

Editor's Introduction

Christopher R. Prentice – University of North Carolina Wilmington

Richard M. Clerkin – University of North Carolina Wilmington

This issue of the *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* presents a collection of studies that explore leadership, communication, accountability, and engagement across nonprofit and public sectors. Together, these articles deepen understanding of how organizations and individuals adapt, collaborate, and innovate to address social challenges, strengthen institutions, and enhance public trust.

The issue opens with Faletihan and Wempe's (2025) exploration of long-term volunteerism as a meaningful and sustained career path. Using narrative inquiry with volunteers in Indonesia, the authors identify three distinct phases of volunteering careers; motivational foundations, focused organizational engagement, and societal leadership across multiple organizations. They also highlight four key influences on sustained engagement: environmental, spiritual, personal, and ambassadorial factors. The study reveals both the deep fulfillment and challenges volunteers experience, emphasizing volunteering as a dynamic form of lifelong career development shaped by individual motivation and social context.

Building on the theme of civic engagement, Poudel and Kaufman (2025) examine how leadership within civic organizations contributes to poverty reduction in Virginia. Drawing from interviews with leaders across multiple organizations, the study identifies poverty as a systemic issue that demands participatory and humble leadership. Their findings show that collaboration, empathy, and active community engagement are central to addressing persistent poverty. The authors provide a framework for understanding how community-driven leadership can mobilize collective action to confront complex social problems.

Expanding the focus to civil society communication, Cooley and Nobel (2025) investigate how Ukrainian news media portray and frame nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from 2019 to 2024. Through quantitative content analysis of 306 news articles, they find that while NGOs receive generally positive coverage, they are often depicted episodically and as secondary story elements. This framing may limit public understanding of NGOs' broader societal contributions. The authors suggest that NGOs engage more strategically with media outlets to promote thematic coverage and enhance public trust in their work.

Turning to public administration, Lee and Tantardini (2025) analyze the relationship between public sector entrepreneurship, organizational performance, and communication. Using data from the 2022 Public Employee Perception Survey in South Korea, the authors employ structural equation modeling to show that entrepreneurial orientation positively influences performance, with communication acting as a key mediator. Their findings emphasize that well-structured communication channels are essential for translating innovative initiatives into measurable performance outcomes, offering practical insights for improving management effectiveness in the public sector.

The issue concludes with Modlin, Stewart, and Goodman's (2025) study on how personnel actions influence bonding practices among county government officials in North Carolina. The authors find that appointed officials experience more standardized bonding requirements, while bonding for elected officials remains discretionary. Audit findings and finance staffing patterns significantly affect bond increases, particularly for accounts payable roles. The study underscores the importance of skilled finance personnel in safeguarding public assets, minimizing risk, and maintaining accountability.

Together, these articles underscore the interconnectedness of leadership, communication, and institutional integrity across nonprofit and public domains. From the motivations of lifelong volunteers to the mechanisms of financial accountability, this issue highlights the evolving practices that sustain public trust and advance the capacity of organizations to serve their communities.

References

- Faletahan, A. F. & Wempe, J. (2025). Volunteering as a Lifelong Career: Calling, Multi-organizational Involvement, and Life Impact. *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, 11(2), 125 – 149. <https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.ye5tbx82>
- Poudel, S. & Kaufman, E. K. (2025). Poverty Reduction Through Partnership: The Role of Collaborative Civic Leadership. *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, 11(2), 150 – 167. <https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.kdqdoy91>
- Cooley, A. & Nobel, S. K. (2025). Ukrainian News Media Representations and Framing of NGOs. *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, 11(2), 168 – 184. <https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.k18pfh33>
- Lee, J. & Tantardini, M. (2025). The Dynamics between Public Sector Entrepreneurship and Performance: The Mediating Effect of Communication. *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, 11(2), 185 – 211. <https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.9591ka84>
- Modlin, S., Stewart, L., & Goodman, D. (2025). The Impact of Personnel Actions on Official Bonding Activities: An Examination of County Governments. *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, 11(2), 212 – 230. <https://doi.org/10.20899/jpna.xq9acn31>

Acknowledgement

We thank UNCW MPA Graduate Assistant, Mitch Dennis, for his assistance with the article summaries in this note.