

## AHVRP Member Spotlight October, 2018



Alfredo Stokes, Jr.  
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We asked Alfredo these questions.

### **What made you decide to leave your home and travel almost 3,000 miles to attend your first AHVRP Annual Conference & Exposition?**

“I was afforded through my organization to attend this year’s AHVRP conference to gain the latest information in volunteer programs, initiatives, and ideas shared by other within the Voluntary Service arena. Being new to the field of Voluntary Service and what better way to gain insight on and learn about different programs.”

### **We hope you enjoyed yourself at conference. What are some take-a-ways that made the trip and experience worthwhile?**

“Thank you. It was a true pleasure at the conference, not to mention I had the opportunity to meet some extremely knowledgeable professionals that provided insight and ideas on how to run different programs within the Voluntary Service world.

Some of the take-a-ways that made this conference worthwhile for me was the ability to attend different workshops and share and expand my views of voluntary services.

From day one I jumped in with the Volgistics Sponsored User Group Workshop which was a must for me because we will be using that platform with the incoming 2019 National Veterans Golden Age

Games to manage our volunteers. The information that was provided during that workshop was outstanding and gave me a jump start of how the Volgistics platform works.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Time Attendee Event took a lot of stress off, because it explained how the conference worked and how to get the most out of it. It also gave me the opportunity to meet a fellow Alaskan that works at one of our local hospital in Anchorage. We found that we have a lot in common are far as our volunteer's programs and shared information on how we could build our programs in terms of veterans and civilians.

I could go on and on with all the different workshop because they were phenomenal. The ability to network and meet so many people with such vast ideas that were so willing to share those ideas was just amazing, and made it more than worthwhile."

**Congratulations on being the inaugural mobile app top of the leaderboard! Any words of wisdom for future app participants or for us in making the app more beneficial to our attendees?**

"As many of you know the Department of Veterans Affairs, Voluntary Services had a strong presence at this year's conference. It was vital for us to make our presence known and felt. The app was just one of the many platforms that allowed us to shine. It was battle right down to the last few minutes on who was going to finish on top. Having the mobile app made it fun and very easy to keep track of all the workshops and events that were happening around the hotel with the conference in real time. Being able to see any changes in real time was great. All the photos that were posted gave everyone the opportunity to take part in every aspect of the conference whether they were physical there or scanning through the gallery to see what everyone else was doing.

Until being made aware that there was a small competition going on to be the top on the leaderboard; after a while fellow attendees began pushing me to work harder to catch those that were ahead of me. VA personnel also added a little pressure to ensure that we had a representative within the top 5 on the leaderboard. What's funny about the entire thing is I don't really do social media."

**Any final words about the conference itself or any highlights (either social or educational)?**

"If given the opportunity to attend the conference in the future it would be very advantageous to your personal and professional being to attend this conference. It provides so much knowledge and opportunities to meet so many different people within this field to share ideas."