

E-IAVE

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Volunteers: Promoting peace and inclusive society for sustainable development

Kylee Bates, IAVE World President

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning

We will remember them¹

I have heard these words often recently, for across Australia and New Zealand 2015 marks the centenary of the 'ANZACS' (the Australian New

Zealand Army Corps) and the bloody battle they fought on the beach at Gallipoli, Turkey on 25th of April 1915. Ten thousand ANZACS, 34,000 Allies and 86,000 Turkish soldiers died at Gallipoli in World War I (WWI). ANZAC Day, like similar remembrances elsewhere, commemorates those who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

In the human carnage and suffering caused by the

'Great War', its antecedents and those since, it is a sad irony that war has so often been a spur for increased volunteering effort as people seek to re-build lives and restore humanity.

The Australian Red Cross was founded in response to Australia's involvement in WWI, while 35,000 YMCA volunteers attended to the needs of the 4.8 million troops of the American Expeditionary Forces². In the United Kingdom an estimated 18,000 charities were established during those four years³, most heavily reliant on the efforts of volunteers. It was in the aftermath of the war, in 1919 that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was founded.

Of course, conflicts need not be on the scale of a 'World War' to wreak devastation on countries and civilisations. This past month the *International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda* remembered the one million Rwandan Tutsis killed in the 1994 Genocide. Again, the spirit of volunteerism has been drawn upon by Rwandans to re-build and reconcile, embracing their historical tradition of *Umuganda (coming together in common purpose)* to encourage a monthly day of community service.

Goal 16 of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals calls on humanity to *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development...* It is imperative that nations acknowledge the contribution that volunteers will play in achieving this, and other SDG goals, in the post-2015 development declaration - or the legacy of fallen soldiers will forever be current.

Lest we forget.

1 *The Ode of Remembrance* is taken from the fourth stanza of the poem *The Fallen* by Laurence Binyon written in 1914 and is used in war remembrance services in some Commonwealth countries.

2 <http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/ymca.htm>

3 Third Sector UK - <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/1914-1918-charities-helped-win-ww1/volunteering/article/1299786> [25 April 2015]

Development of New IAVE Strategic Plan Begins

The IAVE Board has commenced the development of the **IAVE 2020 Strategic Plan**, for 2016 – 2020. The Board aims to finalize the new strategic plan by the end of the 2015 calendar year.

Over the coming 3-4 months there will be opportunities for IAVE members and key stakeholders to contribute to this process through an online survey and in some cases, participation in virtual meetings that will be scheduled. In instances where there are physical gatherings of IAVE members, there will also be an opportunity for those attending to participate in some facilitated discussions.

The input of IAVE members and stakeholders is vital as the IAVE Board considers the global challenges and opportunities for volunteering over the next 5 years and determines the most appropriate role for IAVE in responding to these.

Further updates and opportunities to contribute will be provided in future editions of E-IAVE and 'special bulletins' where appropriate.

We look forward to your active involvement and input throughout this process.

IAVE Launches Search for Future Conference Sites

IAVE has begun the process for identifying host organizations for the 2018 World Volunteer Conference and World Youth Volunteer Conference and for the 2017 Asia Pacific Regional Volunteer and Youth Volunteer Conferences. (Yes, we begin this far in advance!)

The 2018 World Conferences

Later this month, the formal Call for Proposals will be sent to all IAVE members, all national leadership organizations for volunteering and select international NGOs. Potential applicants are asked to submit a “statement of interest” to enable us to work with them to determine whether they will ultimately submit a formal proposal.

The process calls for proposals to be submitted by November 30, 2015; for the search committee to complete its work and make its recommendation to the IAVE board of directors in April 2016; and, for the next host to be announced at the conclusion of the 2016 World Conferences in Mexico in November.

The search team is chaired by IAVE’s Vice President, Eugen Baldas (Germany), who also is Regional Representative for Europe to the IAVE board. Iraida Manzanilla (Venezuela), Regional Representative for Latin America, and Mark Molloy (Scotland), are the other members of the team. Secretariat support is provided by Kenn Allen, IAVE Senior Consultant.

