

**Growing Your Volunteer Engagement Career:
Why Professional Development + Networking are Vital**

Annelise Ferry: Welcome!

Cherice Ullrich: Cherice Ullrich, United Way of Rock River Valley in Rockford, IL it is 21 degrees here!

Tammy Altes: Tammy Altes with CommonSpirit in Stockton, California

Kelsey Callahan: Hi Im Kelsey, I am the Community Engagement Director for HRCAP here in Virginia and would like to gain helpful knowledge about workflows for volunteer engagement.

Amanda Kintzi: Amanda Kintzi - Volunteer & Outreach Specialist - Family Service Rochester in Rochester, MN

Kate Aukes: Kate Aukes - Program Manager, Employment with Goodwill of Central Illinois

Peg Tanner: Hello, I am Peg Tanner, Volunteer Manager, AZ GOLF

Wendi Geller: Hello. Wendi Geller from MorseLife Health Systems. Director of VOLunteer

Annelise Ferry: Hi Wendi!! Thanks for joining!

Brianna Hardy Daviet: Hi! Brianna from United Way of Weld County in Greeley, CO

Annelise Ferry: Hi Peg, Hi Kate!

Ineavelle Colon Reyes: Ineavelle Colon- Catholic Charities of Central Florida- Manager of Mission Engagement

Annelise Ferry: Welcome!

Amy Manwaring: Amy Manwaring, Resource Development Manager, from Heart of Illinois United Way.

Sharlene Allison: Sharlene here - Volunteer Coordinator at Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce in Ontario, CA :)

Ineavelle Colon Reyes: Thank you!

Wendi Geller: I'm in West Palm Beach, FL!

Annelise Ferry: Thanks for joining us today for Growing Your Volunteer Engagement Career: Why Professional Development + Networking are Vital with Nicole R. Smith!

Megan Lopez: Hello, Megan Lopez, Arizona Game and Fish Program Manager

Stephanie Drzymala: Stephanie, Manager, Volunteer and Wish Relationships and Make A Wish Metro & WNY

Annelise Ferry: Hi Megan!

Annelise Ferry: Welcome Stephanie!

Leslie Villegas: Natalia Marengo Volunteer Recruitment AmeriCorps Associate with South Bronx United

Annelise Ferry: Hi Leslie!

Regina Mezydlo: Regi Mezydlo, recently retired Director of Volunteer Engagement at Brookfield Zoo Chicago (1994-2025)

Annelise Ferry: Welcome Regi!

Lea Ann Gross: Hello everyone Lea Ann Gross from Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington va.

Annelise Ferry: Thanks for joining us Lea Ann!

Fireflies.ai Notetaker Kelsey: Kelsey invited Fireflies.ai here to record & take notes. View Security & Privacy info:

<https://fireflies.ai/policy>

Type:

'/ff leave' - Remove Fireflies

View Realtime notes here:

https://app.fireflies.ai/live/01KEFFNWV6P9189HGZ8AP0TVBZ?ref=live_chat

Annelise Ferry: AL!VE -

<https://www.volunteeralive.org/>

Enrique Smith: Hi, I'm an AI assistant helping Enrique Smith take notes for this meeting. Follow along the transcript here:

https://otter.ai/u/5zrq9Gn7uogpqWlQfJ-WV7k7u_k0?utm_source=va_chat_link_1

You can see screenshots and add highlights and comments. After the meeting, you'll get a summary and action items.

If you'd like to stop this recording, you can go to the link above and click the Stop button.

If you'd like to stop the recordings for all Otter Notetakers in this meeting, you can type "otter stop" in Zoom chat.

Leena Gondeck: Greetings to everyone! from Leena Gondeck with South Side Mission of Peoria

Gina Edwards: Hi Leena!!

Matthew Mendonza: Thanks Leena! Greetings to everyone as well, Matthew Mendonza from The Salvation Army in Hawai'i!

Annelise Ferry: ALIVE:

<https://volunteeralive.org/>

Sarah Alexander: Sarah Alexander here from GlamourGals, a nonprofit working to eliminate loneliness among seniors in the US and Canada! Would love to connect on LinkedIn -

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-spooner-alexander-630623133>

Annelise Ferry: Thanks Sarah, I sent you a connection invite!

Annelise Ferry: Wow!

Court McCracken (she/her): I have my crochet on my desk

Wendi Geller: trying to get my 20-something year old to understand networking is the way. It's not cheating, as she says.

Heather Murray: congrats!!!

Lauren Loftin: whoohoo!

Summer McAfee: Yaaaaaaaaaaaaay!!!!

Annelise Ferry: How to Become a Certified Volunteer Administrator (CVA) in 2026 -

<https://www.galaxydigital.com/blog/certified-in-volunteer-administration>

Annelise Ferry:

https://www.volunteeralive.org/career_pathways.php

Halima Johnson: Sorry i have to sign off early but thanks for providing this opportunity!

