

DttP: Documents to the People

Winter 2007, v35:4

From the Chair

Bill Sleeman

As the father of two boys, an active church member, and occasional rec-league baseball coach, I have always thought that I had enough to do. While I still harbored some lingering notion that I should do more for my local community, I always fell back on the “when I have time” excuse. As more and more of my time began to be taken up by my kids’ activities (I became a soccer/lacrosse/choir Dad) I began to realize that there really was never going to be a good time and if I was going to be more engaged in my community I really had to make the time. So, in fall 2002, when a call went out for volunteers to work on an upcoming election, I decided that I had to step up to the need and became a chief election judge for Baltimore County, Maryland.

I have since learned through Govdoc-I that many other GODORT members are election officials as well. I also discovered that GODORT members are active in their communities in myriad other ways, including Red Cross blood bank coordinator, community library volunteers, Big Brother/Big Sister volunteers, the National Guard, Habitat for Humanity, domestic violence counselors, literacy volunteers, the Sierra Club, youth baseball program coordinator, English As a Second Language tutor, public library board members, city planning commissioner, and community art project coordinator. This is an amazing and inspiring variety of volunteer commitments. The level of involvement seems to defuse, at least when it comes to government information librarians, the notion expressed in the 2000 book

