

FROM THE EDITOR

As I type my introductory comments for the December 2016 issue of The International Journal of Volunteer Administration (IJOVA), I'm reminded of the many people and milestones that make up the storied history of the publication. Importantly, it has been the people that have been so important to its success – authors, peer reviewers, subscribers, readers, and board members. Along the way, each individual has contributed in some way to the success and many have been instrumental to helping overcome obstacles. Recently, the IJOVA overcame another obstacle that we are all very happy to put behind us! A new web presence, subscription service and revitalized Editorial Board all make their debut over the next month. You'll hear much more about all of that from others, but please know I'm very thankful for the patience, perseverance and dedication of each individual that has stayed with us as we have worked to overcome the many obstacles we faced over the past year. I do believe that the wait will be well worth it!

As we relaunch the IJOVA, we are pleased to offer four new articles that certainly contribute to the volunteer resource management profession. In this issue, we invite you to learn more about volunteer legal guardians and why individuals chose to engage in this form of service. Jones offers insight into what volunteer legal guardians value and their motivation for serving. The study results reported by Jones advance our understanding of the need for targeted recruitment, implications for organizations that wish to include a volunteer guardian component in public programs serving older and disabled adults.

Evaluating programs has long been an important component of sustainability and Adams, Mazzella, Renfro, Schilling, and Hager offer their insights into data collection and evaluation of volunteer programs. The authors outline seven arenas that could be further explored and messaged to different audiences. Furthermore, the authors make the argument that while these efforts require additional resources, the benefits of successful evaluation are too numerous to ignore.

Some argue that there is sufficient research on volunteer motivation. Perhaps there is, but it continues to be important to explore this concept with new or different populations and Bae, Lam and Lee do just that as they explored the motivation of South Korean volunteers. Specifically, the authors found that “males have a stronger belief than females that volunteering can give them opportunity for personal growth”. Importantly, the authors found that the revised Volunteer Motivation Scale (VMS) was an appropriate instrument to measure motivation of international volunteers.

Our final article in this issue is offered by Jordan, Upright and Peden who explored volunteer experiences and their contribution to obtaining entry level positions in the sport and recreation profession. The authors found that volunteer experience did, in fact, have a positive impact on hiring decisions made by a significant number of respondents. This is an important article as organizations continue to identify benefits of volunteer experiences for individuals seeking a change in careers or new careers as they enter retirement and seek new opportunities.

As the IJOVA enters this new chapter, I do hope that you will offer your feedback on this issue and will seriously consider sharing your expertise, experiences, and knowledge in a future issue!