

ARNOVA VOLUNTEER SURVEY



NOTE: FINANCIAL FIGURES NOT BASED ON AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ARNOVA SURVEY covering the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

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 2011 survey was conducted by a team consisting of Laurie Mook, Arizona State University, Femida Handy of the University of Pennsylvania, and Thom Jeavons, Executive Director of ARNOVA.

Data were collected during the period July 15 to September 15, 2010, by an electronic survey administered through Survey Monkey to 1,354 ARNOVA members. Twenty-six email addresses were invalid, and one survey was unusable, resulting in a final total of 323, a response rate of 25%.

The key results of the survey for the fiscal period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 were:

- 144 respondents indicated they had volunteered for ARNOVA during the fiscal year. Hours were reported by 141 of them, totaling 5,365. Volunteer hours for NVSQ activities were analyzed separately, resulting in an addition of 3,291 hours, for a grand total of 8,656. This is the equivalent to 4.76 full-time equivalent positions.
- The volunteers in this study contributed \$15,807 in non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses and the equivalent of an estimated \$286,600 in hours volunteered, for a total of \$302,407.¹
- The volunteer contributions represent 66 percent of the total activity hours (paid and unpaid), and 33 percent of all incoming resources.

¹ All monetary figures are reported in USD.

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Respondent Characteristics

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Of the 323 respondents, 142 (44%) indicated they had never volunteered for ARNOVA, 37 (11%) had volunteered for ARNOVA in the past but were not volunteering currently, and 144 (45%) had volunteered in the period covered by the survey (referred to as current volunteers).

The majority of respondents reside in the United States (84%), as do current volunteers (89%). Seventy-nine percent self-identified as White non-hispanic, as did 77% of current volunteers.

Institutionally, 62% of respondents are faculty or staff at an academic institution, while 23% are students; for current volunteers these percentages are 80% and 12% respectively.

By gender, 62% of respondents are female and 38% male; those indicating that they currently volunteer for ARNOVA are 58% female and 42% male.

The average length of membership in ARNOVA for all respondents was 7.6 years. For current volunteers, this was 11.2 years; for non-volunteers, 4.7 years.

Findings: Hours reported on the survey

In total, 5,365 hours were reported by 141 respondents (Table 1) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011,

Table 1: Breakdown of volunteer hours, July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Category	Respondents	Hours	% Hours
Hours: Board of Directors	16	931	17%
Hours: Committees	53	1,068	20%
Hours: Annual conference organizing	17	329	6%
Hours: Annual conference proposal reviewing	27	367	7%
Hours: Other annual conference activities	33	349	7%
Hours: NVSQ related activities	76	1,093	20%
Hours: Other publications-related activities	3	9	0.2%
Hours: Social media	6	187	3%
Hours: Special Interest Groups	27	516	10%
Hours: Fundraising not included elsewhere	2	20	0.4%
Hours: Membership recruitment	5	31	1%
Hours: Other	14	465	9%
TOTAL		5,365	100%

In addition, hours are contributed to the association journal, Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (NVSQ). For this time period, NVSQ processed 276 submissions. 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. To estimate the number hours contributed to NVSQ, we estimated 15 hours for each paper, for a total of 4,140 hours. As 72 respondents to the survey already indicated contributions of 849 hours related to reviewing manuscripts for NVSQ, we added an additional 3,291 hours to the hours from the survey. The grand total of hours therefore was 5,365 plus 3,291, or **8,656**. At this time, it is not possible to know how many of the reviews were done by ARNOVA members, and how many from reviewers outside ARNOVA.

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). This category comprises organizations primarily engaged in advancing the professional interests of their members and the profession as a whole. The hourly rate for those involved in this category for the period July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011 was \$33.11 per hour (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010). Using this hourly rate,

