

REFLECTIONS

A History of ARNOVA

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ARNOVA was founded in 1971 by David Horton Smith with the help of some others, particularly Burt R. Baldwin, Richard D. Reddy, and Eugene D. White, Jr. Financial resources were supplied by the Center for a Voluntary Society of Washington, DC, under the leadership first of James Shultz and later John Dixon. Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in DC from the start, initially named Association of Voluntary Action Scholars, the organization operated very informally for the first 5 years. From 1977 to 1994, there was a more formal volunteer leadership period and then a paid executive director period beginning in 1994. The name was changed to ARNOVA in 1991. The Journal of Voluntary Action Research began publication in 1972, changing its name in 1989 to Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly. Other publications arose over the years. Annual conferences began in 1974. An ARNOVA-L Listserv was begun in 1991 and a CGAP-L Listserv in 1999. An awards program was begun in 1993. Two formal ARNOVA sections, one on teaching and one on community and grassroots associations, have been in existence since 1999. The association prospers with a variety of foundation grants and member revenues. There were more than 1,000 members at year-end 2000 from 34 nations and two U.S. territories.

Keywords: ARNOVA; history; professional associations; research on nonprofit organizations; AVAS

This is not “the” history of ARNOVA but rather “a” history of ARNOVA, as seen from the perspective of its founder. As such, it will be biased in various ways, although I have attempted to be reasonably objective.

Note: The author is grateful to several colleagues for comments and inputs used in this article, including Katherine M. Finley, Dennis Young, Anita Plotinsky, Richard Steinberg, Michael O’Neill, Roger Lohmann, Carl Milofsky, Elizabeth Boris, Thomasina Borkman, Steven Rathgeb Smith, Jon Van Til, Robert Herman, and Martha Golensky. In this historical document, partially a memoir, I have sometimes used the words of the foregoing people, with permission, or paraphrased their words without the usual scholarly quotation attribution procedure.

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ORIGINS

Organizations usually begin with a person who has an idea that he or she wants to pursue collectively. In the case of ARNOVA (originally named the Association of Voluntary Action Scholars [AVAS]), the idea originated in the mind of David Horton Smith (Boston College) in the mid-1960s. My basic scholarly interest area was voluntary/grassroots associations and volunteer participation in them. My reading of the literature on voluntary or common interest associations indicated two virtually opposite but complementary empirical conclusions: One was that such phenomena were also the direct topic of research by some scholars in many other scholarly disciplines and professions than sociology, my own main discipline, under a variety of terms and concepts.

The other was that there seemed to be no interdisciplinary or inter-professional efforts to integrate the study of associational and volunteer phenomena, which I began to term "Voluntary Action Research" (VAR). There were no relevant interdisciplinary scholarly associations, no such conferences, nor scholarly journals, nor research institutes dedicated to VAR. I borrowed the *voluntary action* term from Beveridge's (1948) book title, seeking a broad and encompassing label for the field of study I was beginning to envisage.

Lack of resources and time prevented me from any collective undertaking for several years. But I gathered a bibliography of more than 1,000 published scholarly documents relevant specifically to voluntary associations as a backdrop for subsequent organizing activities. It became clear to me that communication and collaboration among scholars were the real needs, not research stimulation.

In 1970, I came across a notice in some publication concerning the existence of a Center for a Voluntary Society (CVS), a nonprofit organization located in Washington, DC. I established contact and began discussions with CVS's director, James Shultz, who was very receptive to my ideas. For the next 4 years, CVS was the major funder of my activities in founding and developing AVAS, the forerunner of ARNOVA. Both Shultz and CVS's second director, John Dixon, gave solid support to the start up of AVAS through grants of about \$20,000 per year to my office at Boston College, while I served (on leave) as full-time director of research at CVS 1971-1974 and devoted substantial paid time to AVAS development.

In forming and developing AVAS, I had the volunteer help of two of my graduate students and highly able, priceless collaborators, Burt R. Baldwin and Richard D. Reddy, who later became career-long professors at Central Connecticut State University and at the State University of New York College at Fredonia, respectively. With their help, I held at Boston College a small conference on October 31, 1970, with 14 other scholars (including Nicholas Babchuk—sociology, Harmon Zeigler—political science, Violet Seider—social work, James Luther Adams—religion, Robert

Anderson—anthropology, William Sheridan Allen—history, and James Bryan—psychology) in different fields from nine other universities, two research institutes, and one government agency to discuss the possibility of forming an interdisciplinary association. The scholars at this “Interdisciplinary Voluntary Action Task Force Planning Conference” were basically supportive of the idea. The association that resulted was named the Association of Voluntary Action Scholars (AVAS) at my suggestion.

