

President's Message – Jenny Hood, CFP®

“Move out of your comfort zone. You can only grow if you are willing to feel awkward and uncomfortable when you try something new.” – Brian Tracy

I recently completed my second [Tough Mudder](#) . Before the course begins, we are crowded into a space where we are given a pep talk to pump us up for the 11 miles and 20 plus obstacles, which include mud, ice and electric shock. What made me do this more than once? It's the feeling of accomplishing something that seems pretty much impossible. And what stood out the most from the experience was that during the pep talk the announcer asked, “when was the last time you did something for the first time? “ Think about that for a minute.

I am half way through my term as president and therefore, also coming closer to the end of my time on the FPANC board. It is difficult to remember what my first year on the board was like back in 2011. I remember feeling uncertain, timid and unqualified. But, my passion for financial literacy and wanting to make a change was stronger than my feelings of insecurity. Honestly, it is hard to say which was more scary and uncomfortable – joining the FPANC board or completing the Tough Mudder. However, both events have made the uncomfortable feelings worth it. Joining the FPANC board has increased my confidence, widened my community, increased my knowledge and developed my speaking skills, just to name a few.

I have enjoyed working with and getting to know the various board members throughout the years and this year is no different. I have been fortunate to work with a very energetic, dynamic and accomplished-driven board. And to continue, we need others who are willing to step up and help our community of financial professionals continue to grow and flourish. You do not need to have any specific type of qualifications, designations or years of experience. We are looking for people who have ideas and the willingness to find ways to make them happen. And therefore, I would like to encourage you to join the board. The more that you put in, the more that you will get out of the experience. And I promise you will not have to tackle any obstacles with mud, ice or electric shock.

While I am looking forward to finishing out 2017 strong and accomplishing the rest the board's goals, I am beginning to already think of the next way that I can do something for the first time. It's exciting and still a little scary. What is something that you would like to do for the first time? How will you finish the rest of 2017? And how can you make an impact on our local community?

I look forward to seeing you throughout the rest of 2017 at one (or more!) of our meetings, mixers and other events and hearing your answers to those questions.

Please email me with any questions, concerns, ideas or how you would like to get more involved on the FPANC board: jhood@cmeyers.com .