

Awards Committee

- Selects recipients for the technician awards (one at each of the three AALAS certification levels, plus a couple of others), and submits their names to the Board of Directors for approval according to criteria established by the Board. They also submit their reports to the newsletter /blogeditor for publication. The committee has three major functions each year: (1) making recommendations for Branch awards and (2) making recommendations on District 5 awards, and (3) putting together nomination packets for District and National awards. This requires a substantial amount of paperwork (letters of recommendation, nomination packets, and so on).
- If you would like to be on this committee, you would be expected to gather the nominations for awards, and meet to discuss and make your selections. There is a flurry of activity, in November/December (for the Branch awards) and February/March (for the District 5 awards). The committee generally conducts its business either by e-mail or telephone, so you need to have these means available to you.

Education Committee

- Makes recommendations on educational policies and programs, and submits them to the Board and the newsletter/blog.
- Like all of our committees, the sky is the limit when it comes to what can be accomplished. Some have interpreted their role as one of public education, and others have chosen to focus on education of technicians working in laboratory animal science. I am a strong advocate of AALAS certification, and there are opportunities for everyone to improve their knowledge and attain credentials that really mean something. I am also an advocate for letting the public know how much we contribute to their health and that of their pets and livestock.

---Janet Rodgers DVM MS DACLAM

Hospitality Committee

- Plans social events in cooperation with the Program Committee, and is responsible for providing refreshments for Branch meetings. Once the local meetings are taken care of (and this can consist of anything from pizza to cold sandwiches), the major annual project is the planning of the annual meeting, which takes place in December. We alternate between Louisville and Lexington for this; in 2013 the annual meeting will be in Lexington.

Legislation Committee

- Submits legislative updates to the branch newsletters, and is to "function by direction of the Board of Directors on local, state and federal policies and programs." This generally means that the committee keeps us apprised of what's happening with governmental policies. Some years there's a lot going on, and some years not much happens.
- Typically, being on this committee means that you keep up with web sites and local news of interest, and prepare short reports for the newsletter/blog. Much of what we're interested in nationally comes out in Lab Animal and the AVMA Journal.

Membership Committee

- The Membership Committee carries out all activities pertaining to membership as directed by the President, such as soliciting membership, notifying delinquent dues members, preparing reports of membership for the Board of Directors and branch newsletters/blog as well as compile the annual membership directory.
- This committee is busy early in the year. Those who have not paid their dues by March 31 are not included in the annual directory which is sent to all members. It is helpful if you can use a database, print mailing labels, and produce a good-looking publication. Otherwise, those who are good choices for this committee are those who come in contact with a lot of potential members every day.

Nominations Committee

- Selects at least two (2) members in good standing as candidates for each elective office at least thirty (30) days prior to September 30th of each year and submits these names to the Board of Directors. The committee keeps members informed by submitting reports to the branch newsletter/blog.
- This committee gets busy in August each year, finding good candidates for elected positions. They prepare and distribute the ballots, tabulate the results, and make their recommendation to the Board. If you're interested in a very important, short-term, circumscribed commitment to AALAS, this is it.

Philanthropy Committee

- Raises funds for a board approved charitable cause.
- Generally organizations affiliated with research or that benefit from the care we provide to research animals. Some of the fun fund raisers the philanthropy committee has sponsored in the past were bowl-a-thons in Louisville and Lexington, gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble, and raffles. Among the organizations that received these funds were; Ky. Children's Hospital, Downs Syndrome Research and Treatment Foundation, Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center, Elizabeth Griffin Research Foundation, Louisville Zoo, and for the Salato Wildlife Refuge.

Program Committee

- Consists of the President-elect and several members appointed as necessary by the President, whose responsibility is the procurement and/or selection of presentations at Branch meetings, and the publicity for these meetings in collaboration with the publication committee and submits reports to the branch newsletters/blogs.

Publications Committee

- The Publications committee may consist of co-chairs appointed by the President. Responsibilities include the publication of the Branch Newsletter/blog, meeting notifications and other publications that the President or Board of Directors may authorize.
- This committee traditionally prepares our newsletter on a quarterly basis. It requires an ability to manage several pages of information (a desktop publishing program is handy but hardly necessary), coordinate with other committees to obtain material, access to Kinko's or some other copy place, and a willingness to stick around late a few times to put the newsletter out. It is a highly visible job that is much appreciated by our membership.