

ARNOVA VOLUNTEER SURVEY

For the period January 1 to December 31, 2017

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Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ARNOVA VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS SURVEY covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2017

A few years ago, the University of Toronto in association with ARNOVA conducted an online survey on the volunteer contributions of ARNOVA volunteers. This survey was undertaken in response to a motion passed at the 2004 ARNOVA membership meeting to account for the contribution of members' volunteer activities to ARNOVA's health and vitality.

At the 2008 ARNOVA conference in Philadelphia, there was a motion put forth and passed in the membership meeting to continue this process and recognize volunteer contributions in the annual report. To do this, an online survey will be conducted yearly, asking questions about volunteer activities with ARNOVA.

The 2017 survey was conducted by Laurie Mook, Arizona State University, Femida Handy, the University of Pennsylvania, and Shariq Siddiqui, Executive Director of ARNOVA. The survey covered the period January 1 to December 31, 2017.

Data were collected the period January 24 to March 6, 2017 by an electronic survey that was administered through Survey Monkey to 1,115 ARNOVA members. Of these, 118 were known volunteers (for instance, board, committees, special interest groups). Twelve email addresses were invalid, 27 persons opted out. The final number of respondents was 178 with 5 surveys not substantially complete leaving a total of 173 respondents, a response rate of 16.1%. For known volunteers, the response rate was 41.4%. For the remainder, the response rate was 13.4%.

The key results of the survey for the fiscal period January 1 to December 31, 2017 were:

- Hours reported by respondents totaled 4,663. Volunteer hours for NVSQ activities were analyzed separately resulting in an addition of 5,669 hours, for a grand total of **10,332**. This is the equivalent of **5** full-time equivalent positions.
- Non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses were reported to be \$4,261.
- Total contributions in monetary terms were the equivalent of an estimated **\$447,272** for hours volunteered and **\$4,261** in non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses, for a total of **\$451,533**.¹

¹ All monetary figures are reported in USD.

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Respondent Characteristics

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Findings: Hours reported on the surveys

Of the 173 respondents, 106 (61.3%) indicated they had volunteered in the period January 1 to December 31, 2017. A total of 4,663 hours were reported through the survey (Table 1).

In addition, hours were contributed to the association journal, Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (NVSQ). For each submission, there are 3 reviewers, and, on average, a paper that is sent back for revisions is submitted 3 times before it is published. For 2017, NVSQ processed 423 submissions. To estimate the number hours contributed to NVSQ, we estimated 15 hours for each paper, for a total of 6,345 hours. As 56 respondents to the survey already indicated contributions totaling 676 hours related to reviewing manuscripts for NVSQ, we added an additional 5,669 hours to the hours from the survey. The total of hours therefore was **10,332**.

Table 1: Breakdown of volunteer hours

	# volunteers reporting	Hours reported for January 1 to December 31, 2017
Hours: Board	16	865
Hours: Committees	31	761
Hours: Annual conference organizing	8	230
Hours: Annual conference proposal reviewing	12	100
Hours: Other annual conference activities	44	598
Hours: NVSQ-related activities	56	676
Hours: Other publications-related activities	3	7
Hours: Social media	8	83
Hours: Sections	34	562
Hours: Common Interest Groups	22	209
Hours: Fundraising not included elsewhere	2	10
Hours: Membership recruitment	8	37
Hours: Other	6	525
TOTAL		4,663

Findings: Hours reported on the surveys (continued)

To place a monetary value on volunteer hours, we used values from the National Current Employment Statistics survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the professional organizations subsector (NAICS code 81392)². This category comprises organizations primarily engaged in advancing the professional interests of their members and the profession as a whole. The average hourly rate for those involved in this category for 2017 was \$43.29 per hour. Using this hourly rate, the comparative market value of volunteer contributions for 2017 is estimated as **\$447,272**.³

Findings: Out-of-pocket expenses

Many volunteers pay for expenses out-of-pocket without requesting reimbursement. This can be a significant contribution to the organization. On the survey, ARNOVA volunteers were asked if they contributed out-of-pocket expenses; 25.7% indicated they had, with contributions reported of **\$4,261 USD**.

² [https://beta.bls.gov/dataQuery/find?fq=survey:\[ce\]&q=CEU8081392003](https://beta.bls.gov/dataQuery/find?fq=survey:[ce]&q=CEU8081392003)

³ All monetary figures are reported in USD.