

April 2001

## Inside

Membership Meeting Agenda	2
From the President	2
Spotlight on Members	3
Minutes of Last Meeting	4
Volunteering	6
Volunteer NH! Update	7
Annual Meeting Topics for Discussion	8
Directions to April 26 Membership Meeting	9

## 50 Countries Endorse Draft United Nations Resolution on Volunteering

*Submitted by Bill Brown*

NEW YORK/BONN, 27 February 2001—The UN Commission for Social Development has approved a draft resolution on volunteering and social development which calls on governments to recognize and further study the impact of voluntary effort in society.

Representatives of fifty UN Member States endorsed the draft, in which the Commission last Friday encouraged States to support voluntary action, by increasing public awareness of its vital contribution to their communities and by taking general measures concerning training and promotion of volunteers.

“This is a landmark decision,” said Sharon Capeling-Alakija, Executive Coordinator of the Bonn-based United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV). “It is the first time in 56 years that the United Nations has had a substantive discussion on volunteerism. Member States really got down to business and laid out a framework for the future in terms of what governments and the United Nations can do to recognize, facilitate and promote volunteerism.”

Ms. Capeling-Alakija added that the draft resolution “opened doors” for volunteers around the world to contribute their ideas to their representatives who will attend the UN General Assembly plenary sessions on volunteerism on 5 December—International Volunteer Day.

By other terms of the draft, which was introduced on 22 February by the representative of Japan, States would be encouraged to establish fiscal and legislative frameworks supportive of volunteering, to undertake research into the various aspects of volunteerism and its impact on society, and to ensure citizens have access to information on opportunities for volunteering.

Governments would also be called on to take into consideration the possible impact of general socio-economic policies upon citizens’ opportunities, ability and willingness to volunteer. The Commission draft would further encourage governments to take volunteerism into consideration in their national planning, and to recognize the contribution of volunteerism to the achievement of social development goals.

The draft emphasized, however, that support for voluntary actions did not imply support for government downsizing or for replacing paid employment.

The draft will now be presented to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its consideration. ECOSOC is then expected to recommend the resolution’s adoption by the UN General Assembly.

The Commission took this action as it met to continue its review of follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen 1995).

*See UN on page 4.*



## Membership Meeting: Legislative Day April 26, 2001

Submitted by the Legislative Committee

Learn how you, an individual, can influence legislation in New Hampshire. Learn the process and observe it in action. Your only cost for the day will be lunch on your own.

We are pleased to sponsor this program. This is the plan for the Day:

Location: Holiday Inn, Concord

8:30 - 9:15 Buffet Breakfast

9:30- 10:00 Speaker: How to influence the Making and changing of NH Laws

10:00 What to expect at a committee meeting/hearing.

Location: Legislative Office Building (a few blocks from the Holiday Inn)

10:15 Choose one or more committee meetings/hearings to attend. You will be given a list.

*Lunch on your own (There is a selection of restaurants nearby or brown bag it.)*

Location: State House

TBA = Tour of the State House especially for NHAVA.

**Afternoon** - You are encouraged to go to the State Library (across the street from the State House) to look at the extensive collection of books and tapes related to volunteerism. These books are available through your local library's intrastate loan system. *OR*, You may attend more committee meetings/hearings.

## From the President

by Alexis Walker

The year 2001 is going to be a great year for NHAVA. The key indicator for this is our membership level of involvement. At the Annual meeting we had a lot of member input. This is what I hope to see more of. This is a membership organization. This organization is yours. You are the one that can make it move, make it do things for you. So keep getting involved. If you haven't signed onto a committee yet, you are missing out. Besides the wonderful ideas and projects that are generated by a committee there is also invaluable networking. Don't be left out in the cold.

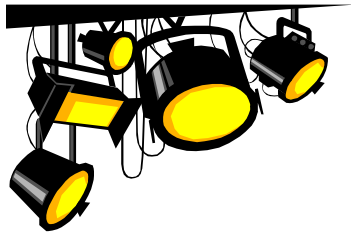
Your Board has already jumped into the NHAVA waters with both feet. At the Board retreat in February new ideas and services were brainstormed. Such items as a list serve for members, regional trainings, and member bio's were just of few of these great ideas. Plus current services were reaffirmed such as the newsletter, membership activities, and the website. Your Board members have all committed to various committees and are looking forward to your input.

Membership lists come out at the April meeting, so don't miss this wonderful program on how New Hampshire's legislature works. To experience everything offered that day you will need the whole day. But you deserve it. If you don't value your work and profession enough to give yourself a day to improve your professional knowledge, than how can you ever expect your organization to value your work and profession. Don't sell volunteerism short. Make the time to come to the April meeting.

