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NYAVA Collaborates with the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College: Summer Class on Community Engagement and the Management of Volunteers

By Gerald (Jerry) Pannozzo, CVA

When Susan Ellis provided the 2005 workshop for NYAVA at Baruch's Center for Educational Leadership and Nonprofit Programs, an idea was introduced. Thanks to the networking skills of NYAVA's president, Gail Elberg, a conversation about a class on volunteer management was started with the Department of Public Affairs – a graduate program. Gail approached two NYAVA members (Norma Gindes and me) and the two of us developed a class syllabus proposal, which was then endorsed by the NYAVA executive committee. Subsequently, we met with the Executive Director of Academic Programs and Assistant Director of Academic Programs at Baruch who worked with us towards acquiring approval of the final proposal (see class description below). This is only the beginning of "NYAVA's collaborative agenda". NYAVA members will be hearing from Norma and me because guest speakers will be needed and the course final project will require the students to interview a manager of volunteer resources, review a currently running volunteer program, and analyze the practical application of areas discussed during the classes. We will be reaching out to NYAVA members to join us in this collaboration and look forward to working with you.

Community Engagement and the Management of Volunteers: The purpose of this course is to provide current and future nonprofit managers with an understanding of creating organizational cultures conducive to community engagement; and provide meaningful, well-managed opportunities that engage individuals in volunteer service. The course will emphasize the critical responsibilities of nonprofit organizations with regard to managing volunteers whether the volunteers are delivering programs, serving on the board of directors, or raising funds for the organizations. The course will review the role of the leaders of nonprofit organizations in relation to making decisions on volunteer programs such as policies and procedures, volunteer/staff relations, liability and risk management, screening and supervision issues, and what they should look for in a manager of volunteer resources.

Instructors: Norma Gindes, MSW, Director, Voluntary Initiatives, United Hospital Fund, and Gerald (Jerry) Pannozzo, CVA, Program Coordinator, New York Methodist Hospital and Grant Coordinator/Consultant, Lutheran Medical Center.