

THE NPT POWER & INFLUENCE TOP 50

These are not the political or economic times for those who need buttermilk before a meeting or have a Barney Fife-type nervous condition. As the fictional character Andrew Shepard said in *The American President*: "America isn't easy. America is advanced citizenship. You've got to want it bad, because it's going to put up a fight... We've got serious problems, and we need serious men" and women.

These are those people – the 2003 *NPT* Power and Influence Top 50.

The past two years have been among the most difficult in the past two decades for managers on every level and responsibility. These are the leaders.

While there were recipients last year who did not make the list this year, that does not reflect negatively on their contributions to the nonprofit world. It only gives credence to the fact that narrowing a cramped field of movers and shakers is an arduous one.

The Power and Influence Top 50 was selected by a combination of *NPT* staff and a few hand-picked members of the nonprofit community, who narrowed a field of more than 200 nominees.

The panelists were not permitted to be part of the list, although several very well could have been included in the selection process. *THE NONPROFIT TIMES* editor-in-chief held veto power over finalists, which was not exercised this year.

So, here they are – the 2003 *NPT* Power & Influence Top 50.

Edward H. Able, Jr.

President and CEO
American Association of Museums
Washington, D.C.



It's nice that he heads an organization of the well-heeled. More importantly, he's on the executive committee of just about every major configuration of chief executives. He's a player and his opinions shape decisions.

Audrey Alvarado

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



Folk singer Pete Seeger once asked the musical question, "What do they grow in Washington?" State associations can answer, "nothing much." They're are taking more and more control of the sector outside of the capitol.

Nan Aron

Founder and President
Alliance for Justice
Washington, D.C.



Everyone is worried about the two possible vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court when they should be more worried about the federal bench, where decisions are made before being kicked upstairs. Aron and the Alliance staff have that covered.

Diana Aviv

President & CEO
Independent Sector
Washington, D.C.



Although she is new to the job, her lobbying experience is already showing. IS seems to be more aggressive in getting its hands dirty with sector political issues than it had in recent years. In a sector where image means a lot, she's reshaping the organization's look on the street.

Gary Bass

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



Bass leads a group that puts the political posturing of national legislation into terms normal people can understand. They also uncover what's hidden deep in the bowels of what Congress proposes.

Peter V. Berns

Executive Director
Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Baltimore, Md.



The Maryland Association continues to lead the way when it comes to organizational effectiveness and quantifying the results. Berns' models are being used across the nation.

Susan V. Berresford

President
Ford Foundation
New York, N.Y.



The organization has been a lightning rod for conservatives in Congress seeking to restrict what foundations can influence through funding. Yet, undaunted, the funding continues.

Paul Brest

President
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Menlo Park, Calif.



He is sparking the debate about nonprofit infrastructure costs and the notion that they are legitimate expenses. Funders need to recognize that, to move foundations, as he has said, "from good intentions to actual impact."

Emmett Carson

President and CEO
The Minneapolis Foundation
Minneapolis, Minn.



Carson, because of depth of knowledge, background, common sense and innovation, is a player on the national stage. He has a unique ability for developing collaborative relationships with all sectors and segments of the community, as well as with organizations nationwide.

Hodding Carter III

President & CEO
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
Miami, Fla.



Carter is opening the foundation's vault and spending to help train the consumer news media about the sector so the reporting will be more informed. This is vital, given the rash of damaging stories, some of which were bolstered by inept reporting.

Rick Cohen

Executive Director
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
Washington, D.C.



Cohen has an edge to him, which can be good and bad in the Washington beltway. He has a knack for making people uncomfortable with his reasonableness and common sense.

Johnnetta Cole

President
Bennett College for Women
Greensboro, N.C.



Already a respected leader, proven fundraiser, and turnaround specialist within the academic world, Cole accepted a board position with the United Way of America and was promptly chosen chair elect. As the UWA's transition continues, Cole's role will grow in prominence.

Errol Copilevitz

Senior Partner
Copilevitz & Canter LLC
Kansas City, Mo.



When there's a U.S. Supreme Court case to be argued, he's the man. He's willing to take the unpopular cases, such as the recent case of a for-profit fundraiser. While the high court ruled 9-0 against the fundraiser, his argument ensured that decades of free speech protections were preserved.

Steven A. Culbertson

President and CEO
Youth Service America
Washington, D.C.



The United States is a youth-obsessed nation. Culbertson and his organization are making sure that young voices are not only heard by the organizations serving them but also that they are developed into leadership positions.

Ami Dar

Founder and Executive Director
Action Without Borders
New York, N.Y.



