



Volume 9 Issue 1

VISION

National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc.



January 2026

NVON Newsletter

“May your troubles be less and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door”



“Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away but never forget to remember that blessings come each day”

President’s Thoughts...

As we welcome the new year 2026, I have to admit I could hardly wait until January 1 when I would be official; as NVON president. Since I was chosen to be president elect in 2025 and “shadowing” Jane Chapman it has been a wonderful adventure and a great learning experience. **AND** with your help my term as president will not only be fun but educational, rewarding and of course challenging.

In searching for a theme to begin the next chapter of NVON the **TEAM** concept kept coming into my mind.

Together Everyone Achieves More TEAM Never Give Up, Work Hard and Dream Big

From our beginning in 1995 with seven state organizations to now ten our NVON **TEAM** member organizations have worked together to promote communication, education, and volunteerism for all people.

Looking back over the past 30 years of National Volunteer Outreach Network (NVON) I look at the previous presidents and vice president’s themes and Projects in Common. (see NVON Website) Each of them had an idea and with the help of all the NVON members each idea came into being. Nothing can better describe NVON than the word **TEAM**.

The nicest thing about team work is you always have others on your side. The executive **TEAM** is working tirelessly to make sure the business of NVON is taken care of and each state member of the **TEAM** is aware of what is happening in NVON.

The executive committee and state presidents (**TEAM**) will continue to have quarterly zoom meetings; and we will promote all state organizations and NVON activities and membership growth. Our Project in Common “*Break the Stigma, Ignite Hope, Mental Health Matters*” will be promoted focusing on the 8 Dimensions of Wellness; Physical, Emotional, Social, Intellectual, Environmental, Spiritual, Occupational, and Financial.

As the new year begins, I would like to remind everyone that communication between the **TEAM** members is crucial for awareness, growth, and well-being of an organization. The NVON website and Facebook page are great tools to use.

The Wisconsin **TEAM** (WAHCE) will host the 27th NVON Conference at The Wisconsin Hotel, Lake Delton, Wisconsin, July 14-16. The members of the conference committee (**TEAM**) have chosen classes and speakers that highlight “Never Give Up.” If you haven’t already, please make plans to attend the conference and be part of the **TEAM**.

There is so much to learn from each of you. I hope you will feel free to contact me, share your ideas and most importantly feel you are part of the NVON **TEAM**. —Karen

“The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined efforts of each individual”-Vince Lombardi



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A New Year of Purpose and Care

Wishing each of you a joyful and prosperous New Year. May this season bring renewed hope, fresh energy, and meaningful opportunities to serve.

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for your dedication to Project in Common: Mental Health Awareness and Well-Being. Your commitment—through training's, lessons, and countless hours of service—has made a real and lasting impact. Even in the busyness of daily life, your efforts continue to strengthen our community.

As we move forward together, let us remember that caring for others begins with caring for ourselves.

Self-care is not a luxury—it is essential. It allows us to show up fully, with clarity, compassion, and resilience. When we prioritize our well-being, we create the foundation needed to continue this important work. Here are six simple ways to nurture yourself this year:



- ⇒ Move your body daily to support both physical and mental health.
- ⇒ Take time alone to recharge, reflect, and reset.
- ⇒ Engage in creativity to relieve stress and spark joy.
- ⇒ Treat yourself kindly, even in small ways.
- ⇒ Prioritize rest, allowing sleep to restore your energy.
- ⇒ Commit to a self-care routine that supports balance and consistency.

As we step into this new year, may we lead with intention, care, and hope—honoring both the work we do and the well-being that sustains it.

Stay Positive— Dot Dunn Hart, NVON Vice President 2024-2026

27th ANNUAL NVON CONFERENCE

July 14-16, 2026

Together Everyone Achieves More, “Never Give Up”

The Wisconsin Hotel & Conference Center

60 Gasser Rd, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

(608) 254-2285

Hotel Information:

Block name: NVON Conference Block Code: 2607NVONCO Group rate until May 1st, 2026.

Please leave your name, phone number if we do not answer and we will call you back as soon as possible.

