



PRESS RELEASE

2/21/2019

AAHEA, The American Association for Higher Education & Accreditation of Grandview Missouri, has a long proud history of volunteer service. Our volunteers are working to meet the needs of their neighborhoods and the community by providing free business, educational and security consulting services. AAHEA, originally incorporated in 1969 as a 501-C3 Charitable Organization, works with people from all walks of life.

Dr. Stephen R. Barnhart, CEO of AAHEA has a very long history of volunteer service, starting back as a teenager as a group leader in the AWANA organization. Dr. Barnhart also has over 40 years in volunteer service in law enforcement, the Masonic & Shriner's organizations, and has received many awards such as the Gold / Diamond Leader of the DAV, the Patriotic Citizen award from the VFW, and was appointed as a Honorary United States Marine from the USMCR Division, a Registered Constituent of the Department of State's OSAC and the Member Alliance of the FBI's InfraGard program to name a few... Dr. Barnhart has also served under three Sheriff's with the WYCO Sheriff's Department, A Reserve Officer for the KCKPD, under two Sheriff's with the JACO Sheriff's Department, and letters of recognition from the JOCO Sheriff's Department as well as the KCMO PD. He currently serves as a special consultant to the JACO Sheriff's Department under COL Ben Kenney.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, **AAHEA** is proud to announce the availability of the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**, a prestigious national honor offered in recognition of volunteer commitment. Established in 2003, this new **AWARD is given by the President of the United States** and honors individuals, families and groups who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service over the course of 12 months.

AAHEA has teamed with hundreds of organizations and businesses across the country to deliver this Award to our most outstanding volunteers. As a Certifying Organization of the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**, we can nominate potential recipients and distribute the Award to those who meet or exceed the **AWARD** criteria.

AAHEA is extremely proud to join the President of the United States in recognizing the volunteers who consistently take the time to make a difference in the lives of others," said **Stephen R. Barnhart, Ph.D.** president of **AAHEA**. "Volunteers strengthen America and inspire others to get involved. We are proud to honor our volunteers who are answering the call with this **AWARD**."

Children, adults, families and groups can receive the **AWARD** and, given their ongoing service activity, many of our volunteers may already meet the requirements (see sidebar). To qualify for the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**, volunteers simply submit a record of their service hours to **AAHEA**, and we will verify the service and deliver the **AWARD** to qualified and deserving individuals.

Volunteer service hours are not limited to those performed on behalf of **AAHEA**. In fact, service hours can be accumulated through work on a variety of projects throughout the year. The only requirement is that the necessary hours be completed within 12 months; recipients can qualify for a new AWARD each year.

“Our volunteers should strive to earn the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD every year,” said **Dr. Stephen R. Barnhart**. “Even if you’ve never volunteered before, the AWARD is within your reach. In fact, the strength and success of our nation depends on every one of us taking an active role in the community where we live. You can also help strengthen America by asking your friends, families and neighbors to join you in helping your community. Most people say ‘yes’ if asked to volunteer – all it takes is a personal request.”

The PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD is issued by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation – created by President George W. Bush to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers make to our nation. To learn more and find out how to qualify for the AWARD, contact **Robert Kohley**, our AWARD administrator, at 816.765.7862 or visit www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov www.AAHEA.org

SIDEBAR

To be eligible to receive the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, applicants' service hours must be confirmed by a registered Certifying Organization. There are three levels of the AWARD varying by hours of service completed within a 12-month period:

Kids - 14 and younger

Bronze Award 50 - 74 hours
Silver Award 75 - 99 hours
Gold Award 100 or more hours

Adults - Ages 26 and up

Bronze Award 100 - 249 hours
Silver Award 250 - 499 hours
Gold Award 500 or more hours

Young Adults - Ages 15 - 25

Bronze Award 100 - 174 hours
Silver Award 175 - 249 hours
Gold Award 250 or more hours

Families and Groups (two or more people)*

Bronze Award 200 - 499 hours
Silver Award 500 - 999 hours
Gold Award 1,000 or more hours

*Each member contributing at least 25 hours towards the total

PRESIDENT’S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD

Individuals who have completed 4,000 or more volunteer service hours over the course of their lifetime are eligible to receive the PRESIDENT’S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD.

OFFICIAL CERTIFYING ORGANIZATION

AAHEA

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