



September 2018

Journeys

A Newsletter of Travelers Aid International



Board Chair Floyd Davis with Interim President Valerie Graff.

OUR NEWS

Asselin Resigns, Search for New President Begins

Travelers Aid International President Dave Asselin is resigning his post effective Sept. 28. After informing the Board of his decision to relocate to Florida, the Board began mapping out a transition for the organization. Valerie Graff has been hired as the acting president until January. She began her position on Sept. 17.

A Board Search Committee, composed of Executive Committee members, Floyd Davis, Randy Brater, Ellen Horton, Kathleen Baldwin and Susan Perry, plus David Sinski, Joan Lowden and Tara Hamilton, will soon meet to begin a search for the next president. It is the Board's hope the new president will be in place on Jan. 1. The Search Committee will be meeting before the Oct. 19 Board meeting to establish a

new job description and the scope of the search.

Asselin joined Travelers Aid in October 2013 after serving a stint as the executive director of the American Progressive Bag Alliance, also based in Washington. During his tenure at Travelers Aid, Asselin secured a contract to begin information services at Bradley International Airport and renegotiated contracts with the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority expanding our scope of operations.

Graff, a professional interim chief executive officer and principal of Washington-based Valerie Graff Associates, is a 30-year public sector leader, manager and consultant. Most recently, she was the temporary leader for the CREATE Arts Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, and My Sister's Place in Washington. Travelers Aid is her 11th assignment.

Board Elections

In July, the membership selected the organization's 2018-19 leadership team. Floyd Davis, CEO of Community Link in Charlotte, is the new chair. First vice chair is Randy Brater, an attorney with the Washington firm of Arent Fox. Ellen Horton, an airport consultant, is the second vice chair. Kathleen Baldwin, CEO of Travelers Aid Society of San Diego, is the treasurer. Susan Perry, a retired transportation consultant, is the board secretary.

2019 Annual Conference

While details still need to be ironed out, the next Annual Conference will be June 2019 in Charlotte. Community Link will host the event. Look for a special email announcement of the conference dates and host hotel prior to the December newsletter.

MEMBER NEWS

Halifax Urban Ministries Opens Hope Place

Earlier this year, [Halifax Urban Ministries](#) in Daytona Beach, Fla., opened a temporary housing facility for homeless families and youth in a former elementary school. Dubbed [Hope Place](#), the center provides an emergency shelter for 26 families with children, 9 apartments for families with children and a 32 dorm rooms for unaccompanied youth, ages 18-24.

Conceived by former HUM Executive Director Troy Ray in 2012, it is a \$3.8 million collaboration of city and county governments and local agencies.

"Hope Place is working just the way we designed it," said current Executive Director Buck Jones. "We are moving families in, and we are moving them out." HUM anticipates it will serve 150 families and over 500 individuals this year at Hope Place. They anticipate placing 50 families into permanent housing.

IDEA EXCHANGE

Travellers Aid Expands By Transporting Football Fans

[Travellers Aid Australia](#), based in Melbourne, has recently expanded its operations away from train stations to now serve Australian Rules football fans.

The Australian Football League (AFL) season runs each winter from March to September. This season, Travellers Aid provided a buggy (golf cart) service for fans with disabilities that could not walk the hilly 1-mile trek from the closest

train station to the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground stadium. It was to have been just an 8-week pilot program but was extended to cover the whole season. Usage at each game quickly exceeded the projected 100 fans to reach 250 users per game.

For the approaching cricket season, Travellers Aid CEO Elias Lebbos said that Travellers Aid has been asked to provide a similar buggy service.

The stadium service, an outgrowth of a new [strategic plan](#), is an attempt to diversify the agency's revenue stream while also expanding its outreach to the disabled community, Lebbos explained. [See the full story in our Best Practices](#)



VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Travelers Aid/Chicago O'Hare volunteers took part in several social and team-building events over the summer including a July 7 tour of the Shedd Aquarium and an Aug. 22 guided walking tour of downtown. The group had its annual potluck picnic on July 20.

Upward Transitions - The Travelers Aid volunteers at Oklahoma City's Will Rogers World Airport will have a celebratory luncheon on Nov. 11 at the Oklahoma History Center to mark the group's 45 years of service to the airport. Guests will include board members, community partners and the airport staff.

Travelers Aid/Washington - The Travelers Aid Reagan volunteers will be honored by Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority at their annual holiday recognition luncheon on Dec. 7 at The Alexandrian. The authority will honor the Travelers Aid Dulles volunteers on Dec. 12 at the Belmont Country Club. On Dec. 13, the Travelers Aid volunteers at Union Station will be treated to a holiday lunch at a downtown restaurant.

MILESTONES

New Hires, Promotions and Honors

Travelers Aid of Greater Birmingham - After 44 years of service, Shirley Moffett, the Senior Ride program coordinator, recently retired.

Travelers Aid of the Inland Empire - A former volunteer, [Chester 'Chet' Sobotka](#), was recently appointed the agency's new Director of Volunteer Services replacing Therese Andrews, who retired on June 30.

Travelers Aid/Chicago O'Hare - Vivian Ho recently joined the agency as the social services supervisor.

Travelers Aid/Washington - Peter Lauten was recently promoted to be the program manager at Dulles International Airport. Tina Mally, the volunteer coordinator at Reagan National, was promoted to assistant program manager at Dulles. Aliza Mendelowitz has been hired as the new Dulles volunteer coordinator.

Travelers Aid International - David North, the director of social services programs, recently retired after four years in that post.

FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Oct. 4, Baltimore Catholic Charities, 22nd Annual Ryder Cup Golf Tournament, Country Club of Maryland.

Oct. 5, HELP of Southern Nevada, Tea, Trends and Tranquility, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Oct. 13, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, SpeakUp5k Run/Walk, Al Lopez Park. [More info.](#)

Oct. 14, Families Forward Philadelphia, 5K Run/Walk, Fairmount Park. [More info.](#)

Oct. 19, Gainesville Catholic Charities, 2018 Food Drive and Pancake Breakfast, Trinity United Methodist Church. [More info.](#)

Nov. 1, HOPE Atlanta, Heroes for Hope, Georgia Aquarium.

Nov. 9, HATAS, 2018 Annual Fundraiser and Awareness Event, The Homeless and Travelers Aid Society.

Nov. 18, Family Guidance Center, 30th Annual Families of the Year Awards at Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.

Dec. 2, Heartland Alliance, Holiday Brunch, Four Seasons Hotel Chicago.

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