Registration Form \$25 Late Fee (postmarked after June 1)

Conference T-shirt Order Form Order Deadline June 22

For additional information contact:

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Jane Grabarski, Registration Chair

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Together Everyone Achieves More, “Never Give Up”

Tuesday July 14, 2026

Morning 9:00 am — 11:00 am Crafts

Chain Painting — \$10.00 per person. Instructor: Sheryl Smith

Participants will use acrylic paint and ball chains to design floral-inspired artwork on canvas. As the process can get messy, protective clothing and gloves will be provided for everyone.



Gnome Ornament — \$6.00 per person. Instructor: Glory Bizub

Come join us in creating a one of a kind (3-inch) ceramic Gnome of your dreams.

12:00 — 3:30 pm

Wisconsin Dells Army Duck & The Bowman House Museum TOUR \$40 per person



One of Wisconsin Dells’ most popular Wisconsin Dells attraction for 70+ years, providing a sightseeing experience unlike any other. Sandstone rock formations that are over 14,000 years old such as Grotto Island, Twin Ink Stands, Sugar Bowl, and Lone Rock. Two Splash Downs into Sasquatch Lake and use the Duck’s six-wheel drive capabilities to traverse Dell Creek. Our 55 minute, land-and-water Duck rides has been the most unique and original way to experience the Wisconsin Dells for over 70 years.



After the Duck Ride, a shuttle will take you to Bowman Park for a visit to the historic Bowman House Museum—a must-see in downtown Dells. This beautiful home, built in 1904, is a striking example of prairie style architecture.

Afternoon crafts 1:00pm — 3:00pm

Water Aerobics — Instructor: Dawn Stone

Join us for water aerobics at the indoor pool, featuring structured water-based exercises set to music. No swimming ability is required, as all activities take place in shallow water.

Plarning — Instructed by Becky Gutzman

Becky will teach you how to make plarn—plastic yarn made from recycled grocery bags. This workshop shows you how to turn bags into plarn and crochet it into mats for homeless shelters or fun tote bags and baskets. All materials are provided, except you must bring your own crochet hook or knitting needles. Basic crochet skills are helpful. The workshop is free.



Together Everyone Achieves More, “Never Give Up”

Wednesday July 15, 2026

Lunch

Crystal Treu will be presenting her story about overcoming breast cancer. Her program is titled "**You're Stronger Than You Know!**" Join us to hear Crystal discuss her experiences and share how the support of others helped her discover inner strength. After serving as the primary caregiver for her husband through his three cancer diagnoses, Crystal had to learn to accept care and support herself. We invite you to attend as she shares her inspiring journey.

2:00 pm — 3:00pm

Diamond Dot Craft Workshop — Led by Darlene Schumacher, this class will guide participants in creating a choice of two picture frames. The supply fee for this session is \$20.00.

Every story contains strength — Guided by Dot Dunn Hart

Participants can share their experiences with trauma from their own lives. By sharing our stories, we support one another.

The Necedah National Wildlife Refuge - a Volunteer's Dream! – Led by: Deb Biechler from the Necedah Wildlife Refuge-- Creating community and using your gifts as a volunteer. How volunteers and the beauty and awe of the refuge combine to work magic.

3:30pm — 4:30pm

Warm Glow — led by Eileen Gottbeheat, features a wool craft project where participants create a fall wall hanging using appliqué and embroidery. The \$15 fee covers all materials and the pattern.

Wisconsin Helping Nicaragua Women & Families — Amy Wiza will present on programs in Nicaragua that develop skills, character, and leadership. NVON and WAHCE have supported Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners by providing water filters, sewing machines, supplies, and humanitarian aid for Nicaraguan families.

Circus World Museum will be speaking about the history of the Ringling Brothers Circus in Baraboo. Experience the amazing at Circus World! 64 acres showcasing the incredible history of the American Circus is yours to explore. From the world's largest collection of restored historic circus wagons to seven National Landmark structures that more than a century ago were the wintertime home to the Ringling Bros. Circus.