Subsequently, I drew up a constitution and by-laws for AVAS, with inputs from the planning conference participants, including especially Baldwin and Reddy. The form of AVAS was intended to be quite democratic, with the power to elect officers and change the by-laws residing in the full membership by mail ballot (not in whomever attended an annual meeting somewhere). AVAS was formed in the United States but, from the start, was open to scholars from elsewhere in the world. *Scholar* was not defined beyond intellectual interest in some aspect of VAR, so that students, thoughtful practitioners, and others might feel welcome. Scholars representing any intellectual discipline or field were welcomed. With support from CVS for legal fees, AVAS was formally incorporated in Washington, DC, in 1971 and received nonprofit 501(c)(3) IRS status. I had the logo created by Elizabeth Dixon, wife of the CVS director.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

The administrative history of AVAS/ARNOVA can be divided into three periods: (a) the formative period, 1971 to 1976; (b) the volunteer leadership period, 1977 to 1994; and (c) the paid executive director period, late 1994 to present.

Formative period (1971-1976). The incorporators, Cynthia Wedel (CVS), James Luther Adams (Andover-Newton Theological School), and myself, elected me the first president of AVAS and I served a 2-year term. At the end of this term, I became the first executive officer for 2 years and then turned this job over to my office manager at Boston College, Eugene D. White, Jr. Almost from the beginning, White was responsible for day-to-day operations of AVAS (dues, subscriptions, mailings, etc.). Although I was in Washington, DC, from 1971 to 1974, AVAS headquarters were always at Boston College during this time. Baldwin, Reddy, White, and I were the operational and management team that got things done as far as AVAS initial development was concerned. The board of directors did not begin to meet until 1974, when the first AVAS Annual Conference was held, and there were no committees in the first few years.

The second and third presidents, Ivan Scheier (National Information Center on Volunteers) and Richard Graham (Goddard College), performed mainly ceremonial functions. Membership grew gradually, as the association

leaders concentrated their resources on building the association's journal and its membership through the latter, sending out free copies to potentially interested scholars at first. The by-laws stated that publication of the journal was the foremost purpose of AVAS, which reflected my initial view of its proper priorities. Richard Reddy wrote a computerized question-and-answer file that was aimed at filling some practitioner needs, based on the research literature. Burt Baldwin computerized a large bibliography and abstracts file on the field, intended for general use by scholars, based on the bibliography I had accumulated.

Beginning with the 1974 conference, a number of other people began to get involved in AVAS who were essential in one way or another, but especially Jon Van Til (Rutgers University, Camden). He was a great help to AVAS/ARNOVA by his continuing concern for AVAS's effective structure and operation, his involvement as a working president himself and in helping select later working presidents, his long-time effective editorship of our journal *JVAR/NVSQ* (1979-1992), and his generally keeping his finger on the pulse of AVAS/ARNOVA and knowing who might help with a specific major problem. In summer 1976, Jon Van Til and his wife Trudy Heller led a strategic retreat session for AVAS leaders, formal and informal, which led to a revamping of AVAS's administration. At the end of this formative period, AVAS membership was about 125 to 150 people (estimate).

Volunteer leadership period (1977-1994). Following the strategic retreat and a revision of the by-laws through a membership mail vote, a new administrative system was put in place that was more suitable for the developing AVAS, now that more volunteer leadership help was available. The central features of the new plan were having (a) working presidents as soon as possible rather than figureheads; (b) a working board of directors that would meet at annual conferences; (c) four working vice presidents each with a specific portfolio (administration, research and public policy, program development, collaboration); (d) a working secretary and treasurer; and (e) the executive officer still handling day-to-day matters. Reddy and I continued to hold elected positions in the beginning of this new phase, as now do Jon Van Til, Sim Sitkin, Carol Moore, and Sandra Goff, with Ronald Lippitt (University of Michigan emeritus) as president.

