

The NPT 2007 Power & Influence TOP 50

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It's been a quiet year. There were no major disasters in the United States requiring dramatic charitable response. There were no real threats from Congress on governance and tax reform of the charitable sector since they are worrying more about who's running for president than actually running the country.

Sure, there were a couple of scandals, such as the mess at the Smithsonian. Charity executives, in general, were left alone to do their jobs. And, what a job some of them have done.

It is also clear that a changing of the guard has begun in the sector. The retirement of several influential leaders has brought some fresh blood into the inner circle of influence.

In this 10th annual *NPT Power & Influence Top 50*, we celebrate some of the sector's top executives and thinkers. These executives were selected for the impact they have now and for the innovative plans they are putting in place to evolve the charitable sector. We also offer a roll call of the executives who have shaped this list during the past decade.

The executives will be honored for their work at *The NPT Power & Influence Top 50 Gala* next month at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. It will be a night of high-level exchange with executives who can move a nation.

Here's *The NPT Power & Influence Top 50, Class of 2007*.

Audrey Alvarado

Executive Director
National Council of Nonprofit Associations
Washington, D.C.

State associations are starting to gain ground as grassroots lobbying and fundraising locally become more vital. Her national Nonprofit Congress let the state operations know that at least one organization in Washington, D.C. is listening and interested.



Daniel Ben-Horin

Founder & President
CompuMentor
San Francisco, Calif.

CompuMentor and TechSoup Stock are the first stops for charities seeking technology help and access to software and information for next to nothing. For him, it's all about sharing information and bridging the digital divide.

Diana Aviv

President & CEO
Independent Sector
Washington, D.C.

Nonprofits continue to be targeted by a cash-strapped Congress. Right now, she is the first call when Congress needs information on the broader sector. A controversial figure, she pushes for a level of accountability that many believe is needed but that detractors say might hamstring honest organizations.



Susan Berresford

President
Ford Foundation
New York, N.Y.

Her activist insight while wielding a checkbook with a more than \$10 billion balance has a potent impact on programs for better education, health care and the economic advancement of women, community development, peace and social justice.

Gary Bass

Founder & Executive Director
OMB Watch
Washington, D.C.

Examining governmental processes and monitoring the federal Office of Management and Budget, OMB Watch brings sunshine to this powerful and secretive agency that has a huge impact on federal spending on social programs and legislation. Bass leads what might be an advocate's best early warning signal.



Elizabeth Boris

Director
Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, Urban Institute
Washington, D.C.

Without a doubt, she is the maven of statistics on the nonprofit sector. As quantifying the sector becomes more vital, she runs the best, and in some cases only, compiler and distiller of critical data.

Frances Beinecke

President
Natural Resources Defense Council
New York, N.Y.

She was talking about climate change and the environment before Al Gore made it cool - or warm. She is a powerful leader, as effective in meetings with legislators as she is in building a staff of lawyers, scientists, advocates and communications experts who impact legislation and mobilize advocates.



Paul Brest

President
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Menlo Park, Calif.

He has spent his life solving problems, from working with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Mississippi on civil rights litigation to now grantmaking for education, environment, performing arts, population, and global economic development. He is sought after for every major leadership board in the sector.

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Phil Buchanan

Executive Director
Center For Effective Philanthropy
Cambridge, Mass.

His work is beginning to have an impact among foundation leadership. He is guiding them to understand that program effectiveness is also dependent on their own effectiveness as grant-makers, not just that of the grantee.



Mark Everson

President & CEO
American Red Cross
Washington, D.C.

The former Internal Revenue Service commissioner is setting about dismantling the bureaucracy that has hobbled the mighty American Red Cross. The buck stops with him and that's a model all nonprofit CEOs and board members should adopt.

Emmett D. Carson

President & CEO
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
San Jose, Calif.

The new boss at SVCF he could be dangerous with all of that money. His ability to get people working together is a hallmark of a career spent opening doors for inclusion to make sector leadership truly reflective of its diverse constituents.



Israel L. Gaither

National Commander
Salvation Army
Alexandria, Va.

Salvation Army is a great but graying organization. Gaither is moving to make the organization more relevant to today's donors. He's doing it while working from beneath an albatross of a designated gift that previous national commanders saddled the organization with, which detracts from key organizational missions.

Gavin Clabaugh

Vice President, Information Services
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Flint, Mich.

Go to Gavin's DigitalDiner and see where the elites of the nonprofit online world go for nourishment. At Mott, he has evolved a back-office position at a large foundation into a strategic opportunity to emphasize technology within both the grant-making community and the larger nonprofit sector.



Brian Gallagher

President & CEO
United Way of America
Alexandria, Va.

They might as well change the name of the organization because Gallagher is changing just about everything else UWA does. He has refocused the fundraising behemoth on key community issues, rather than simply funding everything. Pilot programs are showing stunning results.

Kathy Cloninger

Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of the USA
New York, N.Y.

Cloninger has long been a sector leader, from starting the Tennessee Association of Nonprofit Executives to her roles on numerous leadership boards. Her revamping the structure at Girl Scouts appears to be a model for like organizations to emulate.