Thank you for your support as I have taken over as President. I look forward to hearing from you throughout the year. Look out New Hampshire, NHAVA is growing!

We hope to see you all taking advantage of this interesting Legislative Day event.

- Legislative Committee



# Spotlight on Members

## David A. Coombs

coombsd@redcross-concordnh.org

### PERSONAL:

I live at 67 Church St, Hillsboro. I am married with two grown children and two perfect granddaughters. For pets, I have three cars and one cat. I play tennis, volleyball and raquetball when I can get my tired body off the couch and onto the court. I like to run to keep weight off and lift weights to put weight on.

### CAREER:

I worked for the NH National Guard for 25 years, until retirement in 1998. One of my last assignments in the National Guard was the Family Program (Volunteer) Coordinator. In that capacity, I

volunteered for the State Volunteer Conference Planning Committee and served as Executive Director for the NH Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). I was the State Conference Chair in 1997. And I got hooked on volunteerism.

After retiring, I took a position with the Greater Manchester Chapter of the American Red Cross as Director of Emergency Services. I held that position for 16 months and left to become the Director of Volunteers in the Concord Area Chapter. We started a volunteer transportation program in August 2000 to provide free rides to area residents going to medical appointments. I am currently enrolled in the Leadership-Greater Concord class of 2001.

### OTHER:

Other non-profit work: Advisory Board, Mr Fix-it Program; Board of Trustees, Center for American Studies; Legislative Liaison, NHAVA; Citizen's Advisory Board, NH Dept of Corrections.



NHAVA President, Alexis Walker, presents the 2001 *Judith Lonergan Award* to David Coombs, with Lynn DeVivo, the 2000 recipient of the same award, looking on. .

“I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again...”

—  
Mahatma Gandhi

# **Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting of NHAVA January 17, 2001**

Meeting Chaired by Alexis Walker, acting President and called to order at 9:30 AM

First order of business, **Election of Officers.**

Nominating committee presented the slate of officers as follows:

President - Alexis Walker

Vice-President - Deborah Emery Gigliotti

Treasurer - Deborah Cheever

Secretary - Lois Meredith

With no additional nominations, a vote was called and the slate was elected as presented.

Nominating committee then presented a ballot of eleven nominations for ten positions on the Board of Directors. A paper ballot was issued, members were instructed to vote for ten directors. After ballots were tallied, the elected persons were as follows:

Don Chesnel

Jean Desany

Bill Brown

Sue Raptor

Cova Greig

Sherry Wheeler

Paula Ferguson

Nancy Evans

Lynn DeVivo

Don Hayes

## **By-Laws**

With the election of officers, the next order of business was the proposed changes to the by-laws. Proposed by-laws were passed after much discussion and some amendments.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read with minimal discussion and/or questions. Vote as a majority of a show of hands.

## **Proposed Budget**

With explanation from Deborah Cheever and Alexis Walker as to how the budget was compiled, there was discussion from the floor and the chair in regard to some line items. In particular discussion centered on the cost of the newsletter and its printing and distribution. A suggestion from the chair was that the cost was computed with the newsletter being sent by e-mail to as many NHAVA members as possible. Many members expressed agreement with this proposal, while others expressed problems that they have in receiving attachments and some of the problems with free servers such as Juno. Technical issues regarding this were discussed and after some additional discussion in regard to allocations, the proposed budget was seconded and passed on a show of hands.

*Continued on page 5.*

*Continued from page 4.*

### **Volunteer Administrator Professional Competencies**

Deborah Cheever and Judith Longeran presented a chart of professional competencies that had been drawn up to assist NHAVA members in doing their jobs, completing their duties and presenting themselves in a competent and professional manner. Competencies are useful in writing job descriptions, reviews and resumes. See the reverse of the document for information on how to use the competencies. This was an informational hand out and discussion centered on the worth of this document (positive) and additional copies may be obtained from Deb Cheever or Lynn DeVivo.

### **NHAVA Committees**

Alexis Walker spoke of the various committees and that members were urgently needed to fill positions on these committees. Sign up sheets were posted in the room for people to sign up on and these people would be contacted later about meetings of these committees and the other members. Discussion from the chair and from the floor about the nature of some of the committees.

### **New Issues:**

On the agenda: see attached Alexis Walker presented a list of issues that the Board felt should be discussed this year both by the membership and the Board. Alexis touched briefly on each of these and told the membership that these were items she would like them to consider, but they were not topics to come before this meeting.

### **New Business**

Carolyn Gargas has been elected to the NH House of Representatives. She will continue to work to forward the agenda of volunteerism in the state and to keep all informed.

