

Frequently asked questions about AHA's Committee on Volunteers

Q. What is the AHA's Committee on Volunteers (COV)?

A. It's a specialty committee appointed by the AHA Board of Trustees whose purpose is to provide input on health care policy issues and represent the perspective of communities. The COV is also the body that recommends the winners of the Hospital Awards for Volunteer Excellence.

Q. Who comprises the COV?

A. The COV comprises 15 volunteers, auxiliaries and directors of volunteers (DVSes) from around the country, as well as one state hospital association representative who is a liaison to the volunteer sector. They typically serve three-year terms.

Q. What types of issues does the COV provide feedback on?

A. The COV recently provided input to the AHA Board of Trustees on health care equity, AHA's digital media campaigns, creating a culture of health, hospital price transparency, quality measures and how hospitals are engaging with communities.

Q. How are COV members selected?

A. Typically volunteers, auxiliaries and directors of volunteers who are active at the state level or nationally are considered. To be considered contact Joan Ryzner at AHA at jryzner@aha.org.

Q. What is the time commitment?

A. The committee holds one-day meetings in the spring and fall. The spring meeting is in conjunction with the AHA Annual Meeting, the State Auxiliary Leaders meeting and the Hospital Awards for Volunteer Excellence ceremony.

Q. Are there dues or fees involved?

A. No. AHA pays travel costs and any event registration fees.

Q. How does the COV relate to AHA's Association for Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals (AHVRP)?

A. AHVRP is a membership organization for directors of volunteer services focused on education, and the COV is an AHA policy committee. The AHVRP president holds an ex-officio seat on the COV and provides a report on activities at each meeting. AHVRP members also serve on the screening committee for AHA's Hospital Awards for Volunteer Excellence and the COV chair participates in the AHVRP annual conference.