

What You Can Do for ASA
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Here is what you can do for ASA:

Ad Hoc Communication Committee: This committee's purpose is to facilitate communication between leadership and membership, amongst membership, and between ASA and the public.

The committee will propose to the Steering Committee a policy for management and access to the membership email as well as analyze the *Appalink* survey and develop plans to improve the newsletter.

The Communication Committee consists of the Website Committee Chair; the newsletter editor; a person specializing in press and public relations; and a chair to coordinate the communication committees and functions of ASA.

We need *two volunteers* to serve on this committee: a PR person and a facilitator. I plan to propose to the incoming ASA President that this committee be made a standing committee of the ASA in the coming year.

Conference Evaluation Team: Coordinated by Rebecca Bailey (NKU), this team will focus on devising, administering and analyzing conference evaluation questionnaires. It will also conduct an in-depth study of the 06, 07, and 08 conferences, in which the Presidents and Program Chairs will be interviewed and all documents pertaining to the conferences will be collected. This will become the basis of a report to be delivered to the Steering Committee in March 2009. *Two volunteers* would be helpful for this effort.

Governance Research Team: To be led by a Steering Committee member to be named, this group will reconsider the current structure of the Steering Committee, composition, number of meetings, and other matters pertaining to structure and governance of the ASA. Using information collected during the long range planning process, this committee will prepare a report outlining the pros and cons of two or three governance models for the Steering Committee's consideration. *Two volunteers* are needed for this initiative.

Scholarship Committee: Currently chaired by Cassie Robinson, the Scholarship Committee suggests policy related to Scholarship and allocates scholarship moneys to those who might not otherwise be able to attend our conference. We are in need of *three volunteers* to serve on the committee, one of whom should serve as an apprentice to the chair in preparation of assuming leadership of this committee.

Faces of Appalachia Post Doc Research Grant Committee: This committee will likely be formed some time in 2008. It will oversee a post-doctoral research grant competition, funded by a matching grant provided by NEH, ASA and Marshall University. Administrative support for the award will be provided by ASA Executive Director, Mary

K. Thomas. Because this is a new initiative, policies and procedures have not been determined. It would be reasonable to predict that we will require at least *three volunteers* for this initiative.

Ad Hoc Awards Committee: This committee, chaired by Billy Schumann (), is comprised of all awards chairs. It will meet for its first time at the conference in March 2008. It is charged with proposing to the Steering Committee a policy for the creation and maintenance of awards, contributing to our organizational sustainability and engagement of members and new constituencies.

This committee will also work with the Communication and Membership committees to solicit award nominations and publicize awards; it will propose ways to improve the awards process to the Steering Committee; and it will regularly monitor and assess the awards practices and policies of the ASA. I will suggest to future leadership that this also become a standing committee of the ASA.

A number of our awards chairs have been in their positions for a long period of time and are in need of “relief.” Therefore, please consider offering your services to this important area of ASA.

Membership Committee: Chaired by Ann Rathbun (Morehead State U), this committee collects information about our membership composition and trends, reports this information to the Steering Committee, and develops initiatives to enhance membership engagement as well as ASA services to the membership. It is likely that this committee will be conducting a study of non-academic membership of ASA in the near future. This initiative will require volunteer researchers as well as the participation of our non-academic members.

Nomination Committee: This committee is chaired by the President Elect and is responsible for identifying members who wish to serve as leaders or volunteers for the ASA. The Nomination Committee also oversees ASA elections.

Finance and Development Committee: Chaired by Kristin Kant (U of Kentucky), this committee works closely with the ASA Treasurer to develop, oversee and project budgets for ASA. The committee also oversees the ASA endowment drive, fund-raising and investments of the organization. This committee plays an important role in sustaining our organization by seeing that we are fiscally responsible while simultaneously conforming to values of democracy and social justice. If you wish to be involved in this key area of ASA, please volunteer.

Website Committee: Chaired by Gene Hyde (Radford U), this committee focuses on managing a dynamic website, proposing policy related to the website, and the e-Appalachia Award. With the creation of the Ad Hoc Communication and Awards Committees, the Website Committee will also be expected to collaborate with those group in order to enhance and facilitation ASA communication and awards.

ASA-Black Belt Committee: Chaired by Sokoya Finch (Florida Family Network) of the emergent Black Belt Community Studies and Service group, this committee facilitates communication and collaboration between our two organizations. If you are interested in the emergent Black Belt initiative, please make that interest known in the enclosed volunteer form.