



G. Wendy Humphreys / Candidate Statement

After serving for 23 years as the executive director of a nonprofit neighborhood center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I retired and became a fulltime caretaker for my housemate of 34 years. When she died 2 1/2 years later of ALS, I felt my life had ended.

Six months later, a friend suggested that I attend an RVW get-together. It was a life-changing experience. The camaraderie, the laughter and the activities transfused life into my veins.

I have been to five of the last six national conventions, assisting as a volunteer and as chair of the golf outing three times. I am a part-time fulltimer. I attend get togethers in the East, the Midwest, Texas and Florida.

This is my second year as the chair of the Election Committee. The committee has had difficulty finding members who are willing to serve. If elected to the Board of Directors, I hope to address the issue of chapter responsibility for the national organization. I feel it is now my time to give back to the organization that gave me a new life.

Email
gladah4@aol.com

Phone
(304) 552-5939

Mid-America Chapter
Ohio River Valley Chapter
Lyte Hearts Chapter

What, in your opinion, is the role of chapters in the national organization?

Because there are chapters, the national organization exists. It is the responsibility of the chapters to provide competent leaders that they trust to the national organization. These leaders form the board of the national organization. The board provides the framework in which the chapters operate, coordinates and disseminates information and supports and strengthens the chapters.

Specifically, how would you organize new chapters in underserved areas?

The website and the magazine should regularly post a notice inviting RVW members or potential members to contact the RVW office if they are interested in starting a new chapter in their area of the country.

It is important that local residents be indigenous leaders in their part of the country.

A board liaison could then contact a member of the Membership Committee to work with the indigenous leaders. The Membership Committee should develop a handbook for organizing and operating a new chapter. This handbook would be made available to the new leaders.

Members of the Fulltimers Chapter who would be willing could be trained as organizers and travel to that part of the country to help start the chapter. They could assist in the first (and possibly more) get-togethers for the newly formed chapter.

The board could solicit proposals for the establishment of a new chapter. Grants of at least \$500 could be awarded to help with start-up costs. This money could soon be returned thru the dues of new members.

If an underserved area is identified by the board (rather than by an indigenous member), it will be much more difficult to start a new chapter. Members who live near the area should be identified and asked if they would assist in starting a new chapter nearby. All means of communication would need to be used to identify interested potential members. The handbook and hopefully resident members in the nearby areas would assist in the organization and operation.

What are the three goals you would like to have the Board concentrate on that would help RVW grow and thrive?

RVW has five stated goals. They are all important toward stabilizing and promoting growth of the organization. I assume that they were considered after much board discussion. Goals are written to be long term and should extend beyond 2008. Each goal should

continued on page 5

RVW Election 2008 – Vote by Sept. 1



Nancy M. Shoop / Candidate Statement

Working and volunteering to support organizations I love is a part of my life. For 25 years, as a GI specialty nurse at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, I enjoyed caring for the men and women that served our county. For the last 12 years, I have worked in the healthcare field as a vendor nurse educator. I volunteered for my specialty nursing organization and spent eight years participating in committees, serving on the board of directors and then becoming president for 6,000 members with a two-million-dollar budget. I have also served on three other non-profit organizations as a director and officer.

Email
nancyshoop@comcast.net

Phone
(317) 202-0201

Cell
(317) 289-9940

Ohio River Valley Chapter

I originally learned about RVW back in 1993 and was a member for about four years. I attended the first RVW convention in Lodi, California in 1996. I also attended the Goshen, Indiana convention. In 2004, I rejoined RVW and have participated actively with friends in developing the Ohio River Valley RVW and attending many rallies. This year I am volunteering as the Communication Committee chair for the Charleston, South Carolina convention. Now I am ready to assist the other directors in accomplishing the RVW mission and goals.

What, in your opinion, is the role of chapters in the national organization?

With the serious economic challenges we are all now facing, I believe that the chapter role is becoming more important in meeting our mission. Chapters are closer to the members and potential members, and rallies are the best networking opportunities. We need to offer the chapters and the members benefits that bond them to RVW.

Specifically, how would you organize new chapters in underserved areas?

Starting a new chapter in an underserved area will require experienced chapter leaders as well as national leaders supporting the interested members, perhaps hosting a get-together to help gather the 20 signatures required. RVW needs to make sure the area is underserved. Many chapters cross state and regional boundaries, and we want to retain all chapters and members.

What three goals would you like to have the board concentrate on that would help RVW grow and thrive?

Goal 1 – Addressing the changing needs of women RVers.

Goal 2 – Providing for the financial health of RVW.

Goal 3 – Developing and sharing ideas and resources that support the members and the chapters.

Selecting one of those three goals, what action would you recommend to move toward accomplishing that goal?

To discover the changing needs of women RVers, a needs assessment of our members and potential members could direct RVW's future plans to meet the RVW mission. Everyone is dealing with a changing economy, including the rapidly increasing cost of fuel, food and camping. RVW can accomplish much of this needs assessment through the RVW magazine, RVW website, the national convention, chapter rallies, and visiting other RV organization rallies.

How would you address the problem of member retention?

Member retention is as important as the recruitment of new members. We need to ask members who do not renew why they are not renewing. Are they leaving RVing in general or are they leaving RVW specifically? This will provide us ideas so we can create a better sense of value.