Dar is a modest mover and shaker who simply makes things happen without fanfare, whether it's online at idealist.org or face-to-face dealing with human resource issues within the sector.

Carla Dearing

President and CEO
Community Foundations of America
Louisville, Ky.



The allure of the private foundation is waning as the rich figure out that the paperwork is ridiculous. Enter community foundations, which are becoming the place to park money before deciding where it should go.

Neal Denton

Executive Director
Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers
Washington, D.C.



Denton has often been a lone cowboy on many nonprofit postal issues, blocking attempts by for-profit mail pirates to force federal legislation allowing them to co-own the lists of nonprofit donors.

Amy Domini

Founder, CEO and President
Domini Social Investments, LLC
New York, N.Y.



While she was not the first person to consider social investments, with \$1.3 billion in assets under management, she leads community development initiatives, is helping to rebuild communities in need, and is pushing for-profit corporations to operate ethically.

Rev. Dr. Robert Edgar

General Secretary
National Council of Churches USA
New York, N.Y.



Edgar has helped to bring the CoC back as a major political player on a range of issues, most recently the war/peace effort. He is eloquent, thoughtful and very persuasive in bringing groups to consensus and action.

Karl Emerson

Director
Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations
Harrisburg, Pa.



He is an aggressive prosecutor who also thoughtfully considers the impact of his actions. Attorneys general from around the country look to Emerson's lead and nonprofit managers, the smart ones, hang on his every word.

Sara L. Engelhardt

President
The Foundation Center
New York, N.Y.



The Foundation Center continues to grow as a remarkable information resource for the sector. The organization continues to provide access to the deepest data on foundations. You know, the folks with money.

Joel L. Fleishman

Senior Advisor, Nonprofit Sector
The Atlantic Philanthropies
New York, N.Y.



You know an organization has clout when ripples are sent though the sector by any movement. When Atlantic announced plans for changing its funding, half of the sector got its shorts in a twist.

Millard Fuller

Co-Founder and President
Habitat for Humanity International
Americus, Ga.



A ghetto theme park in Orlando? While this idea may not be his best, it's the type of ingenuity and innovation with which Fuller has sparked the sector for many decades.



Bill Gates

Chairman and Chief Software Architect
Microsoft Corporation
Redmond, Wash.

Through his foundations and their tech-fattened wallets, Gates makes a difference with every decision, whether it's cleaning up a water supply abroad or community and capacity building in the United States.



Brian Gallagher

President and CEO
United Way of America
Alexandria, Va.

While UWA is a favorite punching bag or punchline, depending on circumstances, Gallagher is moving fast to recreate and overhaul the fundraising machine into a more flexible organization with enhanced clout on those issues, as well as those of the sector in general.



Cynthia M. Gibson

Program Officer, Strengthening U.S. Democracy
Carnegie Corporation of New York
New York, N.Y.

As funding for nonprofit infrastructure declines, Carnegie is not only sticking with it, Gibson has played a leadership role in convening the funders to make the case for others to support local, state, and national nonprofits. She helped develop a map of the "infrastructure," and continues to pass data in a networking fashion.



Tim Gill

Founder
Gill Foundation
Denver, Colo.

In addition to funding the gay and lesbian community's issues, first in Colorado and then across the nation with such things as its Out-Giving Department, Gill is also a strong supporter of social justice organizations and educational institutions.



Peter Goldberg

CEO
Alliance For Children and Families
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Heading an organization with 350 members that serve more than 5 million individuals in more than 2,000 communities, puts Goldberg at the center of the national decision-making process, as does his work as a past chair of Independent Sector.



Robert K. Goodwin

President and CEO
Points of Light Foundation
Washington, D.C.

The pied piper of volunteerism, he has his organization making plenty of smart investments, using technology to boost volunteerism and also to ensure the organization's financial future, instead of relying on the fickle nature of Congress and other funders.



Stephen Goldsmith

Chair
Corporation for National and Community Service
Washington, D.C.

It's a fancy perch for someone who remains a special adviser to the president for faith and community initiatives. He has the president's ear on all matters regarding the nonprofit world.

John Graham IV

President and CEO
American Society of Association Executives
Washington, D.C.

A strong administrator who comes to the job from a powerhouse charity, Graham will wrestle the ASAE away from the convention and visitors bureaus, whose control has damaged the organization's finances.

**Doug Nelson**

President
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, Md.

The foundation is forming some interesting relationships with states on dealing with children and custodial care. Recently, the foundation began working with the State of New Jersey after children died or were killed in foster care.