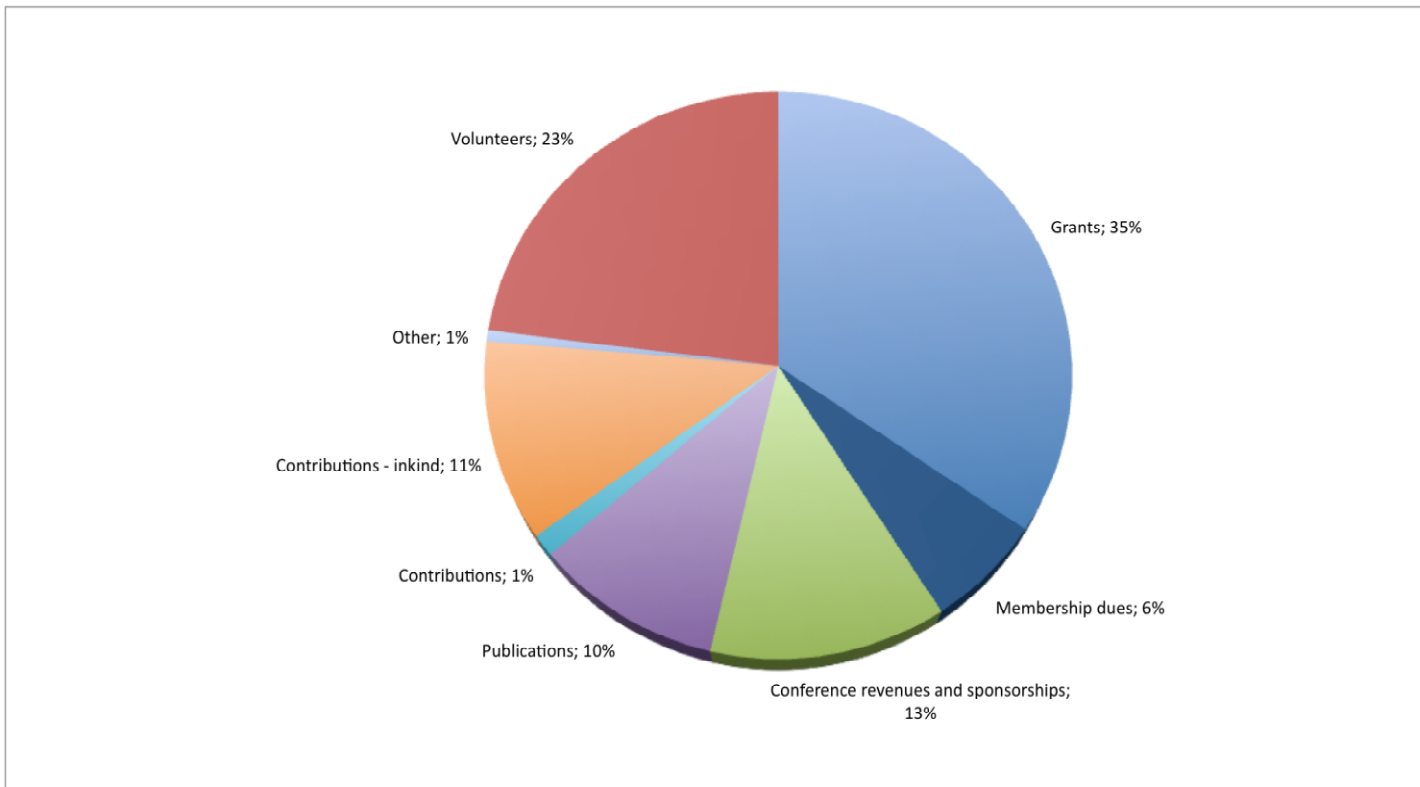
the comparative market value of volunteer contributions for the year would be estimated as **\$286,600**.²

Findings: Out-of-pocket expenses

Many volunteers pay for expenses out of their own pocket without requesting reimbursement. This can be a significant contribution to the organization. ARNOVA volunteers were asked on the survey if they contributed out-of-pocket expenses and 38% indicated they had, in the total amount of **\$15,807**.

When considering the financial and in-kind resources of the organization, volunteer hours and out-of-pocket expenses together ($\$286,600 + \$15,807 = \$302,407$) account for 23 percent of the total* (Figure 1). This figure shows that volunteer contributions, both monetary and non-monetary, provide the organization with significant resources that should be counted in its overall performance. [***based on unaudited financial statements**]

Figure 1: ARNOVA Resources: July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011



Another way of looking at the significance of volunteer contributions is to examine the proportion that volunteers contribute to the overall human resources

² All monetary figures are reported in USD.

of the organization. ARNOVA has a paid staff FTE of 2.5, including the executive director, associate director, and technology coordinator. Based on the estimate of 8,656 volunteer hours and a workweek of 35 hours (1,820 per year), ARNOVA volunteers and NVSQ reviewers contributed 4.76 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to ARNOVA for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. This means that ARNOVA has the equivalent of a total workforce FTE of about 7.25, not just the paid staff FTE of 2.5. Volunteer activities account for 66 percent of the ARNOVA's human resources (Figure 2).

Figure 2. ARNOVA Paid and Volunteer FTEs

