

Help Wanted in Committees

Committees are important to organizations; supplementing the work of board, developing leaders and engaging members. Most associations are finding it harder to draw willing volunteers.

Definitions

Standing committees are identified in the bylaws and continue through the election year. In the minds of busy volunteers, a standing committee represents a year of meetings. The resistance is so strong that many organizations have eliminated all but a few essential standing committees.

Task forces and *ad hoc committees* are replacing the standing committees. They are formed to engage volunteers for shorter, specific tasks and disband upon completion of their work.

‘Quick Action Teams are shorter than task forces and standing committees.’

An even shorter approach to volunteer engagement is use of the *Quick Action Team*. The QAT is appointed for a precise purpose and an even tighter deadline, such as a week or month.

Committee Want Ads

For committee chairs trying to get volunteers, the role can be difficult. Too often we hear of a committee composed of just 2 or 3 members.

Consider the “Help Wanted” approach. Break the committee’s work into tasks. Then create a job description to post a “Help Wanted” ad in the organization’s newsletter or website. While a member may not want to serve for a year, they may appreciate opportunities to contribute in shorter ways.

For example, a committee charged with conducting an annual industry survey might seek a few volunteers as survey writers, others to take the sample test, and still others to distribute and collect surveys at chapter meetings.

Members want to contribute to meaningful tasks that fit their lifestyles. They don’t want to be saddled with a year of work. The “help wanted” approach gets the job done while fulfilling the committees’ purposes and tasks.

Help Wanted

The Community Service Committee is seeking members to help build wheelchair ramps on a one time basis this spring as a service project. Goal is to build 20 ramps in cities around the state. Expenses can be raised locally and project undertaken over a weekend. Approximate time required is no more than 20 hours. Volunteers will receive certificates of appreciation. Contact our committee chair or staff liaison.

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