

Ron Graham – Nominee for Village Volunteer of the Year Award

Ron has been active with the KVVP for several years; he agreed to run for the board two years ago and became / is Board Secretary keeping everything going, but in addition, Ron has been chief organizer and leader for KVVP hiking trips throughout the state of West Virginia (not just locally, he has made all the arrangements for overnight and long distance trips to allow our members to enjoy all of wild and wonderful West Virginia!). This year, Ron added to his volunteer activities by further enhancing the programs available to our membership by organizing a trip to Virginia to visit Charlottesville and Monticello, and Staunton (for the Shakespeare playhouse and shows) - a fantastic offering from the KVVP thanks to Ron. Ron then took on the responsibility to linking former board members to current board for continuity in leadership; and now, Ron has taken on still another volunteer job - he creates and publishes a bi-weekly eBulletin to the members, keeping them informed of KVVP happenings and other events in the area that may affect them or be of interest to them. Ron to a 'sometime' program of Dutch Treat dinners and turned it into a dependable, scheduled monthly event - a social opportunity for members to enjoy a dinner together, each month at a different location / restaurant - or in the case of this summer - at the ballpark! Ron sends out eBlasts (special emails to the membership) to remind them of upcoming events or activities as necessary - such as 'last call' to sign up for a hike, trip, or reminder of a dinner or program event. Ron, in addition to his duties on the Board, in programs, and with email, is also a volunteer member of the Communications Committee (for at least 5 years) and the Membership Committee (for this year); his willingness to get things done keeps us all on our toes. Thanks to Ron, we are ahead of the 'curve' on membership renewal planning this year too! As he said to me recently, if you want to get something done, do it, no one else is waiting to do it for you! And he acts on that philosophy all the time - to the benefit of the membership and the organization. ---- submitted by Melora Cann, Charter Member of the KVVP, past Board Member and Board Secretary, current chair of the Communications Committee and member of the Membership Committee, Editor of the Newsletter

Unfortunately, at this point in the organization, we do not have a volunteer coordinator. Our work is still in the foundation stages. I am offering my testimonial to Ron's work as stated in the description above. I have proposed this nomination to our current Board and was met with enthusiastic approval from the individual board members. Ron is one of the underlying strengths of the organization. His willingness to put in the time on minutes and reminders to the board and to others keep us all on track. His time in providing organizational skills to our program offerings have given new life to the KVVP; prior to Ron, our only hiking opportunities were short and last minute options locally. Since the membership is a 'young' group of seniors for a large part, Ron's efforts at carefully planned longer trips to various forests, state parks, and national parks have upgraded our organization in a substantial way. His venture into planning and running a touring trip to Virginia to visit Jefferson's home at Monticello (including arranging special guide tours) and to Staunton to the Black Friars' Theater of professional Shakespeare performances, was an inspiring and worthy effort. He is already canvassing the membership for future choices to travel and enjoy trips together to interesting locations beyond the locale. Ron keeps the members informed in a timely manner, with immediate eBlasts and scheduled eBulletins, so that we always know what is happening and can choose to be further involved at the right time and place. Ron's participation in committee work shows his willingness to share his skills and work in a team to the betterment of the organization. Ron is an extremely valuable

volunteer and the KVVP is a better organization for his efforts - and the membership has had a valuable asset available through his presence and actions.

Ron Graham is part of a team of great people working hard to make our Village a success and a great 'place' for our members. We have many others, both on the Board, and among committees and the general membership, who step up to help as needed. But, Ron goes many steps beyond what is expected or anticipated from any one volunteer and I think he deserves recognition for this.