

In This Issue
**“Orchestrating the Symphony of Volunteerism:
Volunteerism in the Arts and Leisure”**

This issue of *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration* has proven a challenging one to assemble. More than a year ago, when I first suggested to *The IJOVA* Board the issue topic as a possibility for July 2009, the Board members’ reactions were very positive. To my and the Board members’ knowledge, no other academic or professional journal has devoted much (if any) attention, resources, and energy to documenting and disseminating cutting-edge information and insights regarding volunteerism in arts and leisure venues. Thus, we perceived the issue as a wonderful opportunity to highlight this particular facet of volunteerism and volunteer resource management.

But alas – manuscripts were not immediately forthcoming. I came to realize that volunteer resource management in the arts and leisure is still a relatively young phenomenon, at least formally.

Thus, I began to consider this issue as one that sought to orchestrate a symphony of volunteerism and volunteer resource management resource for our readers. Now mind you – I am no music composer, much less conductor. But I do enjoy and appreciate all types of the arts and do consider myself a connoisseur of music and the theater.

I am very proud to say that the articles included in this issue will help to enlighten us all as connoisseurs of the phenomenon of volunteerism and as professional volunteer resource managers in arts and leisure venues. In the opening *Feature Article*, Carolyn Ashton and Marilyn Lesmeister Ph.D. share insights gleaned from their experience working with youth and adult partnerships as volunteer teams with community dinner theatre. They conclude, “This interactive theatre production . . . provided a fun, learning and profitable experience for the local program, the community, and participating youth and adult volunteers.” The second *Feature* focuses upon volunteer governance of arts organizations through nonprofit boards of directors. Authors Keith Seel, Ph.D. and Anita Angelini propose that “By examining the perspectives of the governance volunteers it is evident that proper and thorough volunteer administration practice could enrich the performance of individual board members and therefore impact the volunteer board’s overall effectiveness.”

Brooks Boeke, Manager of the Friends of the Kennedy Center at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. offers an interesting *Commentary* sharing insights she gained from an informal survey of volunteer resource managers with performing arts centers. Her comments will be of special interest to those responsible for in-house promotion of volunteer programs, outreach presentations on the status of volunteerism at performing arts centers throughout the United States, and promoting arts volunteerism globally.

We are pleased also to print a review by Nancy Macduff of *Transforming Museum Volunteering: A Practical Guide for Engaging 21st Century Volunteers* by author Ellen Hirzy for the American Association for Museum Volunteers, published in 2007.

In *Ideas That Work*, five nationally recognized professional leaders in performing arts volunteerism describe a relatively new resource and network for volunteer resource managers. Brooks Boeke, Ginny Bowers Coleman, Meghan Kaskoun, Sally Kutyla, and Connie Pirtle discuss Administrators of Volunteer Programs in Performing Arts (AVPPA), a free online forum created in 2007 by the authors to bring together colleagues in performing arts volunteer resource management to share best practices.

In *From the Annals*, we are also pleased to reprint four articles published previously in *The Journal of Volunteer Administration*: “How to Make a Museum Volunteer Out of Anyone” (first published in 1977); “Volunteer Management in the Leisure Service Curriculum” (published in 1980); “Evaluating a Museum’s Volunteer Program” (published in 1991); and “Overcoming Road Blocks: Change Strategies for Arts/Museum Volunteer Programs” (published originally in 1991).

I join the entire Editorial Board and Reviewers of *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration* in sharing this issue so that managers of volunteer resources may better serve as composers and conductors, orchestrating harmonic symphonies of volunteerism in myriad arts and leisure venues that will entertain, benefit, and serve us all.

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