RVW Election 2008 – Vote by Sept. 1



Email
conwray@yahoo.com

Phone
(913) 558-0998

Mid-America Chapter

Constance Wray / Candidate Statement

In 2005, I retired following 30 years' teaching English, American History, and coaching competitive speech. I directed the church choir and held offices in a major political party and its women's federation. For years, my dream was to buy a Winnebago and see the world. As a beginning fulltimer, I am seeing that dream come true. I discovered RVW in 2005. I have attended three national conventions and now serve on the national Member Services Committee.

I will be a positive part of your board for three reasons:

- First, I know how to listen and digest (sometimes conflicting) information.
- Second, I know how to use that information to make decisions. I understand the advantage of honest compromise and that sometimes it is better to "win some than to lose all." I also know how to hold my ground when I am right.
- Third, when decisions are made, I know how to articulate to the membership the intent and rationale of board decisions. Two-way communication between board and membership is imperative.

I'd love to visit with you, so email and let's talk. I need your vote and ask that you mail it no later than Aug. 15.

What, in your opinion, is the role of chapters in the national organization?

Perhaps the most important thing to remember in a member-driven organization is that there can never be an *us* and *them* attitude. National leaders percolate out of the membership, and each director is a member. Members have charged the board to make decisions that create continuity of both thought and action from chapter to chapter. When members make thoughtful requests of the board, those requests must be heard, and the rationale for the board's decision must be given. Likewise, if after thoughtful deliberation the board makes a request of the chapters, the chapters must comply or give reasonable and detailed reasons for non-compliance.

Specifically, how would you organize new chapters in underserved areas?

Some chapters, because of their large populations, find it almost impossible to find a rally location that can accommodate the whole group; this makes real growth impossible. By allowing/encouraging these large groups to divide into two or three smaller groups, chapters would have a greater chance to grow. (This is the same principle as dividing flower bulbs to get more flowers.)

Other chapters cover geographic areas so great that members from one end of the chapter area can't come to meetings at the other end; this causes members to drop out and keeps prospective members from joining. Here, a geographic divide would allow twice as many rallies and twice as many opportunities for growth.

You might read this and think, "Let other chapters divide if they want to, but I'll fight to keep my group together." I know we all want to camp with our friends, but now you have created an opportunity to have mega rallies from time to time. Think about it.

What are three goals you would like to have the board concentrate on that would help RVW grow and thrive?

Any goals I might suggest would fall under the general category of improved communication. First, I will encourage better use of technology. Put the magazine online. Put the member directory on a CD. Be timelier with announcements online. Use more detail when reporting minutes. Second, I will encourage board members to be more visible. As a board

continued on page 5

RVW Election 2008 – Vote by Sept. 1

G. Wendy Humphreys / from page 2

have objectives with established timelines and delegated responsibilities. The objectives with responsibilities and timelines are then written into an annual work plan for the board. Then you can determine what the board should concentrate on that would help RVW grow and thrive within one year.

Selecting one of those three goals, what action would you recommend to move toward accomplishing that goal?

After serving on the Election Committee the past two years, I am very concerned that members are not stepping up to be leaders on the national Board of Directors and committees. I suggest that chapter leaders meet to establish regions across the country. Regions on a rotating basis would select a board member to fill board vacancies.

Committee members could also be appointed by the region. This would ensure representation from all regions of the country. The regional representatives would be answerable to their region.

How would you address the problem of member retention?

Member retention will always be a concern. People's lives change, not everyone who attends an outing will like RVW, and the increase in gasoline and other expenses means turnover. Some will join, some will drop out, and some will rejoin.

Ideally, each chapter would designate one person as membership chair (some chapters do this). This person would monitor the membership list and the attendance lists at events. Contacts would be made with new members and members who no longer attend. Trends may be identified and then actions taken to promote continued membership.

The names of chapter members who are new or who have not renewed would be shared with the membership chair by the national organization. The chapter membership chair could contact the individuals for information, trends.

Constance Wray / from page 4

member, I will attend as many chapters as time and the price of gasoline will allow. We must find ways to let you know we exist to serve RVW—you.

Communication requires someone who hears and responds. When your chapter fails to respond to requests made by the board—i.e. timely completions and return of forms—communication fails. When you have ideas, suggestions or complaints and don't talk with a board member, communication fails.

Selecting one of those three goals, what action would you recommend to move toward accomplishing that goal?

Improved communication between board and membership and board and chapter leadership. I'm guessing that greater/smarter use of technology is the easiest way to improve communication.

How would you address the problem of member retention?

Why do members choose to let their membership lapse? Poor health. Advanced age. Time required for distant rallies. Increasing fuel costs. Discomfort with group. No one to travel with. The question assumes non-renewal is a problem, but it might not be if membership growth counterbalances, causing total membership to remain at status quo. Obviously everyone—from chapter leaders, members of national committees, members and national directory—must work together to maintain membership levels.

Perhaps each chapter should set a goal to increase its membership by a certain percentage. Chapters could set membership maintenance goals. By using contests, awards, membership levels, etc. the board could help chapters develop an excitement to help meet the goals.

Attrition is not just a concern of RVW. In fact, every organization you deal with is in the same situation. Let me know what your civic or church group is doing to maintain membership. Your board is concerned and actively working to find solutions to attrition. As a member of the board, I will join the efforts seeking solutions for RVW membership retention.