

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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**Officers' Newsletter 192**  
**24 July 2020**

Dear All

It has been a difficult few months with Covid-19 but not everything is bad and if nothing else, it has encouraged many of us to make use of some of the technology around to hold virtual meetings and find other ways to share our enthusiasm for railways.

Life goes on regardless and it is now time to think about routine things such as Active Volunteer Recognition (AVR) nominations for membership renewals for 2021. I know that still seems a long way off but planning in advance is required so that is what this newsletter is about.

**Active Volunteer Recognition (AVR)**

When this was introduced last year, there was a lot of information made available to explain the rationale and objectives so rather than repeat it all only part of that information is included here. It is all about recognising the importance of volunteer efforts made to support the Society's activities – the Society would not be able to function without it.

**Eligibility for AVR**

Eligibility applies to volunteers, both at National and Branch levels, who make a significant and continuous voluntary effort in support of the Society's day to day operations and have done so for a minimum of 12 months.

**Method of Recognition**

Eligible volunteers will receive full Society membership at a substantially reduced rate during their period of office and this is currently set at £5.00 regardless of the individual member's pre-existing subscription type. This category of membership is known as Active Volunteer.

**National Level**

Occupants of designated "National Officer" roles will be nominated by the national budget holder, agreed 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, the decision appropriately minuted, and submitted through the Branch Liaison Officer.

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

## Funding the AVR Subscription Rate

Funding of AVR roles will be the responsibility of the Trustees and will be allocated against the appropriate designated budgets, ie Railway Observer, Publications, Archive/Library, Membership, Finance, Trustees/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 Officer on the attached form (Appendix 1) by 11 September 2020 otherwise nominees will be sent the normal annual renewal letter in October. The date is slightly earlier this year because of the necessary changed dates of scheduled Trustee meetings due to the current situation regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. There are additional practicalities in gaining the approval of all Trustees with the current restrictions in place should the nominations have to be agreed other than at a (probably virtual) meeting.

National nominations should also be submitted to the Branch Liaison Officer to be included with the nominations from the branches for ease of coordinating the final listing and in the interests of ensuring that everyone has the opportunity for inclusion. I understand there may have been some confusion last year about the process for some national nominations.

Any names received after the 11 September 2020 will not be considered as this would not allow sufficient time for Trustee approval and would also mean an unacceptable additional last minute workload for the Membership Renewals Team. There has to be a deadline so if you have any difficulties with this date please contact me urgently to discuss possible solutions.

The AVR nomination form is being sent out with this newsletter as Appendix 1. This can be printed off separately from the rest of the newsletter, completed, scanned and emailed. It is also being sent as a separate attachment in 'word' format with this newsletter for those who intend to complete the form electronically. All completed forms in whichever format should be emailed to me at [liaison@rcts.org.uk](mailto:liaison@rcts.org.uk). You can post completed forms but email is probably quicker and easier with no additional costs for postage – the address is included in the Officers Directory.

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.

I look forward to receiving your nominations. Thank you.

Kind regards

Irene

## Appendix 1



### ACTIVE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION (AVR) NOMINATIONS

Branch/National Designated Budget

| Name | Membership Number | Position or Activity |
|------|-------------------|----------------------|
|      |                   |                      |
|      |                   |                      |

Approved by Branch Chairman or relevant Society Budget Holder

Name.....Signature.....

Membership Number.....

Date.....

Please return the completed form to Irene Rabbitts, Branch Liaison Officer by 11 September 2020