

Would You Consider Serving on the PNBA Education Committee?

The PNBA Board of Directors appoints the members of our Education Committee, using suggestions from current and previous members, and by soliciting letters of interest from current PNBA members. The primary factor that the Board considers is that candidates need to represent a current voting member of the Association. Traditionally, the Education Committee includes one librarian, one author or publisher, and seven bookseller members. Appointments to the Committee are for a single three-year term, so that each year the Board will be replacing three members on the Committee.

The Board solicits interested potential Committee candidates during December each year, and appoints all new Committee members at the Board's annual Retreat in late January. Generally speaking, the Board looks for candidates who will provide the Committee with the widest possible diversity of membership, for instance, by trying to make sure that the Committee includes a good mix of male vs. female members; general-interest vs. specialty store members; members from as wide a geographic distribution as possible; and members from small stores as well as large. In any particular year, attempting to maintain or restore balance may be a factor in the Board's selecting one candidate over another. Because of such changes, a candidate who is not selected one year, may be an ideal selection the next year.

Service on PNBA Committees is unpaid, but all expenses incurred to attend any and all Committee meetings, including the meeting at the fall show, are fully reimbursed by the PNBA, if the executive director receives a properly completed reimbursement request form (provided by PNBA), including any appropriate original cash register receipts, by the announced deadline. Typically, the Education Committee meets during the spring and summer via teleconferences, which are produced and paid for by PNBA. The Committee also meets in person at the fall show, to review the successes of, and identify ways to improve, the education that was offered at each show.

The Education Committee's primary responsibilities are (1) planning, producing, monitoring and reviewing the educational sessions produced at the fall show, and (2) providing the executive director with all of the info necessary for production of the show program in a timely fashion. The Education Committee works closely with the executive director, who acts as staff for the Committee, and who informs the Committee of all deadlines, specific needs and Board requirements for the Committee to complete its work. The typical PNBA Education Committee member spends about 30 hours each year on PNBA work, most of it in the late spring and early summer.

If you would like to be considered for a position on the PNBA Education Committee, please send an email to the executive director, subject "Educ Committee Candidate," providing a brief history of your book industry work, a brief statement of your interests and the reasons why your service might be valuable to PNBA, and a brief assurance of your willingness to commit the time and energy to serve on the Committee.