

May 6, 2009

Deputy Mayor Patricia Harris
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Deputy Mayor Patricia Harris,

On behalf of the New York Association for Volunteer Administration (NYAVA) we are delighted to convey our sincere congratulations and support to you and to everyone involved in developing "NYC Service, a Blueprint to Increase Civic Engagement."

For ten years we have provided training and support to professionals in the field of volunteer management. For example, we created the training module, "Top Ten Tips for New Volunteer Managers" which was posted on the Volunteer NYC site prior to the redesign and our signature course "Principles and Practices of Volunteer Management" (<http://www.nyava.org/p&p.html>), offered twice a year, continues to be well attended. Additionally, we offer 3-4 professional development workshops each year. Our current workshop series is entitled "Creative Responses to the Economic Crisis: Strengthening your Volunteer Program *and* your Career in Challenging Times."

A recent article in the Stanford Innovation Social Review authored by David Eisner, Head of the National Corporation, and others pointed out, "Non profits rely heavily on volunteers but most CEO'S do a poor job of managing them." Investing in volunteer management must be a vital component of the current plan for expanded Service in New York City. We therefore were pleased to see that the NYC Blueprint had, as one of its components, the NYC Civic Corps.

We would like to do everything we can to participate in making this component of the plan the success it needs to be. Our members are the most advanced professionals in the field and have culled the best management tools precisely for volunteerism in our great City. We provide individual mentoring opportunities to any member who needs assistance. Our network has proven to be incredibly valuable to new professionals entering the field. NYAVA would be an excellent resource for anyone joining the NYC Civic Corps and for the organizations hosting them.

We are enthusiastic and hope that we can partner with you on this very important advance in the field of volunteerism. We would like to invite your team to meet with our Board on June 4th or we can arrange a meeting at your convenience to discuss how NYAVA can best support the Mayor's efforts.

Please contact me at 917-826-2482 or nyartemis@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Diana Kyrwood
President, NYAVA
www.nyava.org

Copied to:
James Anderson, Communications Director
Nazli Parvizi, Commissioner, Mayor's Volunteer Center

NYAVA Board Members:

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