For more information or to receive the Call for Proposals, please email 2018worldconferences@iave.org.

The 2017 Asia Pacific Conference

The 15th biennial IAVE regional conferences for Asia Pacific will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam in October. It is custom to announce the host organization for the next conference at the conclusion of the current one. To accomplish that this year, IAVE has distributed a Call for Proposals to our National Representatives throughout the region. The process calls for a “statement of interest” to be followed by the formal proposal which is due to the IAVE Secretariat by July 15.

The selection team is chaired by Yoonae Park, Regional Representative for Asia Pacific to IAVE’s board of directors, and will include two National Representatives from countries not bidding for the conference. Secretariat support is provided by Kenn Allen, IAVE Senior Consultant.

For more information or to receive the Call for Proposals, please email 2017apconference@iave.org.

IAVE 2015 Election Process Begins

With leadership from IAVE’s Nominating Committee, chaired by Agnetta Nyalita (Kenya), youth representative to IAVE’s board of directors, we have begun the process for elections to the board of directors. Two positions are up for election, the Regional Representative for the Arab Nations and for male Youth Representative.

The Arab Nations

The Regional Representative for the Arab Nations will be replacing Patricia Nabti (Lebanon) who is completing her maximum two terms of service on the board. The Call for Nominations was distributed to IAVE members in that region on May 1 with a deadline for response of May 31. After confirmation of the candidates by the Nominating Committee, voting papers will be distributed on July 16 with voting remaining open

through August 10. Only paid members of record as of May 31 are eligible to vote.

The Youth Representative

The IAVE board has established the policy that we always should have one female and one male youth representative. As our male representative, Daniel Buritica (Colombia), is completing his maximum two terms of service on the board, we are seeking a male replacement. The Call for Nominations was

distributed on May 1 to all IAVE youth members, both voting and non-voting, and to National Representatives and board members. By policy, these are the groups eligible to make nominations for this position. The board will elect the new Youth Representative at its August meeting.

For more information on either of these positions or to receive a copy of the Call for Nominations, please email elections2015@iave.org.

Disaster-Related Corporate Volunteering Research Working Group

By **Lorrie Foster**, Faciliator, IAVE Research Working Group

The IAVE Research Working Group on Disaster-Related Corporate Volunteering was formed in 2014 with 11 member companies from the Global Corporate Volunteer Council (GCVC). The purpose of the Research Working Group (RWG) is to strengthen how member companies engage their employees as volunteers in the broad range of disaster activities, from preparedness through long-term recovery. The RWG members are seeking to learn, apply that learning to their own company programs and to share new knowledge with the field. They are doing this through a series of webinars and in-person meetings. On April 13-15, 2015, the group assembled in Google's New York City offices and focused their discussions on understanding how UN and humanitarian agencies respond to crises and how to best partner with them. Through discussions with representatives of seven UN and humanitarian agencies they learned about the dynamics of partnerships and appropriate roles for volunteers. Organizations present at the meeting included: UNOHA, UN Volunteers, World Food Program, UNICEF, Save the Children, CARE International, and the Salvation Army.

According to RWG Chairman, Eduardo Martinez, President of the UPS Foundation, companies want to do more to help in disasters and NGOs want and need help. To accomplish this a common bridge is needed between the two sectors. The RWG aims to enable the two sectors to understand one another and to help companies learn how the disaster management world works. The goal of the Spring 2015 RWG meeting was to help companies better understand disaster management and to open up what we anticipate will be a continuing dialogue between the private sector and NGOs on how to work together in disaster management.

News from IAVE Members

Volunteering His Way Out of Despair: A Syrian Refugee in Jordan

By **Patricia Nabti**, IAVE Regional Representative to the Arab Nations

There are now more than 4 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon,



Turkey, Jordan, and elsewhere. Over half of those refugees are children. With all their despair, a very heartening story has emerged from the Zaatari camp in Jordan that reminds us of how much volunteering benefits the volunteer while he or she benefits others. Sami, age 23, fled with his family to Jordan from Dara'a in Syria in 2013. He spent his first eight months there in the tent they gave his family. Being bored and losing hope of ever leaving he would only go out of the tent when it was absolutely necessary.