Several volunteer administrators positions were announced. Anyone with knowledge of vacant volunteer administrator positions should send them to Alexis Walker (Alexis@volunteernh.org) so that they can be broadcast to as many people as possible. Information should also be sent to the newsletter committee chair, Paula Ferguson (paulafergusonarc@hotmail.com).

### **Adjourn**

Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn the business meeting at 10:15 AM

“Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love...”  
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“One is not born into the world to do everything but to do something...”  
— Henry David Thoreau, poet, writer, philosopher

## Volunteering

Submitted by Carol Heath from  
www.independentsector.org

### Volunteering is Up

The number of individuals who volunteered reached its highest recorded level in the INDEPENDENT SECTOR series of surveys, almost 56% - a 13.7% increase in the rate of volunteering. The percentage of the adult population volunteering increased by almost 6 percentage points - a significant increase since 1995 when 49% reported volunteering. The average hours volunteered per week were 3.5, a decline from 4.2 hours in 1995. In 1998 an estimated 109.4 million adults volunteered, representing an 18% increase over the 93 million adults who volunteered in 1995. Based on the latest data available on the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the *Economic Report of the President*, the assigned hourly wage for volunteers is **\$14.83**.

Volunteers gave an estimated total of 19.9 billion hours in both formal and informal<sup>2</sup> volunteering in 1998, about 2% lower than the total of 20.3 billion hours in 1995. Americans who volunteered formally in 1998 gave 15.8 billion hours, representing a small increase over the 15.7 billion hours they gave in 1995. These hours represented the equivalent of 9.3 million full-time employees, compared with 9.2 million equivalent full-time employees in 1995. The value of volunteer time was estimated at \$225.9 billion, compared with \$201.6 billion in 1995. Since 1987, the total value of volunteer time increased by 28% over and above the rate of inflation - over 30% since 1991. Americans who volunteered informally gave 4.1 billion hours in 1998, an 11% decrease from the 4.6 billion hours given in 1995.

Both the number and percentage of the adult population that reported volunteering increased significantly from 1995 to 1998 and was 10 percentage points higher than in 1987, although the total weekly hours per volunteer and the estimated total annual hours volunteered declined. The average number of hours volunteered may have declined due to the broader participation of individuals who did not regularly volunteer.

### Type of Volunteer Work Performed Most Frequently, 1998

- Direct service activity like serving food, undertaking repairs or shopping on behalf of others (24%)
- Fundraising (16%)
- Informal volunteering (15%)
- Religion (14%)
- Giving advice or counseling (11%)
- youth (11%)
- organizing an event (10%)
- visiting people or offering companionship (9%)

### Frequency of Volunteering

For 41% of volunteers, serving is a sporadic, one-time activity. An almost equal number (39%) of volunteers preferred to volunteer at a scheduled time, either weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Only a small number (9%) reported volunteering only at special times of the year such as Christmas or Hanukkah.

### Why People Volunteer

Volunteers were asked a series of questions about the reasons they volunteered. The findings confirm what is already well known: volunteering provides a variety of personal benefits and satisfaction, in addition to the benefits received by nonprofit organizations and society as a whole.

### The Most Important Reasons Cited for Volunteering

- Feeling compassion for those in need (86%)
- Having an interest in the activity or work (72%)
- Gaining a new perspective on things (70%)
- The importance of the activity to people the volunteer respects (63%)

UN continued from page 1

The countries that agreed to sign the resolution are: Andorra, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, USA, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

Read detailed information about volunteerism and social development as part of the Commission for Social Development debate: (<http://www.unv.org/activs/vol/csd39vlntr-6eO.PDF-PDF> file).

Read a background document about government dialogue on volunteer policies during the International Year of Volunteers 2001 (IYV 2001): (<http://www.unv.org/activs/vol/csd0201.html>)

UNV is the volunteer arm of the UN system. It extends hands-on assistance for peace and development in nearly 150 countries. Created by the UN General Assembly in 1970 and administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNV works through UNDP country offices to send volunteers and promote the ideals of volunteerism around the world. UN Volunteers have extensive experience in over 100 professional fields. UNV is the UN-designated focal point for the International Year of Volunteers 2001.

For further information, please contact:

Yuko Osawa, UNV Representation Office in North America, Tel: (212) 906 3634;

Email: [yuko.osawa@undp.org](mailto:yuko.osawa@undp.org) or

Richard Nyberg, UNV Bonn, Tel: (49 228) 815 2223; Email:

[Richard.Nyberg@unv.org](mailto:Richard.Nyberg@unv.org)

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## Volunteer NH! Update

*By Alexis Walker*

Volunteer NH! continues to move ahead in preparation for its public announcement which is scheduled for sometime this spring. Legislation to hand over the responsibilities of the former State Office of Volunteerism is underway and is expected to pass the House of Representatives at this writing. Then it will go to the Senate and a committee there. NHAVA's own Carolyn Gargasz was at the testimony hearing to give it her support and suggestions.

