

DIRECT FROM YO

My heart goes out to the people in Texas. This morning before I left for work, a newscaster interviewed a mayor of a small town in Texas and he was praising the Volunteers. First responders, “Cajun Navy, regular people with their own boats who are helping others.”

At the end of the mayor’s interview, I was in tears when they asked how they are coping and he said, **“God is good and you can’t get a blessing until you are a blessing to others.”**

With all the bad news in the world, everywhere and every day, there still are good people helping other people. Thank you to all the volunteers inside and outside of the hospitals. Thank you to each of you for “being you and helping others every day.”

Are you ready? “For some football?” “For back to school?” For your favorite TV shows to start up again after all the re-runs?” It seems this time of year everyone gets ready to settle back down into more of a routine, the lazy summer days are almost over, and lots of activities will soon be starting. But first, one important event is coming soon: The AHVRP 49th Annual Conference in Phoenix, Sept. 22-26. **This year’s theme is COMPASSIONATE Care & COMMITMENT to Service.**

This is a great time to participate with other Directors of Volunteers, managers, coordinators, volunteers and auxiliaries from all over the United States. This year’s theme was inspired by our need to amplify the Hospital Story. Our volunteers are being called upon more than ever to be more involved in their communities. Rich Umbdenstock, past president and CEO of the American Hospital Association, said, “As hospitals reach beyond their four walls into their communities, they need volunteers willing to reach right along with them. Engaged volunteers are critical to helping hospitals improve the overall health of the community. In the future, volunteers will be critical in hospital efforts to keep people healthy.”

At Aspirus in Wausau, Wisconsin, our Core Values define who we are.

Compassion- We care for our patients above all. We exist to serve those who choose us. We strive to exceed expectations by showing utmost concern for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Excellence- We create, innovate, and embrace change. We provide superior quality, showing measurable results. We always aim to improve. We provide a safe environment for all.

At AHVRP and your own organizations, core values are more important than ever with helping guide us by clearly defining behaviors that are valued. This year’s conference will help you gain the tools you need to develop yourself as the volunteer health care leader in our ever changing times.

You have my heartfelt gratitude for sharing your passion and priceless time with your volunteers. Passion is indescribable and felt in the heart. There's no better setting to explore your resources, network and take some time for yourself to reflect on your goals and core values.

See you next month in Phoenix! Be prepared to grow, learn, meet new friends and have Fun.

“Remember that the people on our planet are not standing in a line single file. Look closely. Everyone is really standing in a circle, holding hands. Whatever you give to the person standing next to you, it eventually comes back to you.” Edwin Markham



Yolanda Voigt, CAVS
2017 AHVRP President