Everything changed for him the day that a friend called out to him that someone needed an interpreter. The person was from Mercy Corps, and the experience led him to join their volunteer staff in the camp. Mercy Corps is one of the aid agencies operating in the Syrian refugee camps in the region. It provides clothes, blankets and household supplies to the refugees; develops wells to increase their clean water supply, supports community groups to resolve tensions and develop common solutions to their immediate problems, and creates safe spaces for the children to play.

Sami learned about the Mercy Corps programs and the opportunities for refugees to volunteer to support those programs. In time, he became a weight lifting trainer and the site supervisor for a child-friendly place at the Zaatari camp. The place where he volunteers has a lot of gym equipment, organizes a wrestling team, and provides classes in



martial arts and dance for children of all ages.

As he explains, the emptiness of those first 8 months in the camp “was destroying me. When I got involved with Mercy Corps I started seeing people, meeting people. Helping people makes you feel better. Makes you feel like you're useful.” He saw that the program for children gave them hope, something to look forward to each day, and a positive alternative to getting into trouble as a way to fill their time. The experience was so rewarding to him that when his family moved to Algeria, he decided to stay in the camp and continue his volunteer work there.

Seeing Sami as an important role model for others in the camp, and a story worth sharing with the world, Mercy Corps [made a video of Sami](#).

Photos by Sumaya Agha for Mercy Corps

Information and pictures from:

<https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/jordan-syria/refugee-role-model>

Volunteering in Bosnia and Herzegovina

By **Vahida Huzejrovic**
IAVE National
Representative,
Bosnia-Herzegovina

When OSMIJEH first started to develop volunteer work in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996, it was the only organization dealing with volunteering in the nation, remaining that way for a long period of time. However, today we can say that the idea of volunteering is not new or unknown to the Bosnian society. Volunteering is on the rise, with its constant development and promotion within the country, and with the growing number of volunteer organizations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also legally defined what volunteering is and have formed laws regarding volunteering. Both the Republic of Serbs and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adapted laws on volunteering. However, with all the progress volunteering has made in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are still more developments that need to be made. Volunteering remains unevenly developed geographically and demographically.

Volunteering is present in only certain communities, while non-existent

in others. The reason for this disparity is due to the fact that development greatly depends on NGOs and their capacity of work. The NGOs that are committed to their work continually pursue the development of volunteering, fundraise, and support volunteering. However, through all their hard work, it is difficult for them to expand their influence throughout the entire nation. The environment for developing volunteering in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains a challenge. Infrastructures and resources that are necessary to

keep momentum and allow volunteering operations to run smoothly and sustainably are not guaranteed. Volunteering in Bosnia and Herzegovina takes different forms. Big events and organized campaigns remain the most popular forms of volunteer engagement, with the focus on humanitarian aid. We hope to see many more changes in the volunteer community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, enabling us to overcome the issues we currently have.

New Chief Executive for Volunteering New Zealand

Scott Miller has been named as new Chief Executive at Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ), taking over for Vanisa Dhiru.

Previously Scott served as Managing Director of the Paladin Project Charitable Trust, an award-winning social enterprise enabling people with a disability to live a

good life across four cities in New Zealand. In his self-introduction in the recent Voluntalk, the e-newsletter of VNZ, Scott wrote, "I am particularly looking forward to working with our members and wider volunteer sector to ensure that volunteers and volunteering continue to have a strong voice that benefits the individuals and communities of New Zealand."

We welcome Scott to the IAVE network as the person with whom we will liaise with regard to VNZ's role as our National Representative. If you want to join in welcoming him, his email is scott@volunteeringnz.org.nz.



How Do You Define Volunteering?

According to its most recent e-newsletter, Volunteering Australia "is currently reviewing our definition of volunteering to consider the new ways people give their time. The National Review has a significant bearing on decision making by governments, volunteer resource centers and volunteer involving organizations. A revised definition has the potential to influence how volunteers are managed, how volunteering is measured and how Australia maintains and implements best practice standards in the sector."

If you would like to learn more, go to <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/policy-and-best-practise/definition-of-volunteering/have-your-say/>. Midway down the page, you will find links to an interesting background paper on the topic.