Also, at this writing, the new Board of Volunteer NH! was about to embark on a two day planning retreat which would determine the priorities of the new organization's programming, marketing, and fund development objectives. It was also determining Volunteer NH!'s new logo! In addition, interviews for a new part-time fundraiser were in progress. For those who know the history behind the creation of Volunteer NH! you understand the need for this particular position.

While publicly not announced yet, Volunteer NH! is helping those who have found out that we exist with such items as risk & liability pamphlets, information on volunteering, and, of course, NHAVA membership. The Governor's Conference Planning Committee is right on schedule and they have gathered a great list of presenters. For those who were at NHAVA's 2000 Annual Meeting, you will recognize the keynote speaker, Pat Rowell.

Volunteer NH! is moving full steam ahead and if anyone wants to hop on the train and shovel some coal into that engine we would be happy to welcome you aboard. If you are interested in having some input into Volunteer NH!'s progress, please call Bev Nelson at 271-7200 and she will be happy to help you join the team.

## Mark Your Calendar



### Next Membership Meetings

Thursday  
April 26, 2001

July 25, 2001

Oct. 25, 2001

## Annual Meeting Topics for Discussion

**Should the NHAVA membership list be given out to those beyond NHAVA?** Why? Perhaps - depends on who the other organization is. I don't know if it would make sense to vote on releasing it on a case by case basis since there would likely be a time delay between the request and the vote. Would we then give people the option to opt out of having their name released? If so, that would require additional database management.

**What should we have for a guest policy?** I think that a guest should be able to attend their first meeting at no charge (unless there is a lunch cost, etc.) If we want to increase membership, we should make it easy for people to come and "check us out".

**Should we affiliate with the national AVA?** I currently am not a member of AVA but it sounds like it could have benefits for the group. Would there be any requirements we would have to meet?

**Should we increase our dues?** If there is a need that is fine. Otherwise, I like the structure of paying the annual dues and then paying the additional fee for any special expense.

**Should we have our own phone line?** I don't have any strong feeling one way or the other.

**What should be the criteria for giving NHAVA members scholarships to the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism?** Based on need both financially and professional. I would want to make sure that it would go to someone who would benefit by attending. (Ex: someone new to the field or taking on a new position, etc.)

*Submitted by Cyndi Paulin*



### Door Prizes Requested

*Submitted by Nancy Evans*

Do you have any small items from your agency or organization that you would be willing to donate for door prizes to be given out at our membership meetings? We try to have door prizes at each meeting and we rely on donations to make this possible. If you have any items that you could donate please bring them to the April meeting or contact Nancy Evans at 225-5505. Thanks.

**The Nonprofit Risk Management Center,** known for their leadership, has many resources that benefit volunteer programs.

Check out this website  
[www.nonprofitrisk.org](http://www.nonprofitrisk.org)

*Submitted by  
Judith Lonergan*

**DIRECTIONS TO NHAVA MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2001**

AT THE HOLIDAY INN

CONCORD, NH

**I 93 NORTH & SOUTH at Exit 14:**

I-93 to exit 14; turn west to downtown Concord; at the lights at N Main St turn right; the Holiday Inn is on the right.

**From the Seacoast:**

From Route 393, to lights at end. Turn left onto North Main Street. Pass through 2 lights, turn left onto Storrs Street - Holiday Inn is on corner of Main and Storrs. Extra parking is on Storrs Street, behind the Holiday Inn.

**From the West:**

Take Highway 89 to I93 NORTH, follow above directions from Exit 14.

**NHAVA Meeting  
April 26, 2001  
Legislative Day  
SIGN UP NOW!**

Please send this information by mail, fax, or email to:

Sue Rapter, Volunteer Coord.

NH Hospital

36 Clinton Street

concord, NH 03301

FAX: (603)271-5962

Email: srapter@dhhs.state.nh.us

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-REGISTRATION  
IS REQUIRED.**

*Please note the deadline for submission to the July 2001 NHAVA News is **June 5, 2000**. Send all correspondence to Paula Ferguson (paulafergusonarc@hotmail.com) of "snail mail" it to the address to the right.*

*NHAVA News is published quarterly by the NHAVA Communications Committee.*

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*Distributed by: Jean Desany*

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Membership Meeting:  
Legislative Day  
April 26, 2001

**PRE-REGISTRATION  
REQUIRED.**

*HAPPY*  
**SPRING**