In 1977, the headquarters of AVAS were officially moved from Boston College to a building in Boulder, Colorado, where some other organizations of the Alliance for Volunteerism were based. As the result of a \$50,000 grant I had obtained for AVAS through the Alliance from the Lilly Endowment, a new half-time paid executive officer was appointed, John McLoughlin, who took over as Gene White resigned.

As time passed, Reddy, Baldwin, and I dropped out of leadership roles and others took our places—too many to try to name here. In this long period of volunteer leadership, the association was run mainly by the elected volunteer officers and board of directors with minor inputs from the executive officer

and committees. The board tinkered with the specific vice president portfolios and committees present at different times. The publications committee has been a standing committee for a long time, and there were ad hoc committees for special purposes from time to time. Although there was some communication between annual conferences, the main executive communication occurred at annual board meetings held at such conferences. After 1975 or so, the executive officer was a volunteer or part-time paid person and was relatively weak compared to the president and vice presidents. The headquarters office was hard pressed to deal efficiently with the day-to-day running of the association as it grew. Membership growth was slow but steady with some acceleration in the early 1990s, going from about 125 to 150 (estimate) in 1977 to 464 at year-end 1994.

AVAS headquarters was moved in 1978 to Pennsylvania State University, sponsored and ably guided by Larry Gamm and Drew Hyman, with Vicki Gamm handling the day-to-day management of AVAS affairs. After many years, AVAS shifted its base in 1987 to the Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs of Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, sponsored and guided by Stuart Langton and then Robert Hollister. Hollister was responsible for getting Tufts to forgive about \$10,000 in debt that AVAS had run up while based there, letting AVAS headquarters go on to its next location in reasonably solvent condition. This was another crucial financial event in the organization's history. In 1990, the headquarters were moved to Pullman, Washington, where Barbara Long was the half-time paid executive officer in charge of day-to-day operation of the association through the end of this period. She regularly put in many volunteer hours as well and volunteered part of her home as the AVAS executive office.

The 1980s were a time of broadening scope for AVAS and the whole field of nonprofit and voluntary action research. The coalition nonprofit organization called Independent Sector arose and in the mid-1980s began holding an annual, biennial after 1991, conference called the Spring Research Forum with a focus on paid-staff nonprofits. Independent Sector encouraged the formation of nonprofit academic centers and initiated a research program as well as promoting research as part of its mission. The subfield of nonprofit management, which had arisen in the late 1970s, experienced burgeoning growth in the 1980s as many nonprofit management academic centers were formed at universities all over the nation. There was also growing interest specifically in philanthropy, with some nonprofit academic centers having this focus.

AVAS responded to these developments during the late 1980s by mobilizing its leadership, formal and informal, as well as its membership (via an annual conference discussion meeting). The general goal was to look critically at the association and to struggle with the issue of broadening its scope from voluntary action narrowly conceived to a scope that included all of voluntary, nonprofit sector studies. From 1986 to 1988, its journal, *JVAR*, ran a subtitle on its cover: *Studies of Volunteering, Citizen Participation, Philanthropy, and Nonprofit Organizations* as a stopgap measure. Stuart Langton (Tufts University)

and Delwyn Dyer (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; AVAS president 1987-1988) led a strategic planning committee to consider needed changes in names and outreach to take account of changing times and interests. David Mason (Mason Enterprises) organized and hosted key strategic retreats at his home and his ranch in Texas in this period of self-searching, with Dennis Young (Case Western Reserve University), Thomasina Borkman (George Mason University), and Jon Van Til playing key roles in the discussions. Robert Herman (University of Missouri at Kansas City), as AVAS president 1989-1990, ably stewarded the discussion and change process. Not only was there conscious attention to broadening the labels of AVAS and its journal, but there was also concern for welcoming into the association the nonprofit academic centers (and their faculty) and academics in such fields as law, economics, management/business, public administration, and others. The later 1980s and early 1990s were times of substantial tension, controversy, and some interpersonal conflict over these issues in the association, so that growth and change was by no means a serene process.

