

Falko Hörnicke, CFA and George Tharakan, CFA Named Volunteers of the Quarter



Sometimes it takes two to tango and that's the case with the CFA Society Los Angeles (CFALA) Winter 2017 Volunteers of the Quarter. Falko Hörnicke, CFA and George Tharakan, CFA are the co-chairs of the Santa Barbara Community of Interest (COI) and their commitment to maintaining the Santa Barbara COI requires a vast amount of responsibility and coordination. Hörnicke and Tharakan are the first co-chairs of the COI since predecessors Alejandra Folguera, Ph.D. and Carol Poundstone Olson, CFA founded the Santa Barbara COI in 2008 and ran the group as co-chairs until 2015.

"I decided to volunteer to continue the fabulous job initiated by our predecessors, Alejandra and Carol,"

Tharakan recalled. "When they decided to transition out of their roles, I felt an obligation to do my part."

Due to the geographical distance between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, the co-chairs and members of the Santa Barbara COI almost always fulfill a wide variety of duties to host an event, from acquiring speakers to obtaining venues to running on-site registration. In addition to the details involved with managing the COI, Hörnicke and Tharakan work to cultivate a strong Santa Barbara community that encompasses high-level content and networking opportunities.

"In 2016, we were able to attract C-level speakers from Inogen Inc., United Way and Direct Relief to talk about their industry and tell their stories," Hörnicke said.

"The Santa Barbara COI provides a forum for us to interact and share ideas and experiences," Tharakan explained. "Given the diverse interests of the membership, Falko and I try to organize events that appeal to and attract a wide variety of people. The events will run the gamut from strictly investing events to understanding non-profits, geopolitical events such as Brexit and environmental concerns."

Having recently surpassed one full year as co-chairs in September, Hörnicke and Tharakan have both found value in volunteering and believe it to be a rewarding experience.

"Volunteering or even just attending events simply makes the difference," Hörnicke described. "It provides an opportunity to improve and develop skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. I strongly believe that volunteering is a win-win-situation as by helping others we as volunteers get some benefits for ourselves."

“CFALA provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know your peers and learn more about the investing profession,” Tharakan said. “It forces you to leave your office cubicle and stop looking at spreadsheets and annual reports for a well-deserved break. You soon learn there are a wide variety of investments and investing approaches you were completely unaware of. Some of these may pique your interest and lead you on a very different path from what you set out to accomplish.”

Hörnricke is currently the Head of Portfolio Management/Senior Portfolio Manager for Global Multi-Asset Accounts at Bergquist Wang, LLC. He previously held leadership positions at Bankhaus Lampe KG, Lupus alpha Asset Management and Invesco Asset Management. Hörnricke received his degree from the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and studied abroad at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Tharakan is the Chief Investment Officer at Alamar Capital Management, LLC. Prior to his current role, Tharakan worked at Santa Barbara Asset Management, Vantis Capital Management, Roxbury Capital Management, and Intel Corporation. He studied Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. Tharakan later received his MS in Computer Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and MBA in Finance at the University of California, Los Angeles.