Behind the Curtain: AAPOR Committees, Volunteering, and Leadership Opportunities

www.aapor.org
Why Volunteer with AAPOR?

• Supports our profession
  – Public opinion research facing multiple challenges

• Benefits your professional development
  – Opportunity to develop leadership skills and make a difference
  – Increases networking opportunities
  – Opportunity to be a “good citizen”
AAPOR Committees

• Committees are the backbone of AAPOR’s structure as an organization.

• Committees are charged with specific tasks that keep AAPOR running throughout the year.
  • The mandate for each committee comes from the Executive Council.
AAPOR Committees

• Committee Structure
  • Each committee is led by a chair and associate chair.
  • Most committees are made up of subcommittees, which are more focused on individual parts of the committees mandate.
  • Each subcommittee is led by a chair.
  • Each member of the committee serves a three year term, with the option to serve a second term.

• Time commitment for committee work varies by committee.
Subcommittees

• Subcommittees allow committee work to be divided and for interested members to work on a specific project

• Examples:
  • Social Media subcommittee of the Communications Committee
  • Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee of the Membership and Chapter Relations Committee
Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees

- Standing Committees
  - AAPOR History
  - Communications
  - Conference
  - Diversity Initiative Coordinating
  - Education
  - Finance
  - Membership and Chapter Relations
  - Nominations
  - Standard Definitions
  - Standards
  - Transparency Initiative Coordinating

- Ad-Hoc Committees and Task Forces
  - Suggling and Fruggling
  - Sexual Harassment
  - Data Fabrication
  - False Accusations Against Surveys
  - Improving Survey Climate
  - Mixed Mode
  - Pre-election Polling
Committee Appointment Process

• Committee members are nominated by committee chair

• Nominations vetted for:
  – Diversity
  – Other committee service
    • Service generally limited to 2 concurrent committee appointments

• Nominations approved by Council
  – Appointments are typically for 3 years
  – Limit of two 3-year terms
Committee Service

• Committee meeting schedules vary
  – Typically meet monthly by conference phone
  – In-person meeting at annual conference

• Don’t be passive!
  – Volunteer for assignments
  – Follow-through on assignments
Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces

- **Ad hoc committees**
  - Shorter-term working groups intended to address specific issues and make recommendations to AAPOR’s Council

- **Task Forces**
  - Longer-term working groups intended to address broad issues and make recommendations to AAPOR’s Council
Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces

- How are these different from standing committees & subcommittee?
- How & when these groups are formed
- How members are selected
- How long do these last?
AAPOR’s Executive Council

• What does the Executive Council do?
• How often does it meet?
  – Monthly + annual business meeting
  • Why a business meeting?
• How is Executive Council selected?
  – Annual election
AAPOR’s Executive Council
(n=17 members)

- President
  - VP/President-elect
  - Past President
- Councilors-at-Large
- Secretary-Treasurer
  - Associate
- Standards Chair
  - Associate Chair
- Conference Chair
  - Associate Chair
- Membership/Chapter Relations Chair
  - Associate Chair
- Education Chair
  - Associate Chair
- Communications Chair
  - Associate Chair
Kellen: AAPOR’s Management Company

• Kellen is an accredited international association management company
  – AAPOR has contracted with Kellen since 2014
  – Kellen provides technical and management support to AAPOR’s Council
  – Kellen services over 400 professional associations
Membership Chapters

There are seven regional chapters affiliated with AAPOR:

• Midwest Chapter (MAPOR)
• New England Chapter (NEAAPOR)
• New York Chapter (NYAAPOR)
• Pacific Chapter (PAPOR)
• Pennsylvania/New Jersey Chapter (PANJAAPOR)
• Southern Chapter (SAPOR)
• Washington, DC Chapter (DCAAPOR)
Membership Chapters

- The chapters are separate organizations, but they work with AAPOR to advance mutual goals
- Each chapter has its own members
  - Individuals do not need to be a member of AAPOR to join a chapter, and vice versa.
  - Individuals can join AAPOR and multiple chapters.
- Each chapter has its own elected leaders/officers
- Hold conferences, educational events, webinars, networking events, and student paper competitions
Membership Chapters