Charles Gould

President
Volunteers of America
Alexandria, Va.

VoA is the nation's largest nonprofit provider of quality affordable housing and is putting people back in homes in the Gulf region while others pump their figurative chests and talk about what they are going to do. He has the respect and attention of every thoughtful manager in the sector for both service delivery, funding and leadership.

Robert Egger

Founder
D.C. Central Kitchen
Washington, D.C.

Never one to mince words, he is one of the most effective advocates in the nation. His ability to cut through to the essence of an issue and get people to find a commonality is why he was such a potent force to help lead the recent Nonprofit Congress.



John H. Graham IV

President & CEO
ASAE & The Center For Association Leadership
Washington, D.C.

He lives by his own words of first, determine what is important, then do it right. He has financially turned around the key association organization with a focus on value and the role of associations in society. ASAE is again the premier engagement point for associations.

David Eisner

Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National and Community Service
Washington, D.C.

Eisner bridges the public, corporate and nonprofit sectors. USA Freedom Corps notwithstanding, he has positioned the CNCS and himself personally as the federal government's champion of volunteerism, including plans to increase volunteerism by 10 million people during the next decade.



Steve Gunderson

President & CEO
Council on Foundations
Washington, D.C.

The former congressman is leveraging all of his political skill to get foundation leaders to stop thinking about charity and to start working on philanthropy, which he correctly believes are two very different animals. He is a leader in finding the appropriate balance between maintaining the public's trust and growing philanthropy.

Sara L. Engelhardt

President
The Foundation Center
New York, N.Y.

Engelhardt has made The Foundation Center into one of the few credible places fundraisers can go to get information on big grants. For her, it's only partly about the money. It's also about getting good information into the hands of charities, foundations and donors.



Jay Hein

Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States
White House Office of
Faith Based & Community Initiatives
Washington, D.C.

He's putting "community" back into the equation that his predecessors often forgot, while focusing more on the faith-based component. He understands that government and funders can make small, targeted grants that allow communities to solve problems. He's a convener, not a divider.



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Melanie L. Herman

Executive Director
Nonprofit Risk Management Center
Washington, D.C.

Herman talks about things that make other nonprofit managers squirm, such as workplace violence. She helps managers cope with uncertainty and is extremely effective in making managers understand the "nonprofit world" is not a safe little cocoon and that they need to take steps to keep staff and clients safe.



Roger Lohmann

Director
NOVA Institute, West Virginia University
Morgantown, W.V.

Best known as author of "The Commons," a leading work in nonprofit theory, he also stewards ARNOVA-L, a long-time online listserv for the academic community that over the years has been an ideas incubator and virtual mosh pit.

Bill Horan

President & CEO
Operation Blessing International
Virginia Beach, Va.

One of the top Hurricane Katrina program delivery agencies, he's the former boss at a logistics firm who gets things done. The organization's slogan should be amended to: "Doing the Lord's work...this afternoon."



Paulette V. Maehara

President & CEO
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Alexandria, Va.

She leads a force of roughly 30,000 fundraisers who have a profound impact on philanthropic dollars and is also looked upon as a leader in the association management field. Maehara is helping to lead fundraising education on a global level.

Tanya Howe Johnson

President & CEO
National Committee on Planned Giving
Indianapolis, Ind.

Her work has brought NCPG to the forefront in the philanthropic community, especially in developing guidelines for reporting and accounting planned charitable gifts.



William C. McGinly

President & CEO
Association for Healthcare Philanthropy
Falls Church, Va.

Health facility fundraising would be in deep trouble without McGinly. He is on top of every attempt to legislate road blocks and is effective in convincing federal regulators to write rules that make sense, including and excluding fundraising where necessary.

Belinda Johns

Deputy Attorney General
State of California
San Francisco, Calif.

A primary author of the model California Nonprofit Integrity Act of 2004, after more than 15 years on the job she is one of, if not the key state regulator of the sector.



Adam Meyerson

President
Philanthropy Roundtable
Washington, D.C.

He is leading efforts to assist donors in achieving their philanthropic intent while calling for greater regulation of the charitable sector. He pushes conservative foundations in the public policy arena and has conservative political heavyweights on the board.

Irv Katz

President
National Human Services Assembly
Washington, D.C.

Katz has crafted an organizational footprint larger than NHTA's limited resources would suggest, making it a center of knowledge on substantive human service issues, notably, positive youth development and the place-based family. He's smart, thoughtful and has the ears of leaders at all levels of the sector.



Clara Miller

President & CEO
Nonprofit Finance Fund
New York City, N.Y.

She thinks that nonprofits might be too heavily invested in real estate and should instead be thinking about other areas of financial and infrastructure investments. She is the leading voice for reshaping nonprofit capitalization and use of debt.

William H. Kling

President & CEO
American Public Media Group/Minnesota Public Radio
Saint Paul, Minn.

This sometimes controversial entrepreneur wasn't satisfied launching Minnesota Public Radio. He has built subsidiaries, a network of nearly 40 public radio stations in Minnesota and California and is the second-largest provider of programming behind National Public Radio.



