In This Issue: Are We Relevant?

Who, why, and how to manage are all key themes in this issue of The International Journal of Volunteer Administration (IJOVA). Within the seven published manuscripts, you'll find a number of very practical ideas and potential solutions to the challenges and opportunities volunteer resource managers' face on a day-to-day basis.

Rather than provide an overview of each manuscript, I think it more important to comment on the entire issue. As we prepared this issue, I began to think about the articles and how it seemed that perhaps we were not pushing the profession hard enough in areas that need further explored. Are we publishing the right type of manuscript? Is the content relevant? Have readers moved on to other issues and do they no longer care about recruitment, retention, and measuring impact? Are these really contemporary issues that our profession needs to continue to explore? Depending on who I would ask, I am sure that I would get a variety of answers that ranged from emphatic "yes" to all my questions to an emphatic "no". If that is the case, then we are doing what we need to do.

What I reminded myself was that this profession continues to evolve. New professionals, with little experience, join us everyday. Seasoned professionals that have left other careers transition into volunteer resource management roles and need resources. Long serving volunteer resource managers change positions or move to different communities and need new information relevant to their current situation. At the end of the day, we must continue to publish a wide range of articles that offer new ideas to the professional just entering the workforce, yet challenge our tenured colleagues. I hope that we are serving that purpose!

As we turn the calendar to 2014, I want to wish each of you a very Happy New Year! I hope that you continue to grow as a professional, enjoy your personal time and continue to contribute to the success of your organization and community.

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