• Midwest Chapter (MAPOR) www.mapor.org
  • Annual conference in Chicago weekend before Thanksgiving

• Southern Chapter (SAPOR) http://www.sapor.us/
  • Annual conference in Raleigh area in early October

• Pacific Chapter (PAPOR) www.papor.org
  • Annual conference in early December in San Francisco; mini-conference in June; short course in Los Angeles/online

• New England Chapter (NEAAPOR) http://neaapor.org/
  • Multiple educational and networking events in locations such as Boston and Connecticut
Membership Chapters

• Pennsylvania/New Jersey Chapter (PANJAAPOR) http://panjaapor.org/
  • Usually fall/winter event at Princeton University and spring event at University of Pennsylvania

• New York Chapter (NYAAPOR) https://www.nyaapor.org/
  • Host wide variety of workshops, panels, presentations, and networking events throughout the year

• DC Chapter (DC-AAPOR) https://dc-aapor.org/
  • Summer Preview/Review Conference, POQ Special Issue Conference, holiday party, workshops, and short courses.
Affinity Groups

• Voluntary associations of AAPOR members who want to share ideas, information, and experiences with other members with similar affinities or interests.

• There are two AAPOR affinity groups:
  • Cross-cultural and multilingual research affinity group
  • HISP-AAPOR
Cross Cultural & Multilingual Research

- Connect AAPOR researchers and leaders to facilitate a regular dialogue about improved methods, measurement, and research & publication opportunities

- Cultivate environment where cross-cultural & multilingual research is visible and important to all survey and public opinion researchers

- Annual meeting or meetup at AAPOR

- Motto: We can do it! We can do more! We can do more together!

- Website: [https://www.aapor.org/Membership/Affinity-Groups/Cross-cultural-and-multilingual-research-affinity.aspx](https://www.aapor.org/Membership/Affinity-Groups/Cross-cultural-and-multilingual-research-affinity.aspx)
HISP-AAPOR

- For members who are of Hispanic-origin or are interested in Hispanic research topics
- Goal is to identify meaningful ways to increase Hispanic presence in survey research field and raise visibility of members
- Organize a meeting or meetup at AAPOR Annual Conference
- Welcomes all current AAPOR members, regardless of age, gender, race or ethnicity, research field, education, background
- Website: https://www.aapor.org/Membership/Affinity-Groups/HISP-AAPOR.aspx
Affinity Groups

• AAPOR members can form Affinity Groups around topics related to professional interests or personal affinities.

• To create an affinity group, anyone can submit an application to council that includes:
  • Commitments from at least 10 AAPOR members who want to participate
  • The group’s purpose and the fundamental principles of the group’s identity and operation
How do I volunteer?

• Fill out the Volunteer Interest form on the AAPOR website:
  https://www.aapor.org/Membership/Volunteer.aspx

• Be specific in the committee(s) you’re interested in and what makes you a good fit for their work.

• Committees re-staff around the time of the conference, but you could get asked to join a committee at any time.
Next Steps

• Reach out to your regional chapter
  • Visit their websites for contact/volunteer information
    ▪ Midwest Chapter (MAPOR) www.mapor.org
    ▪ New England Chapter (NEAAPOR) http://neaapor.org/
    ▪ New York Chapter (NYAAPOR) https://www.nyaapor.org/
    ▪ Pacific Chapter (PAPOR) www.papor.org
    ▪ Pennsylvania/New Jersey Chapter (PANJAAPOR) http://panjaapor.org/
    ▪ Southern Chapter (SAPOR) http://www.sapor.us/
    ▪ Washington, DC Chapter (DCAAPOR) https://dc-aapor.org/

• Join their mailing lists
Next Steps

• Seek out opportunities at AAPOR Annual Conference
  • Look for the badges of various committees and talk with those members about getting involved
  • Volunteer to help out as a moderator or at AAPOR booth
  • Attend the business meeting
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