The AVAS board acted decisively, and as a result, the *Journal of Voluntary Action Research (JVAR)* became *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly (NVSQ)* in 1989 and AVAS was renamed the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) in 1990. Many long-time members saw this change as more evolutionary than revolutionary because AVAS had been including paid-staff nonprofits all along. Others, including many newcomers and nonmembers, viewed the changes as revolutionary. Paid-staff nonprofits all tend to have board volunteers and often volunteer programs and thus earlier were welcome topics. The changes in names made it clearer that simply talking about any nonprofit, with or without volunteers, was now quite acceptable officially as an interest for the association and a topic for a conference paper or journal article. Indeed, all nonprofit, voluntary sector phenomena were now more explicitly included in ARNOVA's purview.

Thomasina Borkman, as president 1991-1992, provided an effective start in the transition between the old and the new, reaching out for new leaders consistent with the association's expanded scope and organizational change. The by-laws were rewritten and changes approved by the membership. Borkman also activated the board and officers more continuously between its meetings, mobilizing the volunteer energies and the volunteering behavior of many people to engage in the difficult work of organizational transformation. The succeeding co-presidents (tie vote) for 1993-1994, Richard Steinberg (Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis) and Kirsten Grønberg (Indiana University), were key architects of the new strategic plan for the association and the grant proposals that resulted in funding for a greatly improved and expanded ARNOVA, continuing the transition. They put great and successful effort into creating a case statement for the association that made ARNOVA more attractive to funders.

The presidents of AVAS/ARNOVA during this middle period of development were Ronald Lippitt, Jon Van Til, Louis Zurcher, Clementine Kaufman,

James Petersen, Drew Hyman, Delwyn Dyer, Robert Herman, Thomasina Borkman, Richard Steinberg, and Kirsten Grønberg.

Paid executive director period (late 1994-present). ARNOVA's fortunes changed markedly in late 1994 with the receipt of large grants from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Ford Foundation, mainly as a result of the grant writing work of Co-Presidents Steinberg and Grønberg in the previous year. These grants permitted the hiring of a full-time executive director, Anita Plotinsky. The title of the position was changed in the by-laws from the weaker "executive officer" used by many scholarly associations. Plotinsky was the first executive director of ARNOVA from 1994 to 2000, when Katherine M. Finley became ARNOVA's second executive director. Plotinsky played a key role in the latest, major growth stage of the association. She was tireless in her efforts to build the strength and vitality of the association, especially in the areas of finances, membership, and outreach, but always in full partnership with the board of directors.

At the same time (late 1994), in another key transition, the executive office of ARNOVA moved from Pullman, Washington, to the Center on Philanthropy of Indiana University (located at Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis), where it remains to the present with a small package of host support (notably free office space). The initial host support package there was much larger, but the center's main funder (the Lilly Endowment) decided to support ARNOVA directly with grants rather than provide the center with money so it could help support the association. The center's executive directors since 1994, initially Warren Ilchman and now Eugene R. Tempel, have been important supporters of the relationship with ARNOVA. The center has been a very hospitable and supportive host, with Dwight Burlingame at that university playing a major role in facilitating this relationship during the entire period.

In this period, ARNOVA made a successful transition from being a relatively small, nearly all-volunteer group to a much larger and better managed association with an influential full-time executive director as well as a full-time secretary and later administrative assistant (at present, there is a full-time administrative assistant and two other professionals—a program director and communications assistant). As before, the board of directors continued to set basic policy, approved the budget, and made all major final decisions. The executive director worked closely with the board in providing information on which to base decisions and in carrying out its policy decisions. The committees (currently Publications, Meetings, Nominations and Recognition, Information and Membership, Resource Development, and Electronic Communications) did their specialized work with staff assistance and reported to the board. The vice presidents (currently for Publications, Meetings, Nominations and Recognition, Information and Membership, and Resource Development) led their respective committees and served on the board. The president was in frequent contact with the executive director and

made many decisions, gave direction, supplied feedback, and so on. Because of the increased size and complexity of the association with more policy decisions needing board attention, the board began to meet regularly in a summer retreat made possible by ARNOVA's much stronger financial position. Board meetings immediately before and after the annual conference continued. The headquarters office became able to run the association efficiently, partly because of the executive director's management skills and partly because of additional staff time being available.

