

ARNOVA VOLUNTEER SURVEY

For the period January 1 to December 31, 2020



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ARNOVA VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS SURVEY covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2020

The 2020 survey on the volunteer contributions of ARNOVA volunteers was conducted by Laurie Mook, Arizona State University, and Femida Handy, University of Pennsylvania. The survey covered the period January 1 to December 31, 2020.

Data were collected the period January 22 to March 7, 2021 by an electronic survey that was administered through Survey Monkey to 1,096 ARNOVA members. Of these, 211 were known volunteers (for instance, board, committees, special interest groups). Nineteen persons opted out and 35 emails bounced. The final number of respondents was 177 with 10 surveys not substantially completed leaving a total of 167 respondents, a response rate of 16%. The response rate of known volunteers was 34%.

The key results of the survey for the fiscal period January 1 to December 31, 2020 were:

- Hours reported by respondents totaled 4,861. Volunteer hours for NVSQ activities were analyzed separately resulting in an addition of 6,157 hours, for a grand total of **11,018**. This is the equivalent of **5.3** full-time equivalent positions.
- Non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses were reported to be \$4,844.
- Total contributions in monetary terms were the equivalent of an estimated **\$518,283** for hours volunteered and **\$4,844** in non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses, for a total of **\$523,131**.¹

¹ All monetary figures are reported in USD.

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The University of Toronto in association with ARNOVA conducted the first online survey on the volunteer contributions of ARNOVA volunteers, undertaken in response to a motion passed at the 2004 ARNOVA membership meeting. It was 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 is conducted yearly, asking questions about volunteer activities with ARNOVA.

The 2020 survey was conducted by a team consisting of Laurie Mook, Arizona State University, and Femida Handy, University of Pennsylvania.

Respondent Characteristics

Data were collected the period January 22 to March 7, 2021 by an electronic survey that was administered through Survey Monkey to 1,096 ARNOVA members. Of these, 211 were known to be volunteers (for instance, board, committees, special interest groups). Nineteen persons opted out and 35 emails bounced. The final number of respondents was 177 with 10 surveys not substantially complete leaving a total of 167 respondents, a response rate of 16%. The response rate of known volunteers was 34%.

Findings: Hours reported on the surveys

Of the 167 respondents, 101 (60.5%) indicated they had volunteered in the period January 1 to December 31, 2020. A total of 4,860.7 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 2020, NVSQ processed 452 submissions. To estimate the number hours contributed to NVSQ, we estimated 15 hours for each paper, for a total of 6,780 hours. As 52 respondents to the survey already indicated contributions totaling 623 hours related to reviewing manuscripts for NVSQ, we added an additional 6,157 hours to the hours from the survey. The total of hours therefore was **11,017.7**.

Table 1: Breakdown of volunteer hours

Volunteer Activity	# volunteers reporting	Hours reported for January 1 to December 31, 2020
Board	13	915
Committees	38	720.5
Annual conference organizing	11	161
Conference proposal reviewing	26	206.5
Other conference activities	22	258
NVSQ-related activities	53	923
Other publications-related activities	3	7
Social media	10	116
Sections	42	889.2
Common Interest Groups	26	262.5
Fundraising not included elsewhere	4	10
Membership recruitment	7	55
Other	5	337
TOTAL		4,860.7

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 organization 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 2020 was \$47.04 per hour. Using this hourly rate, the comparative market value of volunteer contributions for 2020 is estimated as **\$518,273**.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; 11% indicated they had, with contributions reported of **\$4,844 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.