

New Home for the CVA Credentialing Program

Status Update as of June 13, 2006

Background

When it became clear that AVA was in trouble and might be forced to dissolve as an organization, efforts immediately began to preserve the CVA ("Certified in Volunteer Administration") credentialing program and find a way for it to survive the crisis. A number of options were discussed with several individuals who have a strong vested interest in the program.

In mid-March a 2-step process was proposed to the Board as the best course of action: (1) immediately transfer ownership of the program from AVA to a temporary, short-term sponsor, and then (2) take a few months to explore other long-term options for a permanent home. The Northwest Oregon Volunteer Administrators Association (NOVAA) was then invited to serve as the temporary new sponsor.

However, after very serious deliberation the NOVAA board regretfully declined to accept temporary ownership of the program. This decision forced another round of discussions with the CVA committee chairs, experts in the certification field, and AVA's pro bono lawyer and accountant. With the clock ticking on the final dissolution of AVA, and being ever mindful of the need to ensure long-term sustainability, the decision was made to permanently house the program in a new, independent entity that will be truly representative of the entire field. This is a model used by several other professional certification programs, and will result in the CVA program being jointly "owned" by *many* organizations, rather than one. The AVA board has approved this plan, and the transfer is now completed.

The New Home

The CVA program is now owned and sponsored by a new organization called the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration (CCVA). Incorporated in Virginia, the sole purpose of CCVA is to offer this professional credential to practitioners throughout the field. The following individuals have agreed to serve as the founding Board members:

Gregory P. Baldwin
Executive Officer, Development & Strategic Partnerships
VolunteerMatch
San Francisco, CA USA

Katherine H. Campbell, CVA
CVA Program Manager
Richmond, VA USA

Suzanne Lawson, CVA
Consultant
Cobourg, ON Canada

Sarah Jane Rehnborg, CVA
Associate Director
RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service
LBJ School of Public Affairs – University of Texas
Austin, TX USA

Pamela Robinson, CVA
Director, Pro Bono Program
University of South Carolina School of Law
Columbia, SC USA

Sue Wood, CVA
Chair, Credentialing Committee
Bragg Creek, AB Canada

During the coming months the Board will be expanded to include representation from all the major national/international organizations that support the field of volunteerism and volunteer management. The creation of this new, independent “federated” home will ensure that the CVA program continues to grow with widespread investment, visibility and support, and is truly responsive to the changing needs of the entire spectrum of our profession.

This is the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the history of the CVA credential. Its new home has been created out of the conviction that a collaborative approach will sustain current momentum, preserve high standards of excellence and professionalism, and yield the greatest degree of long-term value and credibility.

Thank You...

During the past few months dozens of CVAs and new candidates have expressed their strong confidence in the program and their desire to see it be preserved as a critical component of their professional identity. Over 50 volunteers have worked diligently to continue the program without interruption, determined to not only survive the crisis, but end up in a place that allows it to thrive. Through their collective effort and that of many others who will follow, the spirit of our profession will continue to burn brightly.

For more information, contact:

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