**John Havens**

Associate Director, Boston College
Social Welfare Research Institute
Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Between Havens and Paul Schervish (see below), the donor behavior work being developed by the SWRI is original, in-depth and from which predictive models can be built. There should be no surprises in prospect research.

**Bill Novelli**

CEO
AARP
Washington, D.C.

By sheer membership numbers, AARP can club any member of Congress, push any piece of legislation and win just about any fight it chooses. And, it seems "retirement" at age 50 provides an energetic punch.

**Alice Korngold**

President and CEO
Business Volunteers Unlimited
Cleveland, Ohio.

The Bush administration is closely examining BVU's models for engaging businesses/employers and members of the community-at-large in leadership and volunteer activities. By leveraging involvement from businesses/employers, BVU expands the capacity of hundreds of nonprofits.

**Jon Pratt**

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

So many state organizations seek his confidential advice that his influence is widespread – you just wouldn't know it without looking behind the various curtains. And, his own organization is a blueprint for innovation.

**Christine W. Letts**

Associate Director
Hauser Center For Nonprofit Organizations
Cambridge, Mass.

Whether or not you agree with the thinking coming from Hauser, it is certainly getting the sector to think. Letts has been a leader in stirring the pot with regard to donor behavior and funding models for organizational capacity.

**Dorothy S. Ridings**

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

Ridings has taken positions on issues that would have gotten CEOs of most membership organizations a kick out the door. She has been a reasonable voice with regard to foundation pay-outs and accountability of how tax-sheltered money is handled.

**Paulette V. Maehara**

President and CEO
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Alexandria, Va.

AFP is no longer an island in the sea of nonprofits. Maehara and her team reach out to other professional organizations, which was not done prior to her arrival, to build stronger working relationships to show elected officials that the sector can mobilize and be effective on issues.

**Lester M. Salamon**

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

The author of the first book to document the scale of the American nonprofit sector and the extent of government support to it, Salamon's concepts for new governance and the tools of public action have made him an international name in the sector.

**Jan Masaoka**

Executive Director
CompassPoint Nonprofit Services
San Francisco, Calif.

When the tech sector got a cold, San Francisco got pneumonia. CompassPoint was well ahead of that curve, having built strong networks so community organizations could survive. San Francisco is the western capital of nonprofits and she's in charge.

**John Seffrin**

CEO
American Cancer Society
Atlanta, Ga.

Not only does he run one of the largest health charities on the globe, with all of the influence that holds, but as chair of Independent Sector, he guided the search for a new leader for that vital organization.

**William C. McGinly**

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

If you're a healthcare organization and like raising money, you should have a little statue of McGinly on your desk so you can pay homage each day. It was AHP that blocked restrictive rules for fundraising asks of former patients. If he does nothing else in his career, that was enough, but he will do more.

**Paul G. Schervish**

Director/Professor, Department of Sociology
Boston College, Social Welfare Research Institute
Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Simply, he is Mr. Donor Behavior. His studies with sidekick John Havens are influential and years ahead in predicting what donors will do with their money.



Jill Schumann

President and CEO
Lutheran Services in America
Baltimore, Md.



With a network that generates more than \$6 billion in revenue, Schumann has a major say in how social services are delivered and what legislators think about them.

Sterling Speirn

President
Peninsula Community Foundation
San Mateo, Calif.



Perhaps the most influential thinker among California grantmakers, he leads an organization remarkable for innovation and leadership in donor development.

Bill Shore

Founder and Executive Director
Share Our Strength
Washington, D.C.



"The headlines shout what our hearts already knew: the world has changed. But we're left alone to figure out what that means," wrote Shore after the September 11 attacks. His writing and thinking about humanity help to shape the sector's heart and soul.

Eliot Spitzer

Attorney General
State of New York
New York, N.Y.



With an Eliot Ness complex firmly in place, Spitzer is trying to regulate every aspect of nonprofit management, starting with the smallest of charities – those that can't afford to fight back – while keeping a jealous eye on the governor's mansion.

Edward Skloot

Executive Director
Surdna Foundation
New York, N.Y.



Skloot's speeches, such as "Is Distinguished Philanthropy Still Possible?" and "Moving From Satisfaction to Significance," have been provocative and stimulated much debate, maybe even action. His grantmaking has been very strategic, especially when it relates to use of technology.

Eugene R. Tempel

Executive Director
Indiana University Center on Philanthropy
Indianapolis, Ind.



Tempel has made the center the first stop for data and thought about the sector, from involvement with and enhancing *Giving USA* to convening important thinkers and doers.