I retire I will join SCORE to give back what this individual gave to me that helped me in my small business need.

**In what ways are you involved as a volunteer with SCORE?**

I am a certified mentor, have held the position of Chapter Secretary, and have helped in interviewing potential new members who apply to our Chapter. I am also the Workshop coordinator for our area and have helped new members during their orientation process. I also was recognized by our Chapter for my outstanding Mentoring Service 2014-2015.

**What keeps you coming back to volunteer each year?**

The desire to help our clients learn, grow, and become successful, many of whom are trying to start up a brand new business venture. The diversity of needs and understanding they are seeking is very interesting and rewarding: when you see their eyes light up because now they get it.

**What do you enjoy the most about your volunteer experience?**

Knowing that I play a little part in someone's life to help them gain knowledge for their business venture... The comraderie I share with other members of the Chapter... I like knowing that everyone within the Chapter is guiding and helping others.

**What have you learned or how have you been personally affected by your experience with SCORE?**

I have learned to be a better listener. I have gained knowledge in new areas, such as, social media and how to be honest with someone, yet still encouraging them in their quest. One of the best things I have learned is to have more patience and understanding.

**Do you have an inspirational story you can tell about your volunteer experience? Please share with us!**

A client came to me ready to purchase an existing business. In reviewing the outline of the deal with my client, it did not seem favorable for him. I gave him some thoughts of what did not appear right and asked him to have another conversation with the seller. He did so that same afternoon. Bottom line, the seller would address the concerns the buyer had. Because of this, the buyer pulled out from the purchase. He sent me a thank you for my advice and now wants to start his own business venture. The client made me proud and that is what SCORE mentoring is all about: helping others.

**Do you have any advice for current SCORE volunteers?**

Attend the monthly Chapter meetings and become actively engaged with SCORE. Come with the mindset, of 'what can I do, over and above' to help the Chapter be successful. Keep up on the changing business landscape, so you can be an even better mentor with your clients. You must want to help others, to be rewarded, as a member of the SCORE organization.

**Hobbies/spare time activities:**

I am actively involved within the community I live. I have been named the Volunteer of the Year 2013-2014 by the local Chamber of Commerce. I was a member of the City Economic Development Small Business Development ad-hoc committee. I am currently a Vice Chair of the Oversight Committee of a local school bond. I have applied as a volunteer to the City for a Planning Commissioner position, approved at the June 7, 2016, City Council Meeting. I have also been nominated and approved as a new Chamber of Commerce Board member. My wife and I have a 2 ½ year old granddaughter, Olivia, whom we love and enjoy immensely. We love antiquing and spending time with our grown and married son and daughter.