



International
Association for
Volunteer
Effort

E-IAVE

January 2017

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“You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train”¹

By **Kylee Bates**, IAVE World President

There is no doubt that this will be a year of change and transition around the world. Daily doses of the news media are full of dire stories of the state of the world and many of its political and business leaders and the growing disconnect between them and the citizens and consumers they serve. Gloomy stories of power not used well or wisely or views that foster hate and intolerance that could, and have, cause many to retreat into a perpetual state of pessimism in which they simply wonder ‘why bother?’

Recently though I read an article that referred to the historian and activist Howard Zinn who said once “Pessimism becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy: it reproduces by crippling our willingness to act” which reminded me that ‘the bad guys only win if we let them’.

2017 will be a year of transition for IAVE as well but one in which we look forward with energy anew to work with some of our strategic partners, UNV, Impact2030, Forum and the Volunteer Groups Alliance to help IAVE members highlight the importance of the global volunteering movement and the significant role that volunteers can have not just in countering pessimism, but in creating optimism.

We have a number of exciting opportunities to convene leaders in volunteering from around the world at one of IAVE's regional conferences this year: the European Conference on Corporate Volunteering

(Madrid, Spain in May), the Latin America Regional Conference (Antigua, Guatemala in October) and the Asia Pacific Regional Conference (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November) and we will continue to use these opportunities to raise the voices of, and for, volunteers.

I am pleased that we have been able to retain the services of a number of our existing IAVE consultants who will continue to work as part of the IAVE Secretariat to help deliver on our key commitments and priorities 2017 as we recruit for, and transition to, a new Executive Director.

I am delighted also by the election or re-election of Jeff Hoffman (North America), Mark Molloy (Europe), Agnetta Nyalita (Africa), Yoonae Park (Asia-Pacific) and Iraida Manzanilla (Latin America). They each bring diverse experience and complementary skills that will add significant value to the IAVE Board over the next three years.

The following Board members have also been elected or appointed to the Executive Committee: Iraida Manzanilla (Vice President), Jeff Hoffman (Treasurer), Sam Johnson (Secretary) and Mark Molloy (Chair of the Nominating Committee).

I congratulate each of them and look forward to how, together with existing board members of Osama Mustafa Suliman (Arab Nations), Ed Martinez and Lula Ballarino (both Corporate Representatives), they can help IAVE reach new heights AND levels of optimism in 2017!

¹Title of Howard Zinn's autobiography

Who to contact at the IAVE Secretariat

Dr. Kenn Allen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Leadership Structures Research Project IMPACT2030 liaison Governance support for the Board Financial and Administrative matters
Jessica Han	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership Inquiries Communications – website / E-IAVE Volunteer2030.org
Lorrie Foster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Strategy Global Corporate Volunteering Council Disaster Research Working Group European Conference on Corporate Volunteering 2017
Ramona Dragomir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Leadership Structures Research Project Network support for national representatives Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2017 World Volunteer Conference 2018
Raaida Mannaa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latin America Regional Conference 2017
Monica Beatriz Galiano (until end of Feb.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinars Corporate strategy (Latin America) – <i>note: Monica will continue working with CLAVE beyond February</i>

And for all other matters, including Volunteer Groups Alliance, UNV liaison and any board matters not specific to the responsibilities of a regional representative or another board member, please contact Kylee Bates, World President at kyleebates.iave@gmail.com.

Celebrating 25 Years of Volunteering in Russia

By Kenn Allen, Senior Consultant, IAVE

I arrived in Moscow, Russia for the first time in early December 1991 to speak at a conference focused on the transition of Russia to a market economy. It was a moment in time from which many mark the emergence of volunteering in the “New Russia.”

Last month, December, I returned almost exactly 25 years later to help celebrate the growth and increasing sophistication of volunteering throughout the country.

Although I have visited numerous times over these past years, this trip was the most special one. While the concept of a “25th anniversary of volunteering” was largely symbolic, it was an opportunity to remember, reflect and toast all that Russian volunteers

have accomplished and how the dedicated, sustained work of a few has made significant progress in building a leadership infrastructure for volunteering. It also was a time for looking ahead to what it can become and the challenges it will face.

Here are highlights of the visit.

Day One, Thursday, December 8. The annual conference of the National Council on Corporate Volunteering, a program of the Managers Association. Almost 200 people from both Russian and international companies and civil society. Five local corporate volunteer councils present to report on their work. Great appreciation for Vadim Kovalev, Executive Secretary of the council, and his colleagues, Julia Korsikova and Eugenia Viacheslavova, for their commitment, their skill in hosting a sophisticated event with a high level of discussion, and their warm hospitality.

