ARNOVA VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action

08

**Fall**

**For the period January 1 to December 31, 2018**

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Laurie Mook, Arizona State University

Femida Handy, University of Pennsylvania

Shariq Siddiqui, ARNOVA

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ARNOVA VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS SURVEY covering the period**

**January 1 to December 31, 2018**

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 2018 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, 2018.

Data were collected the period January 26 to March 9, 2018 by an electronic survey that was administered through Survey Monkey to 1,346 ARNOVA members. The final number of respondents was 192 with 12 surveys not substantially complete leaving a total of 180 respondents, a response rate of 13.5%. The response rate of known volunteers was 31.3%.

The key results of the survey for the fiscal period January 1 to December 31, 2018 were:

* Hours reported by respondents totaled 5,334. Volunteer hours for NVSQ activities were analyzed separately resulting in an addition of 5,745 hours, for a grand total of **11,079.** This is the equivalent of **5.33** full-time equivalent positions.
* Non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses were reported to be $5,580.
* Total contributions in monetary terms were the equivalent of an estimated **$460,886** for hours volunteered and **$5,580** in non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses, for a total of **$466,466**.[[1]](#footnote-2)

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The 2018 survey was conducted by a team consisting of Laurie Mook, Arizona State University, Femida Handy, the University of Pennsylvania, and Shariq Siddiqui, Executive Director of ARNOVA.

**Respondent Characteristics**

Data were collected the period January 26 to March 9, 2018 by an electronic survey that was administered through Survey Monkey to 1,346 ARNOVA members. Of these, 131 were known volunteers (for instance, board, committees, special interest groups). Eleven persons opted out and 6 emails bounced. The final number of respondents was 192 with 12 surveys not substantially complete leaving a total of 180 respondents, a response rate of 13.5%. The response rate of known volunteers was 31.3%.

**Findings: Hours reported on the surveys**

Of the 180 respondents, 97 (53.9%) indicated they had volunteered in the period January 1 to December 31, 2018. A total of 5,334 hours was reported through the survey (see Table 1).

In addition, hours were contributed to the association journal, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* (NVSQ) by ARNOVA members and non-members. 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 2018, NVSQ processed 426 submissions. To estimate the number hours contributed to NVSQ, we estimated 15 hours for each paper, for a total of 6,390 hours. As 56 respondents to the survey already indicated contributions totaling 645 hours related to reviewing manuscripts for NVSQ, we added an additional 5,745 hours to the hours from the survey. The total of hours therefore was **11,079**.

**Table 1: Breakdown of volunteer hours**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Volunteer Activity** | **# volunteers reporting** | **Hours reported for January 1 to December 31, 2018** |
| Board | 15 | 1284 |
| Committees | 30 | 579 |
| Annual conference organizing | 9 | 471 |
| Annual conference proposal reviewing | 14 | 152 |
| Other annual conference activities | 35 | 644 |
| NVSQ-related activities | 49 | 645 |
| Other publications-related activities | 4 | 421 |
| Social media | 6 | 13 |
| Sections | 30 | 705 |
| Common Interest Groups | 20 | 176 |
| Fundraising not included elsewhere | 4 | 37 |
| Membership recruitment | 5 | 36 |
| Other | 2 | 171 |
| **TOTAL** |  | **5,334** |

**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]](#footnote-3). 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 2018 was $41.60 per hour. Using this hourly rate, the comparative market value of volunteer contributions for 2018 is estimated as **$460,886**.[[3]](#footnote-4)

**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; 28.9% indicated they had, with contributions reported of **$5,580 USD**.

1. All monetary figures are reported in USD. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://beta.bls.gov/dataQuery/find?fq=survey:[ce]&q=CEU8081392003 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. All monetary figures are reported in USD. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)