



## Frequently Asked Questions – ABVTA Volunteers

### What are the ABVTA committees?

The ABVTA currently has two standing committees, the Continuing Education (CE) Committee and the Member and Public Relations (M & PR) Committee.

The CE Committee is responsible for overseeing the organization of the annual continuing education and professional development seminars held throughout the year. These volunteers provide input on session topics, find speakers, and moderate sessions.

The PR Committee works together to promote the profession and association at career days, trade fairs, and other community events. In addition to public outreach, this committee also plans and engages the membership in networking and social events.

The two standing committees are made up of a chair, board liaison, association staff, and committee volunteers.

### Why does the ABVTA require committee volunteers?

The ABVTA is a member-driven association and the voice of RVTs and AHT students in Alberta. The ABVTA's committee volunteers provide input and help facilitate member services such as continuing education, professional development, networking events, and public awareness. Committee volunteers are crucial in providing these services and promoting the profession and animal welfare throughout Alberta.

### What is it like volunteering with the ABVTA?

There are several volunteer opportunities with the ABVTA. To volunteer on a committee, we ask for a two-year commitment when you submit a nomination form. Returning committee members may also apply for a two or three-year term after the completion of their first two-year term.

If you're unable to commit to an entire committee term, the ABVTA also requires general volunteers who can dedicate small amounts of time to volunteer for specific events, without being required to commit to a committee term. To get added to the volunteer list, click [here](#).

## If I apply for a committee, what position will I take?

When you submit your application to become a volunteer with the ABVTA, you'll indicate which of the committees is your preference, or you can even indicate both! Once the deadline for applications close, we'll be in contact with you to see which committee you have more of a preference for. You will then be appointed to that committee by the board.

The M & PR Committee is divided into two sub-committees: the *Public Relations Sub-Committee* and the *Member Outreach Sub-Committee*.

The *Public Relations Sub-Committee* is the driving force behind raising awareness about RVTs and their vital role in our community. They work together to identify public events and platforms that would be beneficial to raising awareness about RVTs, their careers and the Association and work with each other and staff to participate in these events.

The *Member Outreach Sub-Committee* play a pivotal role in fostering meaningful connections and celebrating our very own community of members. They work together to create opportunities for ABVTA members to engage with each other and the association.

When submitting your application for the M & PR Committee, we'll ask you which sub-committee you're interested in working with.

The ABVTA Executive Director will notify you of the first committee meeting following your appointment and let you know of any resources or training at that time. The committee members will determine, as a group, who will be appointed the chair and vice-chair position.

## When do I start as a committee volunteer?

Congrats! We're so happy you have chosen to volunteer with us! Volunteers will start their official term at the first meeting of the year, in January.

## How often do the committees meet?

Both committees generally meet every 1-2 months, via Zoom and may take a break over the summer months in July and August. Committees will also try to host one in-person meeting per year.

## Will I need to travel?

Depending on your location, you may need to travel from time to time to fulfill your duties or 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 and will be made for you through the ABVTA office.

## Here's what some of our recent volunteers have to say about volunteering with the ABVTA:

I am incredibly passionate about my career and aim to share this passion with the public through volunteering with the PR committee. Being a volunteer with the ABVTA means a lot to me because I take pride in knowing that I can help the association grow and blossom into more than it already is!

I joined the Member and Public Relations Committee in 2022 after many years of toying with the idea of becoming more involved with the ABVTA. By joining the committee, I wanted to be more understanding about what our organization and its committees do for us as members. At first, I wasn't sure how I personally could benefit from being on a committee, but it's been great to communicate with other RVTs and share our experiences with each other. I hope to be able to help create a more positive culture for RVTs in Alberta and am excited to be a part of a working group committed to this cause. I'm certainly glad I joined and hope to continue being more involved with our organization in the future.

I started volunteering with the ABVTA in 2019, first with the Continuing Education Committee, and then joined the Board of Directors in 2021. I always felt that large animal medicine was overshadowed by small animal medicine due to population size, and I wished that I had more access to large animal CE opportunities and mentorship as I moved through my career. Joining the CE Committee and Board of Directors was my way of giving this group of RVTs a voice in our association and more opportunities for learning and development.

More questions?

Feel free to email us at [info@abvta.com](mailto:info@abvta.com)