As part of the centerpiece W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant beginning in 1994, ARNOVA began to pursue and achieve several strategic initiatives that continue to guide its policy: strengthening the community of scholars, increasing ARNOVA membership, increasing diversity within the association, improving research dissemination, creating research tools, increasing financial stability, improving collaboration with other organizations, and increasing use of electronic communication.

One strategic initiative that ARNOVA has been working on since 1995 has been strengthening the community of scholars. This has been done partly by improving and enhancing the annual conference in various ways, contributing to substantial growth in the size of the conference. There was growth of about 100% in attendees from about 278 in 1995 to 554 in 2000, with roughly corresponding growth in numbers of papers. Initiating the Emerging Scholars Awards has nourished the association with younger scholars. The *Membership Directory* has been indexed in various ways to encourage scholarly networking. The establishment of two sections (Teaching; Community and Grassroots Associations) has given ARNOVA members two subgroups they can belong to for closer ties to each other.

Increasing ARNOVA membership has been another strategic initiative. As a result of special mailing list outreach, conference attendee incentives to join, and other recruiting efforts, membership has grown from 464 in 1994 to 1,049 at year-end 2000—growth of more than 100% in this period. Over its history, but especially in the present period, the range of disciplines and professions represented shifted markedly. Initially, sociology was in the forefront for many years. With the name changes and recent stronger outreach, a very wide range of disciplines, professions, and fields has become significantly represented in the membership. Public administration is now most frequent, followed by business, social work, sociology, education, political science, and economics, in that order (ARNOVA, 2001). Members generally report satisfaction with the association and its activities.

The strategic initiative of increasing diversity has several aspects. More disciplinary diversity has been sought partly by focused mailing list outreach, partly by encouraging selected members to help recruit colleagues from underrepresented disciplines, and partly by initiating the Focus Field Awards to provide conference attendance grants to scholars from underrepresented disciplines and fields. At the 2000 conference, people from about 30 fields and disciplines were represented, and more members have been attracted over the

period from key underrepresented disciplines and fields. All the major social science disciplines and social professions are represented. There has also been an increase in practitioner participation, including nonprofit organization leaders, state nonprofit organization umbrella association leaders, and others. In addition, more racial/ethnic diversity of ARNOVA participants has been actively encouraged by seeking minority participants at all levels of the association.

The strategic initiative of improving research dissemination has been undertaken by expanding the size, quality, and research-related content of *ARNOVA News*, as well as by growth in the size (pages published per year) and quality of the journal *NVSQ*. The size and quality of *ARNOVA Abstracts* has likewise been enhanced. An occasional paper series was begun in 2000. The related strategic initiative of creating research tools has been sought by indexing the conference *Proceedings*, creating a Web-based file of *NVSQ* and *Proceedings* abstracts, and creating the ARNOVA-L (listserv) online searchable archive. ARNOVA-L is an Internet-based discussion group focused on nonprofits and voluntary action.

The strategic initiative of moving toward greater financial stability has aimed at diversifying revenue sources of all types, increasing the ratio of earned income (dues, fees, etc.) to external grants, and avoiding overdependence on any one foundation. This has been approached by expanding the number of foundations and the amounts of their grants supporting the association and by increasing the numbers of the members and conference attendees. As president from 1997 to 1998, Michael O'Neill was particularly involved with this initiative. He appointed a task force that studied the issue of dues and fees, leading to substantial increases approved by the board and implemented in 1999. When Anita Plotinsky resigned to pursue another career opportunity in Washington, DC, she was succeeded as executive director by Katherine Finley, who has strong association management and financial skills to enable her to increase revenues from dues and the conference so as to make ARNOVA less dependent on external grants.

ARNOVA has also made progress on the strategic initiative of collaboration with other organizations, working regularly with about a dozen. To pursue the electronic strategic initiative, ARNOVA has developed a Web site and upgraded its appearance, made available online conference registration, posted job advertisements and calls for meeting papers on the Web site, and appointed an Electronic Communications Committee.

Since 1994, ARNOVA has been very successful in soliciting foundation funding, receiving nearly \$2,000,000 from all sources so far. More than 40% of this has come from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and about 18% from the Ford Foundation. But in recent years, the association has been attempting to diversify its foundation funding sources so that there are quite a few other important sources of funding, including the Lilly Endowment, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the David and Lucile Packard

Foundation, and an anonymous donor, as well as other foundations making smaller grants.

