



Friendship Committee



QUESTIONS?

AMBUCSTM Resource Center

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Committees

Functioning committees are essential to the health of the chapter. Refer to the committee descriptions in this section to see what is expected of each one. It is recommended that the average chapter with a membership of thirty or less utilize these four basic committees:

Fun
Service
Friendship
Information

If a chapter has more members they can add committees as needed. Remember, it is important to customize the committees to the chapter. Leaders should make the chapter structure work for the chapter by creating the committees or task forces needed to accomplish the chapter goals.

Fun Committee- The Fun committee ensures that your chapter does what AMBUCS™ does best- HAVE FUN! This group works to find new and creative ways to make chapter meetings light and entertaining. They organize, promote and conduct quarterly chapter socials. They work to ensure all new members are included in the fun and feel welcomed at each meeting. Your chapter's Big Hat Club is a vital part of this committee. After all, three of the five purposes of the Big Hat Club are to have fun! *(Possible subcommittees: Attendance and Reception, Social, Sergeant-at-Arms, Big Hat)*

Service Committee. This committee makes sure the chapter is involved in meaningful, vital service to their community. Local community service is most important, but the committee also insures the chapter is up to date and involved in AmBility, through the AmTryke project, and AMBUCS™ Scholars-the scholarships for therapists program. This committee is responsible for the financial well

being of the chapter, and also recommends fund raising projects to the chapter for approval. *(Possible sub-committees: Community service, Fund raising & finance, AmBility™ or AmTryke®, and AMBUCS™ Scholars-scholarships for therapists.)*

Friendship Committee. This committee's responsibility is to insure members' needs are being met with respect to maintaining and building new friendships. Their job is to inspire the chapter to recruit, orient, and retain new members. *(Possible sub-committees: Membership recruitment, Orientation, and Retention).*

Information Committee. This committee takes responsibility for fulfilling the member's needs for information, and for educating the community about the local chapter. They are responsible for making sure the chapter has an educational or entertaining program at each meeting, handle all public relations for the chapter, keep members informed through a regularly published newsletter, and foster conference attendance and inter-chapter activities. *Possible sub-committees: Program, Public relations, Conference & Inter-chapter)*

Friendship Committee

Composition: 6-8 members

Meets monthly

PURPOSE

The Friendship Committee's responsibility is to insure members needs are being met with respect to maintaining and building new friendships. Their job is to inspire the chapter to recruit, orient, and retain new members.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Set a membership goal each year with the help of the chapter's executive committee, striving for Blue Chip growth and stability.

Conduct a Fall Branding Time membership contest.

Conduct a Spring Round Up membership contest.

Build retention of members by making sure members receive what they want from their membership in the AMBUCS™ chapter.

Follow up with new members to see that they are given challenges and activity within the chapter.

Hold an orientation once per quarter for new members.

Possible Sub-Committees

- Membership Recruitment
- Membership Orientation
- Membership Retention

Membership Recruitment Committee

Committee

The Membership Recruitment Committee creates and keeps active a continual program of membership recruitment. This committee should well understand that in every chapter there is a continual turnover in membership from ten to 15 percent. A chapter with 50 members can expect to lose from 5 to 8 members per year due to moving, changes of business connections, deaths, etc.

A chapter cannot stand still in membership recruitment, or it will "fall by the wayside." If a chapter is to grow, there must be a planned approach. A successful membership plan must have realistic goals, both immediate and long range.

Membership Retention Committee

Responsibility: To monitor the progress of new members.

Goal: To achieve a chapter member retention level over ninety percent.

This committee is responsible to monitor **all** members to see that they are kept involved, within their capacity. It has a special responsibility to follow-up with every new member—to see they are assigned to, and become involved with a committee or activity. It should be alert to any sign of waning interest and move to determine the cause and take corrective action immediately. The committee should continually advise the board and other committee chairpersons as to causes in their areas of interest.

Orientation Committee

In appointing a committee to carry out this program, it is suggested the president select members who are willing to assume this task as a continuing responsibility year after year. Infrequent change of committee members will serve to promote the forcefulness of the program.

After a new member has been approved for membership, they become the responsibility of the Orientation Committee. It is this committee's job to see that they:

- A. Are properly inducted by the chapter president.
- B. Receives their new member material:

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New member packet
AMBUCS™ member lapel pin
List of chapter officers
List of chapter committees and committee functions
Chapter Bylaws

- C. Are invited to the next orientation meeting with their spouse. As soon as one meeting is held, a date should be set for the next.
- D. Receives and completes a Committee Preference Sheet so that they can be appointed to a committee of choice.
- E. Learns their responsibility to the chapter and the chapter's responsibility to them.

