



Akiko Hayata, CFA, Named March Volunteer of the Month



As an all-volunteer organization with a small paid staff, CFALA relies very heavily on the efforts of dozens of its members. Akiko Hayata, CFA, helps keep track of all those volunteers and works hard to match their interests and abilities with the society's projects and programs.

Hayata, who joined the society in 2009 and received her charter in 2010, began volunteering in 2011 at the request of Kerry Rapanot, a co-worker at Payden & Rygel who is currently the society's Treasurer.

"Kerry needed help with the volunteer database, so under her guidance and with a couple other volunteers, we did a full scrub and revamped it so that we have a current list of all our active volunteers and what areas they may want to be involved with," Hayata explained. "We've now moved beyond that and I am engaging with new volunteers one-on-one, getting to know them and trying to align their interests with the many different opportunities that we have available."

Being Volunteer Database Coordinator has given Hayata an inside look at how CFALA operates.

"I never had a full appreciation of how important the volunteers are," Hayata said. "The society pretty much runs on its volunteers and I wanted to be a part of that. This role has been wonderful for me because it introduced me to the whole society. Now my goal is to work even more closely with the organizing committees and communities of interest to be sure they are getting the help they need."

Hayata is Vice President, Head of Foreign Exchange Trading at Payden & Rygel. She joined the firm in 2004 after graduating from Occidental College,