As executive director, Katherine Finley has improved the infrastructure of ARNOVA by developing a new office database and by putting a new accounting system in place. She has been instrumental in obtaining grant renewals from the Ford Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies, as well as in obtaining a grant from the Packard Foundation. Finley has updated the look of *ARNOVA News*, the *Membership Directory*, and the association Web site. In the summer of 2001, she led the board through another strategic planning session and developed a survey and focus groups for member feedback.

When Dennis Young was president recently (1999-2000), he set up a President's (Blue Ribbon) Task Force on Future Directions for ARNOVA with distinguished members from both within and outside the membership. And most recently (June 2001), the ARNOVA board reviewed progress in the past 5 years and did strategic planning for the future, leading to goals that reaffirm and extend the ongoing strategic initiatives since 1994. Self-renewal continues.

The association presidents during this period were Kathleen McCarthy, Michael O'Neill, Dennis Young, and now Elizabeth Boris.

PUBLICATIONS

I was the first editor-in-chief of AVAS's *JVAR*, serving from 1971 to 1976. Two *JVAR Monographs* were published in 1971, and then the first regular issue appeared in 1972. That issue described the many fields and disciplines having scholars interested in voluntary action research and also gave an overview of the analytical topics the field might be concerned with. To develop AVAS and *JVAR*, I recruited gradually a notable editorial board representing most of the fields having scholars interested in voluntary associations and voluntary action. Members of the editorial board refereed papers under consideration for publication, a practice that continues to the present with editorial boards selected by successive editors-in-chief. By volume 2, number 1 (January 1973), there were 91 well-known scholars and some practitioners listed in 24 fields and disciplines on the masthead at the rear of the journal. The purpose of the latter effort was to make it clear to any potential or actual reader that *JVAR* (and by implication AVAS) was indeed an interdisciplinary undertaking. Getting an initial flow of articles for the new journal was quite a challenge, and the journal issues were always late owing to my overcommitment to too many projects.

After my 6-year term, the editorship passed to Richard D. Reddy for the 1977 and 1978 volumes. Jon Van Til became the third *JVAR* editor-in-chief from 1979 to 1992. He continued and expanded the practice of having guest-edited issues and introduced the custom of having one issue a year being guest-edited by AVAS conference leaders and including a select set of

conference papers. A strong and supportive editor, Van Til made a high priority of getting the journal caught up with its announced schedule of quarterly publication, and did so by 1981.

Van Til was succeeded by the fourth editor-in-chief, Carl Milofsky (Bucknell University), from 1993 to 1997. He was instrumental in helping ARNOVA develop a temporary NVSQ cosponsorship arrangement with Yale's Program on Non-Profit Organizations (PONPO), where Milofsky had previously been affiliated for some time. Carl Milofsky's fine and innovative editorship is appraised in a tribute in a recent NVSQ issue (Hall, Messer, & Cnaan, 1998). Steven Rathgeb Smith (University of Washington, Seattle) became the fifth editor-in-chief beginning in 1998 and continues as such, moving the journal forward in size and quality. His tenure has been remarkable for the number of supplementary issues that have been published. He has also introduced an "Insights" feature (William Ryan, Harvard University, Editor) that presents an article of special practitioner interest in some issues of the journal. Note that Steven Smith is the first nonsociologist (his field is public administration) to hold the position.

The journal was initially self-published by Boston College Press, then published by Transaction Periodicals Consortium, by Jossey-Bass Publishers, and now has been published by Sage Publications since 1996.

Burt Baldwin became founding editor of the *Citizen Participation and Voluntary Action Abstracts (CPVAA)* in 1974, based at Central Connecticut State University. The *Abstracts* were intended to cover many of the relevant articles found in the weekly *Current Contents in the Behavioral and Social Sciences*, which covers more than 1,000 journals. Baldwin was succeeded by Jack Ross (Memorial University of Newfoundland) for 1977, and then Richard Rich (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) beginning in 1978. Jack Ross was editor again in 1981, followed by David Alexander (Pennsylvania State University) for part of 1982. Then Adrienne A. Hauser (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee) became editor. David Adams (Ohio State University at Lima) took on the editorship in 1984 and served through 1993. Roger Lohmann (West Virginia University) was editor from 1994 to 1998. The name was changed to *ARNOVA Abstracts* in 1996. Most recently, Martha Golensky (Grand Valley State University) has served as editor since 1999, with Janet Greenlee (University of Dayton) as coeditor through June 2000 and Mark Hager (The Urban Institute) as assistant editor beginning in June 2001. The new editors recently changed the format to thematic issues, as well as adding abstracts of books, dissertations, research reports/working papers, and practitioner publications.

