

1995 International Conference on Volunteer Administration

1995 Harriet Naylor Distinguished Member Service Award Introduction

The Harriet Naylor Distinguished Member Service Award, awarded in 1995 to Katherine Noyes Campbell, is given for outstanding contributions to AVA through leadership, advocacy, research, publication, program development and management.

"Katie," as we all know her, began her volunteer career in AVA in 1979 on the Professional Development Committee, invited by a colleague already extensively involved in the field of volunteer administration. Shortly thereafter, she assumed the responsibility for the Program Committee of the 1981 National Conference on Volunteer Administration, then a collaborative conference sponsored by AVA, the Association of Voluntary Action Scholars, and the Association of Volunteer Bureaus. Her subsequent invaluable, behind-the-scenes service was preparation for her election in 1988 as Secretary-Treasurer. Katie's presidency of AVA, from 1990-1993, led to a positive fund balance and revitalized strategic planning.

*As if this were not enough, Katie has co-authored four books with Susan J. Ellis, including the classic history of Americans as volunteers, *By the People: A History of Americans as Volunteers*, and two books and several articles for the Virginia Office of Volunteerism. Her recent appointment as Director of the Virginia Office of Volunteerism comes after eight years in that office developing meaningful resources, training, and legislation to strengthen the support for volunteering in Virginia.*

In addition to publicly setting the example through her leadership and writing, Katie has made the difference for numerous colleagues as she refocused their attention on larger community or global issues, and helped them to appreciate volunteer administration as a profession, not merely a job. She has made the time to be a mentor, friend, advocate, and partner to any who asked. Katie's concurrent support of AVA's regional growth exemplifies her extraordinary capacity to juggle simultaneously career, volunteer work, and family. AVA is privileged to have her dedicated loyalty and leadership.

**AVA Awards Committee: Christine G. Franklin, C.V.A., Chair,
Laura Lee M. Geraghty, Carol Moore Spiver, Carol Todd**

1995 Harriet Naylor Distinguished Member Service Award Acceptance Speech

Katherie Noyes Campbell

At the 1995 AVA Awards Luncheon, Susan J. Ellis, President of Energize, Inc., a previous Harriet Naylor Distinguished Member Service Award Winner, introduced Katherine Noyes Campbell.

Thank you, Susan, for your very personal—and historical—introduction. In some ways it feels like only yesterday that I wandered into this profession via your doorway, and yet I am in awe of how far I have traveled since then.

I also owe Susan a big thank-you for being the one who started me on this path . . . who told me I could do it . . . who instilled the vision and excitement of this field . . . who pushed me out of the nest and urged me to get up in front of people and share my experiences and knowledge through training. She is the one who invited me to become a co-author, and taught me the true meaning of teamwork and partnership—a legacy which continues to reap many rewards today.

Another personal thank-you goes to my parents: my mother who is here today and my Dad who I know is watching from above. I grew up in a home where service to others was a daily occurrence, just part of how we lived. I was encouraged to try new experiences through volunteering, and that clearly had a tremendous influence on the person I became and the career choices I have made. For that I am very grateful.

As I try to remember those early days at the Family Court in Philadelphia and think about what it felt like as a very young volunteer coordinator, one thing is crystal clear to me: back then I did *not* have a professional identity. I didn't *feel* like a professional, and I certainly didn't know what constituted competence in this particular type of work. I was learning as I went—as many of us did—and most of the time I was *not* terribly confident that I was doing it right.

Then I discovered AVA—and what a difference it made. As I stand here today receiving this honor, part of me knows that it is because of what I have contributed to the association, and to the field of volunteer administration. Yet by far the greater feeling that overwhelms me is gratitude for all that AVA *has given me*.

For one thing, AVA has been a school, providing dozens of opportunities to learn from mentors and teachers, including those in the very special circle I am joining today. You have been the pathfinders of our field, and you were there when I needed you.

I have been given the chance to grow and stretch into a leader. In many respects the opportunity for leadership came to me in AVA *before* it did in my salaried work. Through my involvement in this association I gained the credentials and experience and credibility with which to progress and move into new arenas in my job.

AVA has been a constant source of inspiration and renewed energy. In Virginia I am expected to be a source of support and information and assistance to those hundreds of community leaders I serve. But *this* is where I come to receive all those things myself, and that's why I keep coming back.

AVA has always been a place of laughter. Thank goodness for colleagues like Nancy Johnson and Melsie Waldner who help us see the lighter side when we take ourselves too seriously!

AVA has given me a larger vision of what this work is all about, stretching the dimensions beyond my role in Virginia, and connecting it to a greater power, a

cumulative effort. AVA is a kind of reference point to help me keep things in perspective through exposure to thoughts and activities happening in other parts of the nation and the world.

Lastly, AVA is truly a professional "home," a place where I can be sure to find kindred spirits who share similar beliefs, ethics, standards and passion. AVA members are a supportive network of folks who understand the day-to-day challenges of my work, and can offer advice and a sounding board when things get tough. You and I have common experiences, and it is very comforting to know where I can find you.

In short, there is no question that AVA has defined and created my identity as a professional, and continues to affirm it in a myriad of ways.

So in closing, I now want to pay tribute to *you*, the leaders and role models who have guided me through the years, and the colleagues and friends in this room who mean so much to me. I offer

you this simple affirmation of who and what we are:

We are navigators and explorers
We are dreamers and doers

We are jugglers
We are builders
We are kaleidoscope makers

We dare to reach high
We dare to dive deep

We are a little wild and crazy
But we are proud, because we are unique

We are advocates for ourselves, and the potential of every human being
We are powerful professionals with a purpose
We make the impossible happen.

Thank you for this *very special* honor. I look forward to many more years of service with AVA and all of you.