Volunteer Resource Committee (VRC) *Est. Feb 2022*
Report for the Board Meeting with Fellowship

Co-Chairs: Jim R & Laura L
Members:

March 2025

Statement of Purpose

The Purpose of the Volunteer Resources Committee (VRC) is to:

a. provide guidance and support for the volunteers of WSO, such as developing welcoming and educational materials, and healthy communication and leadership workshops,
b. be a resource for WSO committees with volunteer needs, and
c. promote emotional sobriety and healthy functioning in WSO committees.

The State of the Committee The Committee is still finding it's way. Our purpose is relevant, yet our programming has not resonated with the larger fellowship. We are in need of a review of our goals and strategies. Most importantly, the VRC could open our spaces to more participation and focus our efforts beyond the world of Slack.

Recent Activities

Slack - #go_here_first Everyone who joins Slack is added to this channel. Since January 2024, our committee has direct-messaged everyone who signed on. Here are the numbers of monthly arrivals:

24	Jan 21	Feb 17	Mar 14	Apr 11	May 20	Jun 4	Jul 16	Aug 9	Sep 7	Oct 5	Nov 9	Dec 14
25	Jan 17	Feb 14	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Our messaging asked whether they joined Slack as Delegates, or with an interest in Volunteering. Here are some results of our outreach:

- In 2024, 142 ACA members were welcomed to Slack
- 81 Slack members responded to our outreach.
    - 40 said they were Delegates.
    - 33 said they were volunteers.
    - 4 noted they were observing.
    - 4 people identified as Special Workers.

Volunteers on Slack Here is a breakdown of the volunteer responses:

- Literature volunteers
    - Writing teams (5)
    - Comline (2)
    - Lit Evaluation (2)
- Translations volunteers (6).
- IT (5)
- Oral History (3)
- ACA World Convention (3)

Also, 9 members had a general interest in volunteering, all of them self described as Delegates. It generally appears as though ACA volunteers who arrive on Slack already know where they will be volunteering. There is a limited interest in moving to alternative committees.

Delegates on Slack Delegates also tend to arrive with a focus. There is not an overwhelming interest in volunteering on a WSO Committee. Delegates join delegate Slack channels.

Before the December Quarterly Delegates' Meeting, in response to some aggressive communications on Slack, the VRC sent this direct message to the delegates who had responded to the initial welcome:

> Thank you for your continued service to the ACA Group you represent, as well as to the World Service Organization.
>
> With the publication of the Ballot of Proposals, with the planning of the Town Hall discussions, with the February Quarterly Delegates Meeting, and with the trainings leading to the Annual Business Conference... we are entering the 'Delegate Season'.
>
> Just to be clear, Delegates are **NOT** required to be here on the Slack Workspace and you are free to choose which channels to join and with whom to associate.
> All the information needed to be an effective registered Delegate will be emailed to you directly, or will be found on the WSO websites or in the ABC Committee programming.
>
> Unfortunately some Slack channels have become loud and boisterous places. They are havens for strong opinions. No delegate is required to be there. You can walk away at anytime and still be an effective delegate. You can grant yourself serenity.
>
> Please understand, though, the fellowship of ACA needs your voice, as the representative voice of your group, in order to find our collective group conscience, and we hope you will attend the Quarterly Meeting this weekend.
>
> And, if you would like to learn about the achievements of some Committees of WSO, keep an eye out for the upcoming **Field Trips** being offered by the Volunteer Resource Committee throughout the year ahead. Our webpage is **https://acawso.org/vrc/**
>
> Again, from the Volunteer Resource Committee, myself and Laura L, thank you for your continued service to ACA.

Programming Our most successful program is the **WSO Field Trip**. They are upbeat, easy to produce and offer a WSO committee experience for would-be volunteers. In February we planned a trip to the **Finance Committee,** though interest was slight and the event is being rescheduled. In early March a small group of interested ACA members went to the **European Committee** meeting. We were well received and enjoyed the experience. We will likely continue offering these adventures.

The VRC is evaluating the effectiveness of programs like Healthy Service 24/7, which was a semi-monthly service support session (too frequent with sporadic attendance) and Consider Service which was a light version of the original Volunteer Day.

It may be most effective to return to a larger program, once a year, perhaps aligned with International Volunteer Day (Dec 5th) or International Recovery Day (Sept 30th), A 4 to 6 hour program could capture members' attention and participation. This could be offered with the AWC assistance.

For The Months Ahead

Now is the time to recommit to our purpose. We will set and prioritize goals, creating a strategy and timeline. We will also support other committees through the Board/Chair Forum.

If you are interested in being a member of this Committee, please email us at vrc@acawso.org.

For more information and records of prior practices, go to: https://acawso.org/vrc/