IAVE Members in Europe Attend CEV's Spring 2015 Capacity Building Conference

By **Ramona Dragomir**, Manager, Network Development

Under the title "**Pick and Mix – A Multi-Perspective Approach to Volunteer Centres in Europe**" the European Volunteer Center (CEV), in collaboration with SMART - the Association for Civil Society Development and Osijek Volunteer Centre organized a capacity building conference

in Zadar, Croatia between 23rd and 24th of April. Approximately 70 participants from over 20 countries throughout Europe attended the event. Over the two days, a range of workshops were held looking at the role and activities of volunteer centres and other topics which included volunteer management, child protection, engaging children and youth, quality standards for volunteer centres, volunteer centres as advocates, volunteer motivation and economic value and online volunteering.

IAVE members from Russia, Bosnia and Herzogovena, Denmark, England, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, France and Spain had the opportunity to connect with one another and also engage in discussions with their peers.

“It was clear from engagement with participants working across volunteer centres that there were strong and positive views about the important role of volunteer centres in promoting volunteer involvement, enabling individuals to find volunteer opportunities and strengthening the capacity of volunteer involving organisations to enhance the volunteer experience and maximise the impact of their contribution,” said Wendy Osborne, IAVE Board member and Chief Executive of Volunteer Now.

IAVE and CEV share a common interest in giving



recognition and support to the development of strong local, regional and national volunteering leadership organisations-- Organisations that individually and collectively can add value to promoting, developing and measuring the value of volunteer involvement.

“As IAVE embarks on a new research project to map and explore the leadership infrastructure for volunteering it will be good to see how CEV and IAVE members share a common purpose in sustaining and developing volunteering as a global movement and positive force for change,” further mentioned Wendy Osborne.

A One of a Kind Volunteer Fair

By **Carmen Chavarria**, IAVE National Representative, Guatemala

El Centro de Voluntariado Guatemalteco, the Guatemalan Volunteer Center, had its 12th Volunteer Fair on April 26th. This year it was conducted in partnership with the Municipality of Guatemala and TEDx Guatemala City 2015. The event was held on one of the main streets within a popular neighborhood in Guatemala City.

Voluntariado Guatemalteco and several other organizations set up stands on the street, showcasing their volunteer efforts and inviting people to join as volunteer. This year, all the participating organizations were given a challenge to each create a game that would highlight their respective organization’s work and to engage the public in a more fun and dynamic way. For example, an organization that works is to promote values among children and adolescents created a game called the “Lottery of Solidarity”. Instead of all the traditional numbers from a lottery were replaced with different moral values. Another organization that works with deaf and blind children held an obstacle course

relay that participants had to complete while blindfolded.

Parallel to the fair, the TED talks were taking place in the TEDx Guatemala City 2015 event. Approximately 300 people attended the event, and it covered different topics including: self-improvement,

sustainable housing, social issues, and volunteering. In between presentations, the audience members were invited to go outside, visit the stand, and to learn more about the different ways volunteers are helping to build and develop the Guatemala we envision.

News from the Global Volunteer Community

Global Youth Service Day 2015: Submit Your Report!

Global Youth Service Day 2015 (April 17-19) was a huge success! As the largest service event in the world, millions of young people became engaged to improve their communities through volunteering.

To see the different types of volunteering events hosted by young people worldwide, be sure to check out YSA's instagram account, [@YouthService](#) and #GYSD.

To report your impact, share your project story to YSA [here](#).

Don't forget to save the date for GYSD 2016 which is on April 15-17. Learn more about next year's event [here](#).

How Much is Volunteer Time Worth?

Independent Sector, "the leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations committed to advancing the common good," announced its new calculation of the monetary value of volunteering during National Volunteer Week in the United States, April 12-18.

Their 2014 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour is \$23.07—a 52-cent increase from 2013, up 2.3 percent from the previous year. IS also has updated the state-level breakdown for the value of volunteer time in 2013, ranging from a low of \$19.31 in Arkansas up to \$39.86 per hour in the District of Columbia.

To learn how this calculation is made, please visit Independent Sector's [page](#).