

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 (HAVE).

Q. Who comprises the COV?

A. The COV comprises 15 volunteers, auxiliaries and directors of volunteers from around the country. They typically serve three-year terms. In addition, the president of AHA's Association for Health Care Volunteer Resource Professionals (AHVRP) holds a one-year ex-officio seat.

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, behavioral health 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 or national level 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 HAVE ceremony in Washington, DC. The fall meeting is at the AHA headquarters in Chicago or connection to the AHVRP annual conference.

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 volunteer services focused on education, and the COV is an AHA policy committee. The AHVRP president provides a report on activities at each meeting. AHVRP members also serve on the screening committee for AHA's HAVE Awards.