An *AVAS Newsletter* was published sporadically by the AVAS headquarters office from the beginning. It became fairly regular in the later 1970s and continues to the present as the quarterly *ARNOVA NEWS*. In the 1980s, AVAS began also to publish a *Proceedings* with five-page versions of annual conference papers. The conference *Proceedings* continues to be published, now indexed, but space considerations for many years have limited it to one-page

abstracts. Late in the 1980s, AVAS/ARNOVA began to publish annually a *Membership Directory*, circulated to all members. This continues to the present, recently with helpful indices by country, U.S. state, academic discipline, research interest, and ARNOVA section. In 2000, an ARNOVA Occasional Papers series was begun.

OTHER ASPECTS

After the journal, annual conferences are the second most important activity of the association. Because membership was initially small, I did not attempt a national AVAS conference in 1971, 1972, or 1973. By 1974, I believed there were enough interested scholars to begin holding annual conferences. Organized by myself, the first national conference of AVAS in Denver, Colorado, in 1974 was attended by more than 100 people, including more than 80 named presenters in the conference program. In this conference, there were formal papers on a variety of topics in voluntary action research based on many different disciplinary perspectives. Also, there were several plenary sessions, discussion panels, luncheon roundtable discussions, theme sessions, workshops on pragmatic issues, and a membership meeting. One of its most important secondary functions was to surface new people willing to help as volunteers with running AVAS.

Subsequent conferences, held every year since 1974, have grown in size to about 550 participants and 400 papers in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2000, when representatives of about 30 fields and disciplines were present. Although most elements of the early conferences have been maintained, new features have been added over the years, including a keynote address, a jobs table, exhibit tables, and group excursions. In recent years, innovations have been poster sessions, an awards luncheon, a welcome reception, a conversation with the board of directors, an authors' reception, and preconference sessions of the Sections on Teaching and on Community and Grassroots Associations. With the exceptions of one annual conference in Toronto, Canada (1993), and one in London, England (1990), demonstrating ARNOVA's transnational linkages, all conferences have been held in cities in the United States, ranging from coast to coast and border to border to vary the geographical accessibility. The 2002 conference was held in Montreal, Canada, and the board now plans to have non-U.S. locations regularly every several years.

Another important form of intercommunication that ARNOVA sponsors is the ARNOVA-L listserv, an electronic discussion group operated over the Internet. Begun in 1991 by Roger Lohmann of West Virginia University and still managed by him, ARNOVA-L promotes discussion of third-sector issues and information among both members and nonmembers at no cost. Recently, there were about 1,100 subscribers.

The association's Internet Web site was begun by Lohmann at West Virginia University in 1996, with the assistance of Tex Crider, a graduate student. In

1998, Anita Plotinsky had the central office take on this responsibility and registered the domain name www.arnova.org.

An important development in ARNOVA in the 1990s has been the Awards Program. In 1993, ARNOVA began making annual awards, including cash prizes, to people responsible for the best book, dissertation, article in *NVSQ*, and lifetime contribution to the field. The dissertation award has been endowed in memory of Gabriel G. Rudney by his family and friends. More recently, there have been Emerging Scholar Awards to encourage new scholars to enter the field and Focus Field Awards to encourage conference attendance by people in fields where more diversity is needed in the association. The lifetime achievement award winners through 2001 have been Robert Bremner, David Horton Smith, Ralph M. Kramer, Jon Van Til, David Billis, Amitai Etzioni, Virginia A. Hodgkinson, Burton Weisbrod, John G. Simon, David E. Mason, Robert L. Payton, and Felice D. Perlmutter. For the first 3 years, two awards were given per year.

