

Membership Committee Report 2015-2017

Co-chairs: Sharon Hobbs, Cecilia Essenmacher
Committee members: Ann Rice, Bobbie Morris, Joanna Henshaw

The Committee's first objective in May was to update the Desk Reference Guide used by the National Office. This guide had not been fully revised since 2012. The main change was to add policy allowing members to upgrade from a one-year or three-year memberships to lifetime within the first sixty days of joining. This was proposed and accepted in Tucson.

In August, the committee held a go-to-meeting to discuss revising the P&P concerning transferring membership. It had been noted that some chapters and states do not have the required persons to sign current the transfer form. We addressed this in the P&P and revised the form to reflect the changes when approved.

We also looked at where we are in relation to the Strategic Plan. This document has charged the committee to create materials to assist recruiting and retention. Several ideas were discussed and assignments given to begin working on developing these materials. Since each chapter has unique experiences these materials must have a wide focus to accommodate different situations.

I have noticed that chapters frequently lose one or two members one month and add the same number the following month. This looks like it is simply late renewals. Chapters need to be encouraged to watch the membership list and encourage renewing members to renew on time or early so that they are not dropped from the roster.

Using e-mail and Go-to-meeting, we have worked on updating the membership section (7) of the P&P concerning the involuntary transfer of members. We also addressed the policy for receipt of AVVA membership rosters by VVA chapters. As committee co-chair, I have been in frequent contact with the national office giving approval to receive rosters, or letting the VVA requestor know that they need to work with the elected AVVA official for it. I have received requests from 6 states and 90 chapters concerning membership rosters.

At one GO-to-meeting, a request from Fr. Phil to edit the AVVA death notice was discussed and approved, and we worked on our part of Section 11 of the Policy & procedures manual.

This year as co-chair has been a real learning experience that has been challenging at times, but it has been worth the effort. I have had the opportunity to be in contact with many members across the country to assist them with questions and problems.

Our membership is at an all-time high of 9,273 members. 5,859 of those members are lifetime members, which is largely due to the reduction of lifetime dues.

We still need to work on implementing the membership section of the Strategic Plan.

I thank the members of the committee, Bobbie Morris, Joanna Henshaw and Ann Rice. They have done a great job. With the end of our term, they are dismissed from their service with thanks.

Respectfully,

Cecilia Essenmacher
Membership Committee, Co-chair