

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Officers' Newsletter 176

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**Active Volunteer Recognition
(or AVR for short)**

MOTIVATION AND RECOMPENSE for VOLUNTEER EFFORT
(Replacement for the former Annual Honorary List or AHL for short)

The tradition of giving gratis membership to Branch Secretaries and other Society Officers ceased at the end of 2017 as it was no longer allowable in that form under the Society's newly achieved charitable status. A new way of recognising the importance of volunteer efforts made to support the Society's activities has been prepared and was presented at the Annual Officers' Conference in Bournemouth last year. On a show of hands the vast majority of those attending accepted the draft proposals. These proposals were approved by the membership attending the AGM at Coventry in April this year (2019) with the new scheme being called **Active Volunteer Recognition** or **AVR** for short.

RATIONALE & OBJECTIVE

- The Trustees and MC are conscious of the major part played by volunteers in supporting the Society's operations and its dependency on them.
- To continue encouraging such member commitment, they propose to reward significant levels of usually continuous volunteer effort with some sort of formal recognition.

AWARD CRITERIA

- Eligibility derives from significant and continuous voluntary effort in support of formally designated Branch or National RCTS activity over periods of not less than 12 months.

METHOD OF RECOGNITION

- A membership category of "Active Volunteer" is being established.
- Eligible Volunteers would receive full Society membership at a substantially reduced rate during their period of office.

CONSIDERATION FOR AVR

- Volunteers, both at National and Branch levels, who make a significant continuing contribution to the Society's day to day operations over the whole of the Society's financial year.

The information contained in this newsletter is for use of RCTS Officers and Members only and should not be communicated outside of the Society

National Level

Occupants of designated “National Officer” roles will be nominated by the national budget holder, agreed by the MC, and formally endorsed on an annual basis by the Trustees. Determination of eligibility would be the responsibility of the appropriate budget holder.

Branch Level

Up to two Branch members (**they do not have to be branch committee members**) who fulfil the criteria of a significant on-going and continuing contribution would be eligible. The candidate(s) would be proposed and endorsed by the Branch Committee, appropriately minuted, and submitted through the Branch Liaison Officer.

AVR AWARD PROCESS

- A list of proposed AVR recipients would be compiled annually based on National and Branch recommendations.
- Candidates’ eligibility would be evaluated by the MC/Trustees and decisions made as to those to be awarded AVR prior to the start of the annual subscription renewal cycle.
- Volunteers who are successfully awarded AVR status would then enjoy the reduced AVR subscription rate for the following year.

AVR SUBSCRIPTION RATE

- The Society offers more than one subscription rate – *i.e. printed RO, Digital RO, Direct Debit*, however, the AVR rate will be the same regardless of the individual member’s pre-existing subscription type.
- The AVR subscription has been set at the reduced rate of £5.00 per year. The AVR rate would not be subject to the annual subscription review process, but would be reviewed at five yearly intervals.

FUNDING THE AVR SUBSCRIPTION RATE

- Funding of AVR roles will be the responsibility of the Trustees/MC and will be allocated against the appropriate designated budgets, ie Railway Observer, Publications, Archive/Library, Membership, Finance, Management Committee. Please note – Branches will **NOT** be expected to fund their accepted nominees.

NOMINATIONS.

- All branch nominations for AVR must be with the Branch Liaison Secretary on the attached form (Appendix 1) by 13th of September otherwise nominees will be sent the normal annual renewal letter in October.
- Any names received after the 13th September will not be considered as this would mean an unacceptable additional workload for the Membership Renewals Team.

The AVR nomination form is being sent out with this newsletter as Appendix 1. It is also being sent as a separate attachment in ‘word’ format with this newsletter for those who intend to complete and submit the form electronically.

For those who may be eligible at National level, please ask your respective budget holder if you have any queries about your eligibility. At Branch level, if you have any queries about who may or may not be eligible, please contact me and ask. Please note Trustees are NOT eligible for AVR.

Kind regards

Irene



ACTIVE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION (AVR) NOMINATIONS

Branch/National Designated Budget

Name	Membership Number	Position or Activity

Approved By Branch Chairman or Relevant Society Budget Holder

NameSignature.....

Membership Number.....

Date.....

Please return the completed form to Irene Rabbitts, Branch Liaison Secretary by 13 September 2019