Day Two, Friday, December 9. The 25th Anniversary Forum, hosted by the Higher School of Economics. Fifty key leaders from civil society, academia, business and government. Reflections on the last 25 years of development, the current status of volunteering, and prospects for volunteering in the future. Inspiration and challenge from Amanda Mukwashi from United Nations Volunteers. A huge thank you to Irina Mersiyanova, Viacheslav Ivanov (IAVE's National Representative in Russia) and their colleagues at the Higher School of Economics for hosting us.

Day Three, Saturday, December 10. Recognition of the work of youth volunteers from throughout Moscow, sponsored by Mosvolunter, the city government's volunteer center and recognized local leadership organization for volunteering. Awards to youth volunteers in social welfare, health care, emergency response, education, arts and culture, sports and more. Recognition of the organizations where the volunteers work and of the leaders and volunteer managers in those organizations. It was a fantastic program under the leadership of Mosvolunter's terrific



executive director, Irina Shvets.

Throughout the three days, the warmth of friendship and shared commitment. Appreciation for the pioneers – Galina Bodrenkova who has been at the heart of what has happened over the years, from her creation of Moscow Charity House to establishment of the National Volunteer Center; Vladimir Alfredovich Lukyanov, president of Charity Society Nevsky Angel in St Petersburg; Elena Zakharova, executive director of the “Creation” Foundation; Nikolay Slabzhanin, national director of SOS Children's Villages – all symbols for the leaders throughout the country who have struggled to build volunteering into a recognized, viable force in Russia.

These people are true heroes. They have led the emergence of volunteering in a country where, 25 years ago, precious few would have believed it could happen. They have served for 25 years as a continuing source of inspiration and energy for me. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my career to have had the opportunity to work with, learn from and be challenged by them.

Employees Send Hope in Times of Disaster and Tragedy

By Jeff Hoffman, IAVE Regional Representative, North America



When disaster strikes—particularly close to home—often the first people we hear from are our employees wanting to know what they can do to help as they seek the shared experience of grieving. Often, it is a challenge to provide the right tools and resources in the workplace. “[Stars of HOPE](#)” is one solution. The program provides an outlet for people—including employees—to provide support through the painting of inspirational words, messages, and designs on one-foot wooden stars for the victims. This helps to heal the deep emotional wounds of survivors while strengthening communities around the world recovering from tragedy through art, compassion, and connectivity.

Stars of HOPE was started by [New York Says Thank You](#), an organization that was founded in response to 9/11 that uses the pay-it-forward concept to send volunteers from the city across the country to help those in need after a disaster, as a thank you for what those across the country did for New York. Thirteen years ago, executive director Jeff Parness founded New York Says Thank You at the urging of his five-year-old son. I recently had an opportunity to sit down with Jeff. He talked about how the group’s work, and that of hope, accelerates the healing process for disaster survivors.

New research from New York Says Thank You shows that giving a star in the “numbness phase” of an adapted Kubler Ross Change Curve, which tracks the stages of grief, takes people to the “New Relationships Phase” and then to the “Helping Others Phase,” bypassing many other stages. Also, Scott Allison, Professor of Psychology at the University of Richmond, said: “The Stars of HOPE program utilizes the latest scientific findings in positive psychology and heroism science to bring healing, growth, and resiliency to a world thirsty for loving kindness.” We have long

known anecdotally that a hug, offering a hand, and other forms of comfort and support are helpful during troubling times, but it is nice to be able to substantiate this.

Stars in the face of terrorism

Although most stars are given to victims of natural disasters, recent terrorist attacks and other human-caused tragedies have resulted in an outpouring of support. A year ago this month, the deadliest home-grown terror attack to hit the U.S. since 9/11 happened in San Bernardino, California. Six months ago there was the senseless killing of 49 people at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida. We have seen senseless acts of violence all over the world.

Employees at the Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando responded to their community with more than 1,000 employees painting stars after the Pulse Nightclub shooting. Then, they chartered a bus and went through the community, hanging the stars and giving them to people who were directly impacted, including families and friends of victims, and survivors.

We often forget the impact disasters have on the lives of first responders and care givers. Through Stars of HOPE, Loews employees also gave stars to trauma surgeons and nurses, 911 call operators, firefighters and police officers, and the staff at the Orlando LGBT Center. Explaining the importance of this effort, Loews’ PR director said these powerful words: “Goodness will always triumph over evil and we will forever be #OrlandoStrong.”

People who have received stars are paying it forward by sending them to others in the spirit of solidarity. In this [clip](#), a victim from San Bernardino paints a star for Orlando.

Providing an outlet for employees and families

Employees of companies around the world and their families have sent a Star of HOPE to support others. Examples include:

- Children at KPMG's "Take your Children to Work Day" painted stars for Syrian and Iraqi children. The stars were then distributed to refugee camps by volunteers from global law firm Dentons and the Saudi Red Crescent, a humanitarian society.
- Following the Brussels terror attack, JetBlue employees painted stars during Respectful Workplace Week to lift the spirits of the people of Belgium.

