



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ABVTA Leadership Group?

The ABVTA Leadership Group consists of volunteer members of the ABVTA and appointed delegates from other stakeholder groups. Within the ABVTA Leadership Group is the ABVTA Board of Directors as well as two standing committees, the Continuing Education (CE) Committee and the Member and Public Relations (M and PR) Committee.

The ABVTA Board is made up of 7-10 elected ABVTA members who serve as voting Directors. The affairs of the Association are managed, discussed, and voted on by the Directors. Directors vote on motions presented to the Board on behalf of the ABVTA members. The Board also has ex-officio (non-voting) members which include representatives from other stakeholder groups who liaise and communicate between the Association Boards and Councils.

The two standing committees are made up of a chairperson, board liaison as well as committee volunteers.

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 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, networking events, and promoting the veterinary technology profession and animal welfare throughout Alberta.

What is it like volunteering with the ABVTA?

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

The ABVTA Board of Directors is responsible for the affairs of the Association which include governance and policy management, strategic planning, leadership, and advocacy.

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 or a Committee, what position will I take?

All nominations are first sent to the Board appointed nomination committee. This committee will determine the eligibility of nominees based on experience and membership status. After a nomination has been approved through the committee, you will be asked if you are willing to let your name stand for an election to the board.

When it comes to what position you will take, that is up to you and the Board /Committee! Everyone who is elected to a position on the Board is given the title 'Director at Large'. Directors have full voting rights on the Board and can be appointed to various positions by the President, including into the Executive Committee, special task forces, or a liaison position. This is determined by shared interests, skills, and experiences.

All members appointed to a committee are known as volunteers and contribute to the committee through discussions and project management. The committee members determine as a group who will be appointed Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee, based on skills and experience.

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 immediately following 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. Committee volunteers will start at the first meeting of the year, in January, following the AGM.

How often does the Leadership Group 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 Zoom to discuss upcoming news and our budget.

**Please note, due to ongoing health considerations, the ABVTA Board has been meeting monthly via Zoom and will discuss resuming in-person meetings in the late fall.*

The *CE Committee* currently meets the on last Wednesday evening of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The *Communications (PR) Committee* currently meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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 fulfill your duties. All volunteers may need to travel from 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 through 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"

-RVTTTC Representative

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

-ABVTA Director

"A chance 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 possible 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