Annelise Ferry: The Best Podcasts for Volunteer Leaders in 2026 -

<https://www.galaxydigital.com/blog/podcasts-for-volunteer-leaders>

Wendi Geller: COP has been amazing in ALIVE

Court McCracken (she/her):

Annelise Ferry: The Ultimate List of Volunteer Management Conferences in 2026 -

<https://www.galaxydigital.com/blog/volunteer-management-conferences>

Annelise Ferry: Professional Development in Volunteer Engagement with Faiza Venzant, CVA -

<https://www.galaxydigital.com/blog/professional-development-in-volunteer-engagement-with-faiza-venzant>

Tiffany Jones: Sooo true!

Lauren Loftin: our profession is a mix of others combined...

Court McCracken (she/her): It was really for me in volunteer engagement where I learned the power of communication. Clear & consistent

Amanda Kintzi: 10 years exp here :)

Wendi Geller: 18 years in my field of volunteer management.

Sharlene Allison: 5 months in!

Maeve Spence: 8 years..but always learning!

Serenity Mitchell: Been working part time in volunteer engagement for a year, started as a full time volunteer & events coordinator 3 months ago. Looking to learn to grow in my career!

Lauren Loftin: coming up on my 11th year ..it's worth it to get your CVA and even your CNP..I'm still learning, growing, and volunteering!

Leslie Villegas: 3 months in!

Umeca Briscoe: 19 years for me

Lea Ann Gross: Thank you so much - i have another call - this was inspiring and a great reminder that we need to think about the next step.

Gina Edwards: Yay for time blocking. It's the secret ingredient!

Dionedra Dorsey: 2nd year in volunteer engagement/member engagement. Could definitely connect with a mentor to help with strategy regarding progression of my career.

Gina Edwards:

https://www.volunteeralive.org/mentor_program.php

Sarah Alexander: Add me on LinkedIn and let me know if someone in my network can help you move forward!

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-spooner-alexander-630623133>

Erin Olson: Thank you so much Nicole! Very inspiring!

Leslie Villegas: Thank you so much Nicole!!!! So insightful

Sarah Alexander: Thank you Nicole!

Vivian Figueroa: Thank you so much! saludos desde Puerto Rico

C E Walters: Really Great. Thank you for the inspiration

Holly Grace: Thank you, Nicole!

Alexandra Maggio: Happy to be a mentor or connect to anyone! Been in volunteer management for 12 years :) amaggio@uwpv.org (Alexandra Maggio) Work in MA

Wendi Geller: head to a summit. Going for first time.

Maeve Spence: Thanks Nicole! Excellent presentation!

Dionedra Dorsey: Wonderful! Thank you so much Nicole!

Regina Mezydlo: Thank you wonderful suggestions!

Annelise Ferry: ALIVE Conference - National Summit on Volunteer Engagement Happening March 18-20th

<https://www.volunteeralive.org/summit.php>

Wendi Geller: Sarah Alexander...so many of with your name. If you can find me...Wendi Geller.

Enrique Smith: Takeaways from the meeting

[] Follow up with everyone who posted in the webinar chat, gather any unanswered questions, and send extra resources to participants when questions could not be answered during the session (Annalise Ferry)

See full summary -

https://otter.ai/u/5zrq9Gn7uogpqWlQfJ-WV7u_k0?utm_source=va_chat&utm_content=wra pup_v4&tab;=chat&message;=bf0eeac4-f236-48b1-a4a0-737577f5b6e4

Wendi Geller: NO HIDING

Sarah Alexander:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-spooner-alexander-630623133>

Leslie Villegas: Happy to connect as well! My name is Natalia Marengo but I am subbing for my supervisor Leslie Villegas- please reach out to connect via email volunteer@southbronxunited.org. South Bronx United is a non-profit that uses soccer as a tool for social change in the South Bronx!

Sarah Alexander: This is the link to my profile! I will also add you!

Leena Gondeck: Does anyone have a good resource for free training resources that I can provide to my volunteers?

Summer McAfee: Happy to connect also:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/summer-mcafee/>

Serenity Mitchell: Happy to connect with anyone! :

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/serenity-mitchell>

Debra Colley: This was FANTASTIC, thank you.

Azerean Cameron: Excellent presentation, thank you!

Sharlene Allison: Thank you so much!

Wendi Geller: Psychromor for veteran training

Ineavelle Colon Reyes: Thank you!

Summer McAfee: Thanks for all the info and the resources today! :0)

Leslie Villegas: Thank you!!!!

Peg Tanner: Thank you!

Larysa Motspan: Thank you!

Maeve Spence: Happy to connect too!

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/maeve-spence-7b549540/>

Nicole R. Smith, CVA: Connect with me on linkedin

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicolersmithnet/>

Renatta Hoffer: Thank you so much!!

Jose Calvillo: Thank you!