Another recent development has been ARNOVA sections. In the past, there have been informal metropolitan-based groups of academics and practitioners only loosely connected with AVAS/ARNOVA that have met for seminars/discussions. This has occurred in Boston (organized by myself) and Philadelphia (organized by Ram Cnaan of the University of Pennsylvania), and perhaps elsewhere, without official sanction. The second type of section is the formal ARNOVA board-approved section—a subgroup of ARNOVA members who share a special interest that can be fostered by meeting together at or before annual conferences. Two sections have been meeting informally at annual conferences since 1996. Founded by Pamela Leland (University of Delaware) and others, the ARNOVA Section on Teaching attained formal section status in January 1999. Founded by myself and others, the Community and Grassroots Associations Section attained formal section status in November 1999. Both have more than 50 members in the 2001 *Membership Directory*.

LARGER ROLE OF AVAS/ARNOVA

The association has played a role on the international scene. Representing AVAS, I helped encourage the formation of the second similar association, ARVAC, in Britain about 1976. In recent years, other national or regional associations have proliferated (e.g., in Australia-New Zealand, Japan, Ireland, the Nordic countries, and elsewhere), although ARNOVA remains the largest one. In 1978, AVAS sponsored Special Session 08 on Voluntary Action and Voluntary Groups in Modern Society at the IX World Congress of the International Sociological Association in Uppsala, Sweden. With Victor Pestoff (University of Stockholm) as the local coordinator, I organized this 4-day series of sessions into the first international interdisciplinary meeting of voluntary action researchers and used the occasion to form the first truly international interdisciplinary association in the field: the International Voluntary Action

and Voluntary Organization Research Organization (IVAR). IVAR, as a spinoff of AVAS, held its First World Congress in Brussels in 1980 but died in 1983 for lack of resources. ARNOVA maintains cordial relations with the similar, newer International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR), founded in 1992. Members from 34 nations and two U.S. territories are listed in the 2001 ARNOVA *Membership Directory* and its *Addendum* through July 5, 2001, with Canada and the United Kingdom roughly tied in number of memberships after the U.S. ARNOVA remains what it has always been—a North American-based association with significant international interests and open to the world.

Recent decades have been a time of burgeoning growth in the numbers and size of the voluntary, nonprofit sector in terms of foundations, other paid-staff nonprofits, and grassroots associations both in the United States and abroad. ARNOVA has participated in this growth by studying its component groups, especially in the United States, and by contributing to the better management of such groups. There has also been a corresponding growth in the infrastructure of organizations serving the sector through education, research, consulting, and so on. ARNOVA has played a major role as a forum for the key players in such infrastructure groups to share and hone their knowledge.

At the same time, ARNOVA has benefited from and in some ways contributed to important trends in the academy. The growth of the social and human sciences and social professions is reflected in the growing membership of ARNOVA. Particularly important is the growing receptivity in the academy to hybrid and interdisciplinary fields of which ARNOVA represents one. At a more micro level, there has been the growth of a service learning movement that has put hundreds of thousands of high school and college students into nonprofit organizations as learning experiences—a phenomenon that ARNOVA members study and evaluate. A more professionalized training movement in the universities and colleges has been nonprofit management and related fields (e.g., American Humanics). These programs/centers have faculty who are often active members of ARNOVA and students who participate in ARNOVA as well. There has been a related growth in nonprofit academic research centers, often combined with the educational centers, whose staff is usually active in ARNOVA. There are now several of these educational and research centers on nonprofits abroad, and some of their staff participate in ARNOVA, although more participate in the International Society for Third Sector Research.

ARNOVA was the first interdisciplinary, interprofessional association ever formed with a focus on voluntary action and the voluntary sector, now broadly understood as including volunteering, voluntary associations, citizen participation, social movements, nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, altruism, civil society, social capital, and a host of other related topics and concepts. Although AVAS began with a somewhat narrower focus, the association's purview has grown broader over the years as the field has broadened by the coalescence of nonprofit management studies and philanthropy studies

with voluntary association and volunteering studies now recognized in the new name and acronym ARNOVA. Voluntary, nonprofit sector studies or nonprofit and voluntary action research is an emerging new field of scholarly study historically that may eventually become a recognized discipline. Time will tell. At the least, it is fast becoming recognized as a multidisciplinary field in higher education and research. The seeds were sown by AVAS/ARNOVA, and this association has been a major player in the development of the field both in the United States and around the world for 30 years.

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