Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the ABVTA require volunteers?

The ABVTA is a member-driven association and is the voice for Alberta's RVTs and AHT students. The ABVTA provides representation of RVTs provincially and nationally. With the specific and distinctive viewpoint of veterinary technologists as an integral and vital role of the veterinary team, the ABVTA's Leadership Group emphasizes on the advancement of veterinary technology as a profession so our members may better serve the veterinary industry.

In addition to representation, the ABVTA provides member services such as continuing education, networking events, public awareness and promotes animal care and welfare through our committee and task force initiatives. Committee volunteers are extremely vital in providing regional CE and networking events throughout Alberta.

What is it like volunteering with the ABVTA?

There are several opportunities to volunteer with the ABVTA. We ask for a two-year commitment when you submit a nomination form. All terms for the Board as well as for Committees are two years, with the exception of the Vice- President role, this is a three-year term. Returning committee members can also apply for a two or a three-year term after the completion of their first two-year term.

The ABVTA Board of Directors is responsible for:

a. Policy management
b. Strategic planning
c. Visioning
d. Leadership
e. Program management
f. Financial management
g. Risk analysis

The purpose of the Member and Public Relations (PR) Committee is:

To promote and enhance the image of the veterinary technologist and Association through public events. This committee is also responsible for the Association newsletters and brainstorms and coordinates member initiatives and social activities.

The purpose of the Continuing Education (CE) Committee is:

This committee is responsible for overseeing all Association sponsored continuing education seminars held throughout the year.

If I submit a nomination for the Board, what position will I take?

That's up to you! Do you have special skills and training you'd like to bring to the Board? Upon discussion between the group and yourself as well as bringing into account your personal interests and experience, we will find the best position for you! The ABVTA Board consists of a minimum of seven members to a maximum of 10, who are elected annually at the AGM. The Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) is made up of Board members and is elected by the Board at it's first meeting following the AGM. Other positions on the Board include Liaison positions for Student

Representatives as well as for both Committees. Other members of the Board are considered Directors at Large. They do not have a specific area of focus, however they are still a very important and integral member of the Board. All Directors also volunteer for task forces and special projects as they arise.

If I'm elected for the Board of Directors, when do I start?

Congrats! You've been elected! Your official position will begin at a short meeting after the AGM. It's ok if you're not able to be in attendance. You will be contacted shortly after the AGM and will be informed of the next meeting date – usually in November. Committee members are appointed by the Board, no election process is necessary.

How often do the volunteers meet?

Generally speaking, the Board meets approximately every two months for a two-day meeting. These meetings usually take place in Edmonton at the ABVMA office and are held over a Friday and Saturday. During the summer, we have one or two meetings via web-conference to discuss upcoming news and our budget.
The *CE Committee* currently meets the last Wednesday evening of the month at 8:00pm via web-conference.
The *Communications (PR) Committee* currently meets the second Tuesday evening of the month at 7:30pm via web-conference. Both committee's break for the summer months (July and August).

Will I need to travel?

Depending on your location, you may need to travel from time to time to fulfil your duties. All volunteers may need to travel for time to time to attend meetings or events. All costs incurred related to travel will be reimbursed to you as per the ABVTA Expense Claim Policy, and many plans can be made for you though the ABVTA office.

Here's what some of our volunteers have to say about joining the ABVTA Leadership Group:

"I love that it is a safe space to have open discussions about current topics in our field. It also has been a great educational experience and has made me feel more connected with the vet tech community!"
-Student Representative

"I love the feeling that we are making a difference. Having impact on the future of our profession"
-RVTTC Representative

Being part of the ABVTA Board…"Provides a way to stay engaged while building a network of like-minded colleagues."
-ABVTA Director

"A change to look behind the curtain and help the ABVTA promote the role of an RVT/work to help unify the profession."
-ABVTA Committee Member

Being part of the ABVTA Board is "an opportunity to be a helping hand in watching your Association and profession grow. Being part of the change and a great opportunity to be involved in empowering RVTs across the province."
-ABVTA Director and previous Committee Member

It is "the best possibly way to get the most out of your ABVTA membership: build a network of colleagues across the province while contributing to the health and vibrancy of the RVT profession."

More questions?
Feel free to email us at info@abvta.com