



state spotlight New York

In 1983, after discovering that New York State was one of the few states that did not have a statewide association for directors of volunteer services, Betty Hazen-Paen, who was eventually to become its first president, assembled an organizing committee. Seventeen visionaries, representing seven independent groups of directors, held a charter meeting in June 1984 to begin planning the formation of what was to become the New York State Association of Directors of Volunteer Services (NYSADVS). Our first official meeting was called to order on March 28, 1985 and our first Professional Development Conference was presented in September of the same year.

NYSADVS was originally comprised of five chapters (Capital, Central, Greater New York, Normet, and Western). In 1985 and 1987 respectively, the Rochester and Utica Chapters were formed, and, one year later, Long Island split from the Greater New York Chapter and became the last formed of the eight chapters in which we take great pride today. NYSADVS currently has approximately 200 members who represent over 67, 000 volunteers throughout the state of New York.

In upholding our mission to ".....promote and contribute to the principles and practices of sound administration of volunteer services in health care organizations, and to foster the professional development of its members", NYSADVS leadership has always led with the vision and fluidity that would define NYSADVS as an evolving entity that would offer its members the most current and innovative benefits.

Some examples of these include: a ground-breaking benchmarking survey that enabled some members to acquire additional staff and/or higher salary levels; the provision of the AHVRP "Principles and Practices" course locally; the opportunity for members to sit for the CAVS certification exam during our professional development conferences; and an interactive website that includes professional development articles and the potential for on-line learning courses.



In 2006, NYSADVS instituted a "President's Award for Professional Excellence" which enables members to nominate and recognize one of their peers for outstanding service and dedication to NYSADVS and to the profession of volunteer administration in general. This presentation has become one of the highlights of our annual conferences.

In the last 25 years, there have been a myriad of changes in our profession. We have moved from manually counting volunteer hours to computerized systems, from face-to-face interviews to on-line applications, from no credentialing option to CAVS, from candy striper running errands to volunteers leading projects. The one constant has been the commitment, compassion, and genuine sharing nature of each and every DVS in the professional association that we call NYSADVS.

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