In addition, some companies are now buying Boxes of Hope kits that include 15 Stars, paint, and paint brushes to keep on hand for when needed. Parness told me: "The Stars of HOPE Box of HOPE program offers corporate volunteers a unique in-office, hands-on disaster relief volunteer opportunity that can make a direct impact on the emotional recovery and resiliency of disaster survivors in both the immediate and long-term aftermath of both natural and man-made disasters." To date, more than 50,000 volunteers from 112 communities in 20 countries have participated in the program.

Stars are an important symbol. During this holiday season, we often see a star at the top of a festively decorated tree. Hope gives people the drive to move forward. The stars can be one way to facilitate employees' compassion and channel it directly to those who need hope.

International Volunteer Day 2016 in Hong Kong

By Flora Chung, CEO, AVS, IAVE
National Representative, Hong
Kong

The International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2016 was a special time for celebrations, recognitions and actions with volunteers!

Themed "125 IVD Go Volunteering", a volunteer action campaign was organized by Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS) to spread the spirit of volunteerism and inspire more people to volunteer from 5 to 18 December 2016 to echo the Day. "101 Ways of Volunteering" was cited to stimulate more volunteer actions. To keep the momentum rolling, volunteers were invited to share their volunteering stories on the social media and AVS [125 IVD Facebook fan page](#).

The momentous "Share-to-Care" Service Day held on 11 December gathered 1,000 volunteers from all walks of life to express care to the disadvantaged families and elderly in need. 2,000 caring gift packs with hand-knitted scarves by volunteers were presented to the elderly to give them warmth in the cold Winter. Mr. Matthew Cheung, Secretary for Labor and Welfare Bureau graced the occasion to show strong support to volunteering.

The grand Volunteer Recognition Ceremony was officiated by Mr. Lau Kong Wah, Secretary for Home Affairs and Ms. Alexandra Solovieva, Chief, Program Coordination Section of United Nations Volunteers, who presented awards to the outstanding volunteers. 3 AVS distinguished Volunteers received the Outstanding Contribution Award. 4 professionals including 2 engineers, a lawyer and a nurse, were given The 3rd Leadership Bauhinia Volunteer Award in recognition of their using professional skills and knowledge to render distinguished volunteer service. The first batch of volunteers of the UNV-Hong



Kong Universities Volunteer Program who have completed their overseas assignment and a group of selected youth volunteer leaders from secondary schools were recognized too. Some 400 volunteers and guests participated to celebrate the volunteer achievements, sharing the joy and vigor of volunteering.

About 40 sponsored newspaper advertisements and supplements, video and web promotion on Mass Transit Railway and buses covered IVD and paid tribute to volunteers. More information on the IVD celebrations in Hong Kong is [available here](#).



Volunteering in Guatemala

By Mario Gonzalez, Vice President, Centro de Voluntariado Guatemalteco, Host of the 2017 IAVE Latin America Regional Volunteer Conference

How many times have we heard of the need for social awakening in our countries? How many times have we heard something inspirational that, for a moment, makes us act? In most cases however, it is just a passing emotion, without meaning, that doesn't generate a real life change.

Let's begin by defining volunteering. What characteristics does it have? What responsibilities does it develop? Once we discover these answers, we will realize that a volunteer is someone who can potentiate the capacities of their community, motivates and encourages those around them. Overall, volunteers are an example to others because of their own actions -- one who takes off the spectator shirt and starts working.

As human beings we are social creatures. Human nature requires us to live surrounded by others -- neighbors, friends, family. This also implies adapting to a lifestyle, continuously learning how to live together and develop social attitudes that benefit the community. Sooner or later, a person will need others who can help achieve their goals -- to reach their dreams and to find fulfillment.

In past political and social events in Guatemala, we have noticed the lack of participation and integration of young people. Opening spaces that tap into our human side and, without a doubt, volunteer work will provide the growth of our youth's involvement.

Why it is important to be a volunteer? We volunteer for the simple reason of getting involved in our communities. We need to understand that blaming others for our problems and our lifestyle will never get us ahead. It is easy to blame someone else and just stand on the sidelines and look for faults of others instead of trying to find a solution (even little solutions like cleaning the sidewalk and not throwing garbage on the ground). We will find great solutions to our most pressing issues once we stop pointing fingers.

When we understand that we are all important in a community, that we are all volunteers of our own lives, we will be able to raise our country and move ahead together. We might not be an economic superpower in the world and we might not be a big country geographically. But without a doubt the struggle, the effort and courage of our people make us a superpower in heart. Fighters break schemes and social limits, and it challenges us to work for our neighbors and do all that makes us volunteers.