For Committee Chairperson

INTRODUCTION

For committee chairperson

As the committee's leader you have a dual responsibility:

To the chapter...your responsibility is to plan and execute a year's program of operation for your committee's function.

To the committee member...your responsibility is to include him or her in the planning and execution of the committee's function.

Keep in mind:

- All members are volunteers.
- Volunteers will willingly do that which they like and want to do, if they have participated in the planning.
- Members serve on a committee of their choice.
- A chapter is run by its committees.

If as chairperson you come to the meeting with YOUR program set, the planning done, and ready to tell everyone what they are to do, you WILL have problems. People don't like others doing their thinking for them.

If instead, you come to the meeting with a few ideas and ask for their comments and suggestions, the committee members will lock into a common effort they have helped plan.

Setting up your meetings

- Call the meeting at a time and place convenient for the members with advance notice. Notify the president.
- Call and remind the members the day before the meeting.
- Have an agenda with supporting materials.
- Lead the discussion; ask questions; listen; encourage participation from everyone.
- Summarize the discussion.
- At the end of the meeting prepare a *Report of Committee Chairman Form 1144* and give it to the secretary and president at the next chapter board meeting. Be sure to include hours expended since the last

report. This will help your president be more accurate when the charitable giving form needs to be completed.

- Continue to meet regularly.

First meeting's agenda

Your first meeting will set the tone for the rest of the year. At this time:

- Review what the committee is about.
- Committee members review the past year's functions and make a restatement of its responsibilities. You'll need to put this on your *Committee Information Sheet*.
- The committee makes plans and sets dates for the year.
- Decide when and how often the committee needs to meet.
- The committee considers its budget needs and has this ready for the first board meeting.
- Prepare a *Report of Committee Chairman Form 1144*, and give it to the secretary and president at the next board meeting.

Committee members' participation

The habit of attending and participating in committee meetings needs to be encouraged by the committee chairperson. Regular participation in committee meetings will keep the member active in other chapter functions. Non-attendance at committee meetings may cause loss of interest in other chapter functions and the member may drop out. National reports show that 90% of dropped members were in a chapter less than three years, with the peak occurring at eighteen months. Many of these members were never assigned to or attended committees; they never felt a part of the chapter. You are vital in keeping members active and interested. Call them; bring them to the meeting; let them know they and their input are important.

Sometimes a committee member doesn't follow up on a task that the individual accepted. Remind the member in a kind, diplomatic way that when a job is not done, all in the chapter are affected. The committee is only as effective as its members.

Committees are the backbone of your chapter. A successful committee year, due to your efforts, can insure a successful chapter year.

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Committee Preference Sheet

Every member participates and serves on **one** committee of his or her choice. In addition, they help on the fundraising projects of the chapter. So that your officers may know what your interests are, indicate on which of the following committees you would be willing to serve this year. All possible consideration will be given to your first or second choice.

Complete and promptly return to your chapter president. Please Print.

Name _____

Rank Committee & Description

_____ **Information**

This committee takes responsibility for fulfilling the member's needs for information, and for educating the community about the local chapter. They are responsible for making sure the chapter has an educational or entertaining program at each meeting, handle all public relations for the chapter, keep members informed through a regularly published newsletter, and foster conference attendance and inter-chapter activities.

_____ **Fun**

This committee insures that the chapter has fun in all its many activities. Their special charge is to continually find ways to make the regular chapter meetings light, fun, and entertaining. Their duties include organizing, promoting, and conducting socials each quarter. They should insure that all new members and guests are included in the fun and welcomed at each meeting. The chapter's Big Hat Club is a vital part of this committee.

_____ **Service**

This committee makes sure the chapter is involved in meaningful, vital service to their community. Local community service is most important, but the committee also insures the chapter is up to date and involved in AmBility, through the AmTryke project, and AMBUCS™ Scholars-the scholarship for therapists program. This committee is responsible for the financial well being of the chapter, and also recommends fund raising projects to the chapter for approval.

_____ **Friendship**

This committee's responsibility is to insure members' needs are being met with respect to maintaining and building new friendships. Their job is to inspire the chapter to recruit, orient, and retain new members.

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