

1996 International Conference on Volunteer Administration

1996 Harriet Naylor Distinguished Member Service Award Introduction

Jeanne Bradner, to quote her nominator, is "a living, breathing example of leadership, collaboration, and personal commitment to the values of volunteerism." She is clearly one of the major contributors to the growth and development of volunteerism in our time and has the unique talent to look to the future and apply it to the present.

Jeanne has served in a number of high-profile leadership positions both locally and nationally. She has served as Illinois' Director of the Governor's Office of Voluntary Action and as Region V Director of ACTION advocating for the professional development of volunteers and volunteer administrators alike. She currently manages the Illinois Commission on Community Service where, through her leadership and insistence, all AmeriCorps programs in her state actively engage community volunteers in their programs. She has held various positions within AVA: Chair, Public Issues, Chair of the Awards Committee, and President Elect of the AVA Board. She has chaired numerous local committees and is a leader in the development of a system for outcome-based evaluations for volunteer programs in Chicago.

She has been and continues to be an advocate for proposals that would provide "good Samaritan" and volunteer liability legislation. She continues to advocate for collaboration in these times of downsizing through her work to design the Metro Chicago Volunteer Coalition which will mobilize 7.5 million people in an effort to empower and improve communities. In addition to preparing two books for publication, she continues to serve as a role model through her own volunteering efforts for the Red Cross and as past-Mayor of her home town, Winnetka, Illinois.

Jeanne Bradner has made significant contributions to the field of volunteerism and to AVA through her wisdom, energy, and vision. AVA is proud to name her the 1996 Harriet Naylor Distinguished Member Service Award Winner.

**AVA Awards Committee: Carol Todd, Chair,
Muffin Clark, Peggy Sue Mihata-Zimmerman, Connie Pirtle
(Cheryl N. Yallen, Board Representative to the Committee)**

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1996 Harriet Naylor Distinguished Member Service Award Acceptance Speech

Jeanne H. Bradner

I want to thank each and every one of you for this honor. To me the Harriet Naylor Award stands for our commitment to citizen involvement in our society, something I believe in wholeheartedly. I often speculate about what we could accomplish if we could get the 50 percent of our population who are not involved to become involved. Think what changes in communities could take place.

I agree with the person who said, "I don't stay home worrying about the things I can't change; I get out and change the things I can."

One of my own personal missions has been to tell other people how important AVA is in facilitating citizen participation and also reminding AVA members—particularly new members—how absolutely essential this profession is. Not well paying, perhaps, but ESSENTIAL.

This summer I was reminded of the difference between transactional leadership and transformational leadership and I thought: We in AVA are very good and work very hard at transactional leadership—the exchange of value from volunteer work, meeting the needs of the volunteers while meeting the needs of the

community, the win/win relationship. But it seems to me we need to remember that while the principles of transactional leadership are important to our understanding of others' motivations, we are even more importantly transformational leaders. We are transforming people in terms of their own self-esteem. How many volunteers say, "I got more out of it than I could ever give"? We are transforming our agencies and organizations and, most significantly, we are transforming our communities.

So, while I don't for a minute suggest we change our name to the Association for Transformational Leadership, I do suggest that we write the words "transformational leadership" on a 3" x 5" file card, tape it someplace over our telephone, and remind ourselves every day that this is our business, the absolutely essential business that we are in—even on those days when the people, the communities, and the agencies and organizations we work with seem most stubbornly to resist transformation!

Thank you again, and thank you for all YOU do to change your own corner of the world!