

AVP VOLUNTEER VIBRATIONS

Newsletter of the American Volunteer Pageant

Spring 2004

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome all AV Contestants

Teens

Mary Beth Rea
Miss Teen Pennsylvania

Mollee Mohr
Miss Teen Indiana

Ms.

Hahn Chau
Ms. Northern California

Shawn Cunningham
Ms. Maine

Ms. Woman

Dawn Frison
Ms. Illinois Woman

Nancy Bardwell
Ms. Louisiana Woman

From the Director's Desk . . .

As this first issue of the American Volunteer Pageant newsletter arrives with the first day of spring, I want to once again welcome everyone to the 1st American Volunteer Pageant. I believe a pageant is only as good as it's contestants and the AV pageant has some truly magnificent contestants from various states in the US. I also want to say thank you to the AV staff, judges, supporters (VWilli, The National Achiever Pageant and World Wide Pageants) and sponsors (CJ's Graphics With Style, Inc, and Dawn Ellis). This first issue is packed with great articles by AV contestants and supporters, beautiful volunteer photos and more. I hope everyone enjoys it and I will be looking forward to the next issue on June 21st, the Summer 2004 issue.

~ C. Jackson, AV National Director



American Volunteer 2004 Charity 11-10-02 Foundation

The 11-10-02 Foundation is a national, volunteer-driven organization that was created in 1998 Greg Forbes Siegman. Since then, thousands of individuals and hundreds of corporations throughout America and beyond have contributed their time, money & resources to The 11-10-02 Foundation. In turn, The 11-10-02 Foundation has taken these donations and made tens of thousands of dollars worth of in-kind, and direct financial, grants and scholarships to schools, universities & the students who attend them. All of the proceeds from the 2004 AV pageant will benefit the 11-10-02 Foundation.

Crowning Points - Part 1 of 3

by Effie Horning

There are those who will argue that an appearance is defined as: "any time a delegate is seen or photographed with her crown and/or sash." True, however, many appearances include neither crown nor sash. Look, for example, at the interviews of Miss America. She may have her crown with her, but it typically isn't even in the frame. There are many delegates who are well known, and don't need a crown or sash to be identified with a particular system. So, then our definition would have to be broadened to include these adjuncts. An appearance can be so much MORE than this. It's up to you, the title-holder to make it so.

Many pageants don't hold their delegates to making appearances. Delegates do so because they see the crown as a tool to benefit their agenda. That agenda is typically manifested in the form of a "platform." We've heard this term bandied about with more frequency over the past five years. Particularly, since The Donald has taken over and redefined the image of Miss USA. In general terms, a platform is composed of a problem one sees, ways to resolve the problem, the implementation and evaluation of the process. Difficult? Not really. Making appearances on behalf of a charity that fits in with your platform is part of this process. It's one way you can make an appearance more than just a photo op.

Featured Contestant

Name: Mary Beth Rea

Title: Miss Teen PA AV '04

Volunteer Work: helping at soup kitchens & foster home, reading to young kids at the library during the summer, organizing fund raisers for charities and Relay for Life Race Team Captain

In Her Spare Time: This beautiful sophomore in highschool enjoys listening to Christian music, playing the trumpet, guitar and piano, reading and the outdoors.

Greatest Advice Ever Received: Be your own person. It's not going to matter in 20 years who had the coolest outfit or who drove the coolest car...but who made more of a difference in the world!



AV in Action . . .



Above: Mardi Gras Parade '04 - Miss US Galaxy, Miss Teen Galaxy, Ms. Texas Galaxy, Nancy Bardwell, Ms. LA Classic American Renaissance and Parker Ward, 'Lil Elvis



Above: Nancy, Ms. LA AV Woman volunteering at Petco's Adopt-A-Pet in March
Below: AV supporter, Effie Hornig during International Red Heart Health Day



Issues With Adoption

by Nancy Bardwell, Ms. LA Woman

Some people say I have "issues" with adoption and they are right. You see...I and my 3 doggies are adopted. If I speak to a group on Adoption choices, whether it is animal or human, I speak from the heart. Both are lives and deserve the chance to live and to be loved. Both are a big responsibility, and should not be taken for granted or taken lightly. I volunteer with different organizations on different levels. To see a smiling face at a hospital or health fair, or a wagging tail at Pet Adoption Day, (or update on a "baby"), warms my heart and sometimes brings a tear to the eye. I feel honored to be able to help in some form. To know that I might be able to speak for those without a voice, human or animal, to make a better life for it, is what it is all about. This makes my life more positive and that in itself is the reward.

What the Ms. American Volunteer Title Means to Me

by Hahn Chau, Ms. Northern CA

Ms American Volunteer serves as a role model in promoting the needs and understanding of community service. She creates a positive voice to provide for her community and brings impact to other people's lives. Ms AV is not just another title of physical beauty that makes her shine but it's her caring heart that earns her the respect and love for what she gives back to others. Nevertheless, Ms. AV is someone that I find is truly inspiring. She is a leader and a representative for others to emulate her enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to serve fellow citizens, community, and nation. I encourage each and every one of us to join and become part of the organization's team to make a difference for others. Remember, all it takes is a heart and mind to get involved.

Pick Your Passion...Volunteer

From the Heart - Part 1 of 2

by Shawn Cunningham, Ms. Maine AV

So you're not sure what cause, organization or charity you want to volunteer with...The answer is like everything else in life...look within yourself. Ask yourself three important questions. First, what are you most passionate about? Second, who do you care for? And last, what are you willing to spend the most time doing?

Usually our own personal experiences shape the next roads we choose to travel on. If you've endured or survived some devastating health crisis...perhaps you're inspired to join some advocacy organization and help advocate or lobby legislators for better healthcare changes. I know after I found two lumps in my breast three years ago, I immediately looked to the nearest breast cancer support group in my area for guidance, emotional comfort and comradery. I was living in Southwest Florida, anchoring at a local tv station and had already developed friendships with a breast cancer support group called Bosom Buddies...Being millions of miles away from my family, I was undeniably scared. But the women in that group became my surrogate mothers, sisters and friends. They put their own problems aside and sheltered me. They reassured me that everything was going to be okay. And after my ultrasound biopsy came back negative I realized they were right...and how lucky the situation turned out for me. But not always for so many millions of other women. And that's what volunteerism is about...self-sacrifice! I then re-focused my platform and commitment to advocate and educate all women, targeting specifically YOUNG WOMEN about the importance of doing self breast exams, doing a breast cancer family history check...and eventually getting mammograms.

Towel/Blanket Drive

Don't forget . . .

Donations of items are needed for the towel/blanket drive for the Save the Chimps organization going on now through April 9th. The sizes of the towels/blankets can be as small as a wash cloth to as big as a comforter. They can be new or used. Send donations to: TOWEL/BLANKET DRIVE, P.O. Box 439375, Chicago, IL. If you wish to visit the website, go to www.savethechimps.org

Groups Join

★ Beauty Pageants 110 - an online pageant group that designed to encourage those interested in pageantry to share their ideas, personal experiences, and tips. To join visit http://groups.aol.com/_cgr/beautypageant

★ Pageant Women United - a new pageant organization aimed at uniting pageant women in community service, platform issues, pageant tips and overall empowerment of the industry. Membership is free. Contact Shawn Cunningham for more info

Submit info & photos for the AV Newsletter e-mail americanvolunteerpageant@iwon.com