Supper

Barb and Ken Wardius, authors of "Wisconsin Lighthouses: A Photographic and Historical Guide," will present a 45-minute slide and lecture program on Wisconsin's historic lighthouses. The presentation features original photographs, live narration, music, and covers about one-third of the state's lighthouses, including Cana Island, Wisconsin Point, Sand Island, Rockwell, Rawley Point, Milwaukee North Point, and others. Audience questions are welcome after the program.

Together Everyone Achieves More, “Never Give Up”

Thursday July 16, 2026

Lunch

Gabby Myers is the Research & Education Manager at the Cranberry Research Center in Black River Falls. Her "Cranberry 101" presentation highlights Wisconsin's state fruit, its production, and history. She manages research and educational initiatives for the Wisconsin Cranberry Research and Education Foundation, supports external projects at the Cranberry Innovation Center, and coordinates tours and industry events. Gabby holds a PhD in agricultural engineering from Iowa State University.

Sessions 2:00 pm — 3:00 pm

"What Quilting Means: A 25-Year Perspective." Jane Weiss will present a session titled She will display quilts she has created over the past 25 years and share her insights on what quilting represents to those involved in the craft.

"How to Help Others When I am Not Okay." Heather Quackenboss, Extension Educator from La Crosse County, will lead a session on balancing care for others with self-care. The session covers regulating stress, preventing burnout, maintaining authenticity, and explores compassion, resilience, and letting go of unhelpful habits.

Break the Stigma Around Domestic Violence- Jess Kaehny serves as the Community Education Program Manager at Hope House, a domestic violence advocacy center supporting five rural counties in Wisconsin. Hope House is dedicated to addressing misconceptions about domestic violence and fostering optimism among individuals affected by it. Learn more about the realities surrounding this important issue.

3:30pm — 4:30pm

Friendship Necklace – Instructor: Sandy Pohl, Owner of K9-Ewe. This class offers participants the opportunity to craft a distinctive friendship necklace. Attendees will select beads from an assortment curated by the instructor; all materials, including beads and necessary supplies, are provided. The fee for this class is \$20.00.

"Don't You Dare Give Up—The Power of Persistence" by Teresa Newcomb, a Life Coach, offers both heart-centered and practical guidance. This workshop is tailored for volunteers and outreach teams who dedicate themselves to serving others and may sometimes feel exhausted—even those with the strongest resolve.

"The Amish in Wisconsin" Presenter- Larry Scheckel . The Old Order Amish came from Ohio and arrived in southern Monroe County and northern Vernon County starting in 1966. Their community now consists of 3,200 families and a population exceeding 3,500. Discover their distinctive lifestyle, including traditions related to courtship, marriage, baptisms, weddings, funerals, education, clothing, use of the German language, and the Ordnung—a set of life rules they follow.

Supper

Jennifer Drayna serves as the Conservation Education Director at the International Crane Foundation. Her presentation, titled **"Cranes of the World,"** will explore the foundation's global initiatives to protect cranes and conserve their habitats.