As I mentioned in the beginning, I wanted to reinforce the idea that when we impact someone's life with our example, we are living volunteering to its maximum potential. Let's be leaders of our lives and let's demonstrate our capacity to dream and work together.

Join us this year in IAVE's 7th Regional Volunteer Conference in Latin America this October. [Visit the conference website](#) and let's build together a better region.

The International License for Volunteer Work Program Launched in Riyadh

By Eng. Othman Hashim, IAVE National Representative, Saudi Arabia



The 'Shabab khir omh' Organization for Volunteer Work (a member of IAVE) organized the first phase of The International License for Volunteer Work Program for the first time in Riyadh. The program, which is open to both sexes, took place in Riyadh during the period from December 18-22, 2016, under the supervision of Voluntary Work Association and the Arab Union for Volunteering.

The program included 47 men and 44 women, all of who are leaders in volunteering. Eng. Othman Hashim, IAVE National Representative of Saudi Arabia, supervised and executed this first phase of the program in Riyadh. At the end of the program, trainees were honored with certificates of attendance for the session.

The International License Program is an integrated system of empowerment, motivation, and sustainability mechanisms. The License included a series of interactive and field training sessions with specifications and unified standards. It aimed to develop life and technical skills for volunteers to qualify them to best execute volunteering activities.

UNV Partnership Forum Report and Other Resources

[This summary was extracted from UNV's [website](#).]

The UNV Partnerships Forum 2016 was held in Bonn, Germany, on 13-14 October 2016. Organized by UNV in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the City of Bonn, this was the second edition of this event. Kylee Bates, IAVE's World President, was invited to represent IAVE at this event.

Under the theme Revitalizing Partnerships: Volunteerism for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Forum aimed to showcase the added value of UNV and volunteerism for peace and development and their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, building on UNV's previous and current work.

The Forum also provided an opportunity to present UNV's programmatic engagement and related partnership opportunities, such as those coming from the UNV Global Program as well as the UN volunteer mobilization with its Full Funding and other funding modalities.

The two-day Forum consisted of plenary sessions as well as theme-focused roundtables, all under the umbrella of Volunteerism for the



Sustainable Development Goals: Partnering with the Private Sector for the SDGs, the UNV Full Funding Program, South-South Cooperation, Data and Measurement of the SDGs, Innovation for the SDGs and the Impact of Volunteers' Contributions for the SDGs.

Beyond the panel discussions, a number of UN Volunteers took the stage to recount their experiences in the field in the so-called “Blue Room talks” –a concept of UNV to highlight stories of volunteers in a TED-type talk. [Click here](#) to read the full report on the event.

Other resources:

[Forum Agenda](#)

[Video of the sessions](#)

[UNV Blue Room Talks Recordings](#)



Apply for the PhD Studentship at Northumbria University: Local Volunteers in Humanitarian Responses to Forced Displacement

Application for a fully funded PhD Studentship is now open. This project will work in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to explore the roles of local volunteers as humanitarian and development actors. Whilst much research on volunteering and development has focused on international volunteers, this project will focus on the activities of national and local volunteers and their contribution to the local ownership of development activity in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. The research will explore the ways volunteers are mobilized and engaged in development activity in the global South, and particularly explore volunteers’ simultaneous roles as beneficiaries and humanitarian actors. The project will be located within a broader program of work and collaborations on volunteering and development, and will be co-designed with the IFRC and other partners to inform policy and practice as well as scholarly debate.

Deadline to apply is January 20, 2017. Please apply [here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, contact Professor Matt Baillie Smith at matt.baillie-smith@northumbria.ac.uk.

Share Your Story on Volunteer2030.org!



The objective of this campaign is to highlight the value and importance of volunteers and their work toward successfully accomplishing the SDGs. Some of our key messages include:

- Volunteers make a positive contribution to sustainable development – they are needed to **implement** any framework
- Volunteers are key to increasing **civic participation** that holds leaders to account for their promises – empowering people
- Volunteers come in all different forms– international, national, community, youth, older people, diaspora, South-South etc. and all have a unique value and contribution.
- Volunteers will play a vital role in the accomplishment of each of the SDGs

The website will highlight examples of how volunteering has contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The front page of the site will feature a different story each week, which will link to one or more of the 17 goals. The space will accommodate pictures, text, video and other multimedia sources. Contributing organizations are encouraged to share stories in engaging ways that focus on quality and diversity.

There are no strict limitations to what you can share on volunteer2030.org. Feel free to mix media to tell your story! Combine text, video and pictures to best encapsulate your message. The only thing we ask is that the stories highlight the work that volunteers do to help achieve at least one of the SDGs. **Each story must be accompanied by a feature image of at least 1800px x 1000px in size.** Choose images that best show volunteers in action! Check out some of these great examples on the left.

All submissions can be made to info@volunteer2030.org or directly on the website at www.volunteer2030.org using the upload tool.

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