Janet Murguia

President
National Council of La Raza
Washington, D.C.

From growing up in Kansas City to working in the West Wing during the Clinton administration, Murguia has clout for Latino organizations. Given the changing demographics in the U.S., her influence is only going to grow. She is a go-to person on the recent immigration debate.

Sr. Georgette Lehmuth

President & CEO
National Catholic Development Conference
Hempstead, N.Y.

The Catholic fundraising community, as a collective body, was moribund before she took over a few years ago. It is now a force to be reckoned with in the broader mailing community and on legislative matters that shape the full sector's ability to raise money.



William D. Novelli

Chief Executive Officer
AARP
Washington, D.C.

Charlemagne had the birds as his army. Novelli has the Baby Boomers. Federal and state legislators quake in his path because of the legion of voters who can impact every facet of government operation, from tax policy to the postal service.



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Michelle Nunn

Co-Founder & CEO
Hands On Network
Atlanta, Ga.

With the announced merger of Hands On and the Points of Light Foundation, Nunn now runs an organization that works with volunteers in more than 80 percent of the nation. There is no doubt that right now she is the most prominent person of influence in volunteer management and recruitment.



Patty Stonesifer

Chief Executive Officer
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Seattle, Wash.

There are tens of billions of obvious reasons that Stonesifer makes this list. But it's about more than the money. It's the stage the cash gives her for setting an example for effective grant-making and governance of both the foundations and agencies that receive support.

Jon Pratt

Executive Director
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
St. Paul, Minn.

Pratt offers common sense with the occasional wise crack to all of the important national steering committees. A lawyer by training, he is sought after for his insight on nonprofit economic trends, philanthropy and legal issues. There isn't a major steering committee for which he doesn't contribute expertise.



Roxanne Spillett

President
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Atlanta, Ga.

Through partnerships with high-profile organizations, Spillett continues to grow the organization, which now serves 4.6 million kids through some 3,900 affiliates. She shapes youth policy sector-wide, and has also built one of the most powerful and effective boards of any charity.

Rebecca W. Rimel

President & Chief Executive Officer
Pew Charitable Trusts
Philadelphia, Pa.

Let's start with the fact that \$248 million is going to be spent on programs this year, which in many cases provides thought-provoking national models. Rimel has led Pew's transition and growth into community research, what donors and clients are thinking and what communities really need.



H. Art Taylor

President & CEO
BBB Wise Giving Alliance
Arlington, Va.

The BBB Wise Giving Alliance continues to be the benchmark of nonprofit watchdogs. While others run to do TV and operate blogs, Taylor and company actually help charities become more transparent in providing donors with useful information.

Lester M. Salamon

Director
Center for Civil Society, Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Md.

Right now he is the pre-eminent scholar on public-private-government partnerships in the charitable sector. He wrote the first definitive tome documenting the scale of the American nonprofit sector and the extent of government support. He is a pioneer in the empirical study of nonprofits in the U.S. and around the world.



John Taylor

President & CEO
National Community Reinvestment Corporation
Washington, D.C.

Taylor and NCRC are making community reinvestment activism a common local occurrence while promoting increased community-leader partnerships to increase fair and equal access to credit, capital, and banking products and services.

Jill Schumann

President & CEO
Lutheran Services in America
Baltimore, Md.

When it comes to human service delivery, there are very few communities where LSA doesn't influence public policy. It's estimated that the network touches one of every 50 Americans. She has implemented a system of accountability and transparency of operations that is exemplary.



Eugene R. Tempel

Executive Director
Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University
Indianapolis, Ind.

Tempel continues to add to a center that already had cornered the market on sector research and education. He has raised millions of dollars to endow the center's operations and ensure that it remains a beacon of excellence. He uses the center to convene leading thinkers and develop the sector's next generation.

John R. Seffrin

Chief Executive Officer
American Cancer Society
Atlanta, Ga.

Seffrin is a smart boss who understands that reality and public perception of an organization must match. He pushes ACS to provide perhaps the most vast education and support system of any charity. He is a key participant at Independent Sector, with input on all the the federal legislative strategies.



Julie Thomas

Executive Director
Volunteer Center of North Texas
Dallas, Texas

Thomas's entrepreneurial spirit is a magnet for money to support operations, including foundation money and a warehouse outlet where new and gently used items donated by local firms are sold. She also initiated the first criminal background checking system in Texas for volunteers and staff members in nonprofits, including faith-based organizations.

Lorie A. Slutsky

President
New York Community Trust
New York, N.Y.

Heading the country's largest community trust earns you an automatic spot on the list. But Slutsky uses her clout to show others the impact a trust can have when an economic slowdown and government cutbacks decimate a community's agencies and support systems.



M. Cass Wheeler

Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association
Dallas, Texas

A co-convenor of the Panel on the Nonprofit Sector, Wheeler is a pragmatic and respected leader who fosters sector-wide collaboration while running one of the fastest growing and best managed charities in the nation.

The Power & Influence TOP 50 1998 - 2007



Edward H. Able Jr. 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
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