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NVON Newsletter

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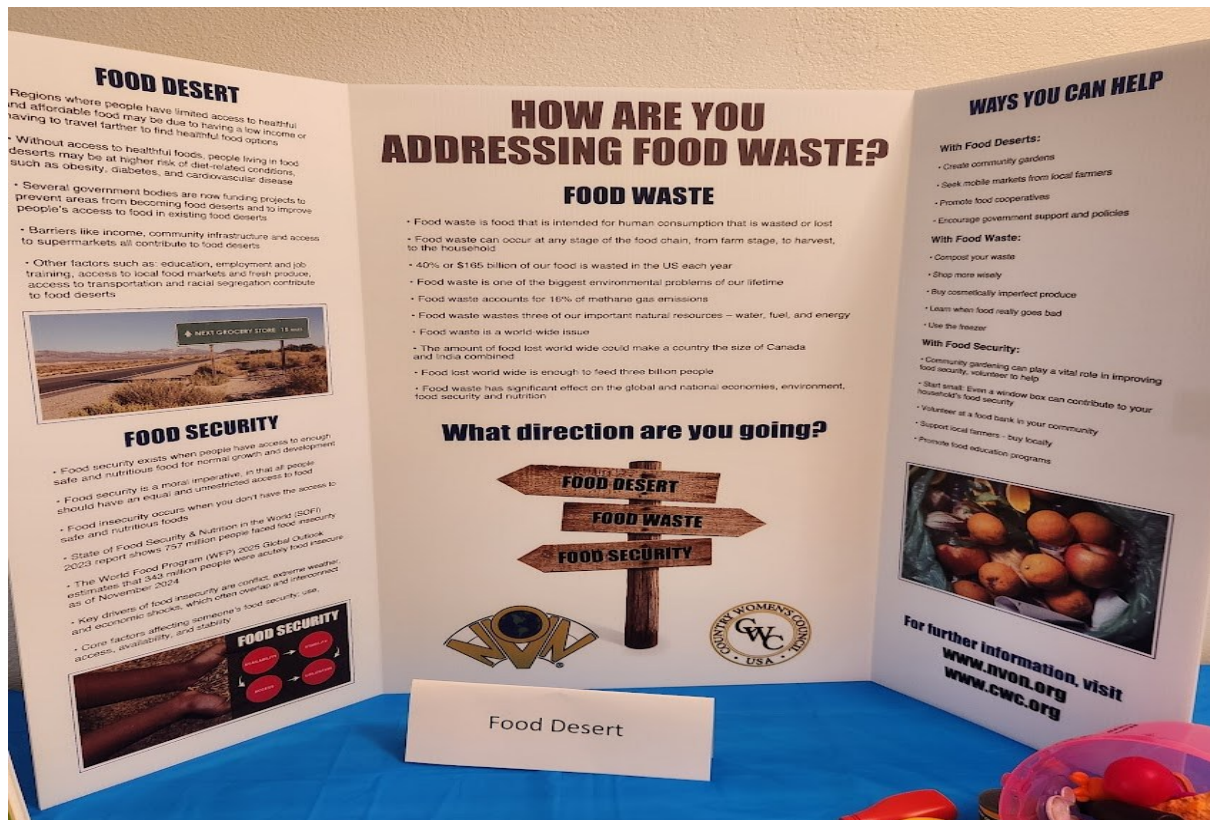
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Addressing Food Waste

Be it resolved that ACWW facilitates both action and advocacy on the issue of food waste, recognizing that food waste occurs throughout the global food supply chain, and that coordinated action is required to migrate food loss and wastage at every stage.



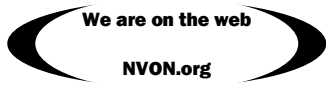


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Member Organizations working together to promote Communication, Education, & Volunteerism for all people

NVON Member State Conferences/Meetings

Arkansas EHC

June 2-4, 2026
*Holiday Inn, Little Rock
Airport Conf. Center
Little Rock, Arkansas*

Kentucky EHA

May 12-14, 2026
*Hyatt Regency
Lexington, Kentucky*

West Virginia CEOS

October 6-8, 2026
*Jackson's Mill
Weston, West Virginia*

2027 NVON Conference

July 13-15, 2027
*The Cabins at Dry Creek
Mountain View, Arkansas*

Florida FAHCE

April 13-15, 2026
*Best Western Gateway
Grand
Gainesville, Florida*

Michigan CEO

Sept. 30—Oct.2 2026
*Double Tree
Bay City, Michigan*

Wisconsin AHCE

September 20-23, 2026
*Lismore Hotel
Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

2028 NVON Conference

July 18-20, 2028
*DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Bay City
Bay City, Michigan*

Illinois IAHCE

March 17-19, 2026
*Thelma Keller Convention
Center
Effingham, Illinois*

North Carolina ECA

District Dates for 2026
* Northeast—March 26
* Southeast—April 15

2026 NVON CONFERENCE

July 14-16, 2026
*Wisconsin Hotel &
Conference center
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin*

31th ACWW

Triennial
World Conference
April 26 -May 1, 2026
*Westin Hotel
Ottawa, Canada*

Indiana IEHA

June 15-17, 2026
*Embassy Suites
Noblesville, Indiana*

South Carolina FCL

October 22, 2026
*Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church
Columbia, South Carolina*