

You've paid your dues.

Now what?

The greatest value of your PRSA membership comes from the networking you do and the connections you make. Committees are the best places to build those bonds.

So, in case no one has ever invited you, consider yourself invited. Join a committee, and watch the value of your membership increase before your very eyes!

Accreditation Committee

Purpose: Promotes the Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) designation, including Q&A sessions, readiness review panels with exam candidates and prep classes for those preparing to take the exam.

Meetings: Planning takes place by telephone and email as needed.

Needed: A new member to help organize orientations and prep classes. Backup readiness review panelists are always needed. Committee members must be APR.

Contact: Barb Byers, APR / UB Office of Alumni Relations
716-645-3312 / babyers@buffalo.edu

Advocacy Committee

Purpose: Advocates in the media for the chapter, PRSA and the profession by publicizing chapter activities and member accomplishments such as honors and awards.

Meetings: By email as needed.

Needed: New members not needed at this time.

Contact: Julie Kopfer Marranca, MA, APR / University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
716-645-1535 / juliekop@buffalo.edu

Diversity Committee

Purpose: Educates practitioners on issues of diversity and skill sets needed for communicating with all audiences. Works with high school and college students to expand representation by all populations within the workforce. Current projects include creation of a video and educational outreach program to be piloted in five area schools, and the planning an educational program for existing practitioners.

Meetings: Meets monthly.

Needed: New members are welcome to contribute innovative ideas.

Contact: John Senall / Roswell Park Cancer Institute
716-845-1038 / john.senall@roswellpark.org

E-Communications Committee

Purpose: Manages the flow of chapter news to members and interested non-members through regular updates via chapter website, email, e-newsletter and social media.

Meetings: Meetings are held monthly, as needed.

Needed: One person to manage website updates. All on committee welcomed / encouraged to attend chapter events, take digital photos, and write stories for the website and e-newsletter.

Contact: Tony Astran / Seneca Gaming Corporation
716-501-2066 / TAstran@SenecaCasinos.com
Beth Silverman / Gateway Longview Foundation
716-783-3219 / BSilverman@gateway-longview.org

Excalibur Awards Committee

Purpose: Organizes the chapter's Excalibur Awards event, from soliciting entries and coordinating judging to planning the June awards dinner.

Meetings: Meets regularly from January through July.

Needed: New members are always welcome.

Contact: Jessica Manocchio / Rich Products Corporation
716-878-8886 / jmanocchio@rich.com
Erin Collins / Buffalo Museum of Science
716-479-2337 / ecollins@sciencebuff.org

Finance Committee

Purpose: Acts as a “check and balance” by reviewing chapter finances and offering advice to the chapter treasurer, who chairs the committee.
Meetings: Meets three times per year. Timing and location are flexible based on members’ needs.
Needed: There is no urgent need for new members at this time, though new members are always welcome.
Contact: Jacqueline Ghosen, APR / University at Buffalo School of Management
716-645-2833 / ghosen@buffalo.edu

May Randazzo Scholarship Committee

Purpose: Publicizes, judges and raises funds for the chapter’s two scholarships for PR students in area colleges. Plans annual basket auction.
Meetings: Meets two to three times per year, at most. Most planning and judging take place by fax and e-mail.
Needed: New members to evaluate and choose scholarship recipients and/or solicit auction items; not all members need to help with fundraising.
Contact: Eileen Herbert / Canisius College
716-888-2790 / herberte@canisius.edu

Membership Committee

Purpose: Promotes the value of membership through innovative recruitment efforts; follows up with lapsing members to encourage their continued membership; plans annual membership event.
Meetings: Meets monthly. Most meetings are held in the morning.
Needed: New members are always welcome.
Contacts: Jacqueline Ghosen, APR / University at Buffalo School of Management
716-645-2833 / ghosen@buffalo.edu
Kathy Kirst / Trautman Associates
716-883-4400 / kkirst@trautmanassoc.com

Program Committee

Purpose: Selects topics, speakers and locations for professional development programs; organizes annual Sunrise Seminar series.
Meetings: Meetings as needed; most communication takes place by e-mail or telephone.
Needed: New members to help organize chapter programs.
Contact: Jennifer Gallardo / Alzheimer's Association, WNY Chapter
716-626-0600 / Jennifer.Gallardo@alz.org
Phil Weiss / Alzheimer's Association, WNY Chapter
716-626-0600 / Phillip.Weiss@alz.org

PRSSA Liaison Committee

Purpose: Acts as a bridge between PRSA and the four student chapters in the region, working with advisors and student leaders. Supports student chapter recruitment and programming. Develops PRSA-PRSSA policies.
Meetings: Meetings as needed; most communication takes place by e-mail or telephone.
Needed: New members to increase the cooperation between PRSA and PRSSA. PRSSA alumni are encouraged to join the committee.
Contact: Kate LaBrake / St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
716-874-4024 / katelabrake@gmail.com

Sponsorship Committee

Purpose: Creates proposals and approaches potential chapter sponsors.
Meetings: Meetings are flexible; most business is done by e-mail or telephone.
Needed: New members with community and business contacts.
Contact: Amy Herbst / Independent Health
716-635-4866 / amy.herbst@independenthealth.com

*Committee members gain new ideas,
make valuable business contacts, learn about job opportunities,
earn confidence and valuable skills, and develop their leadership abilities.*