

# ARNOVA VOLUNTEER SURVEY

**For the period January 1 to December 31, 2023**



Laurie Mook, Arizona State University  
Femida Handy, University of Pennsylvania

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **ARNOVA VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS SURVEY covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2023**

The 2023 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, 2023.

Data were collected the period January 23 to March 17, 2024 by an electronic survey that was administered through Survey Monkey to 850 ARNOVA members. Of these, 144 were known volunteers (for instance, board, committees, special interest groups). Eight persons opted out and 20 emails bounced. The final number of respondents was 132 with 7 surveys not substantially completed leaving a total of 125 respondents, a response rate of 15%. The response rate of known volunteers was 29%.

The key results of the survey for the fiscal period January 1 to December 31, 2023 were:

- Hours reported by respondents totaled 3,127.5. Volunteer hours for NVSQ activities were analyzed separately resulting in an addition of 8,907 hours, for a grand total of **11416.5**. This is the equivalent of **5.5** full-time equivalent positions.
- Non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses were reported to be **\$3,283**.
- Total contributions in monetary terms were the equivalent of an estimated **\$627,679** for hours volunteered and **\$3,283** in non-reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses, for a total of **\$630,962**.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> All monetary figures are reported in USD.

## **ARNOVA VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS SURVEY covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2023**

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 2023 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 23 to March 17, 2024 by an electronic survey that was administered through Survey Monkey to 850 ARNOVA members. Of these, 144 were known volunteers (for instance, board, committees, special interest groups). Eight persons opted out and 20 emails bounced. The final number of respondents was 132 with 7 surveys not substantially completed leaving a total of 125 respondents, a response rate of 15%. The response rate of known volunteers was 29%.

### **Findings: Hours reported on the surveys**

Of the 125 respondents, 81 (65%) indicated they had volunteered in the period January 1 to December 31, 2023. A total of 3127.5 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 2023, NVSQ processed 635 submissions. To estimate the number of hours contributed to NVSQ, we estimated 15 hours for each paper, for a total of 9,525 hours. As 39 respondents to the survey already indicated contributions totaling 618 hours related to reviewing manuscripts for NVSQ, we added 8,907 hours to the hours from the survey. The total of hours therefore was **11,416.50**.

**Table 1: Breakdown of volunteer hours**

<b>Volunteer Activity</b>	<b># volunteers reporting</b>	<b>Hours reported for January 1 to December 31, 2023</b>
<b>Board</b>	10	275
<b>Committees</b>	30	374
<b>Annual conference organizing</b>	12	375
<b>Conference proposal reviewing</b>	18	201
<b>Other conference activities</b>	17	108
<b>NVSQ-related activities</b>	40	618
<b>Other publications-related activities</b>	2	5
<b>Social media</b>	6	14
<b>Sections</b>	23	743.5
<b>Common Interest Groups</b>	17	225
<b>Fundraising not included elsewhere</b>	1	2
<b>Membership recruitment</b>	4	13
<b>Annual retreat not included elsewhere</b>	2	10
<b>Other</b>	12	165
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3127.5</b>

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)<sup>2</sup>. 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 2023 was \$54.98 per hour. Using this hourly rate, the comparative market value of volunteer contributions for 2023 is estimated as **\$627,679**.<sup>3</sup>

**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; 17% indicated they had, with contributions reported of **\$3,283 USD**.

<sup>2</sup> [https://beta.bls.gov/dataQuery/find?fq=survey:\[ce\]&q=CEU8081392003](https://beta.bls.gov/dataQuery/find?fq=survey:[ce]&q=CEU8081392003)

<sup>3</sup> All monetary figures are reported in USD.