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The ABCs of SGA:  
Or 'Committee Work at Its Best'

Virginia J. H. Cain

{First presented in a longer form at the 1988 spring SGA meeting in Athens, Georgia, 8 April 1988. Special thanks to Jane Powers Weldon for editing the text.}

A

Every committee is Appointed by the board; it needs Active members so it can Act as an Advocate.

B

A committee may be provided for in an organization's Bylaws. In SGA, Both chair and members serve By appointment; they all have a Big job.

C

Every committee needs a Charge and Commitment and Communication among members and the whole organization.

D

A committee makes Decisions and needs a Dedicated chairman who can Delegate.
Serving on a committee requires *Energy*; the *Experience* is *Educational*. Most committee work does finally reach a definite *End*.

Though members don’t get paid, committee work isn’t *Free*. Members sometimes have *Fun* and love the word "*Final*" when paired with "report".

Going to other people or other sources during the *information-Gathering* phase is a *Great* way to *Get* to know other SGA members and repositories.

Knowing *How* to do their work *Helps* prevent committee *Horror* stories so that committee service is an *Honor*.

Committees should not be *Inactive*: *Involvement* and *Interaction* produce good committee *Information*.

A committee and its members must *Jump* right in and believe that late-night work is *Jolly*.

*Knowledge* of all *Kinds* of facts and figures helps a committee produce a pleasing *Kaleidoscope* of a report.
Every committee needs a Leader and welcomes a certain amount of good Luck.

Committees help a group Maintain status, Motivate its Members, and Move to be effective. Completing a committee assignment should not require a Miracle.

Good committees work with Nice people and produce New ideas to report to the Newsletter.

Good committees work by an Order or plan. A committee is a great vehicle for Outreach to other Organizations.

SGA members who Participate in committee work need Purpose, Priorities, and Plans.

A committee answers Questions and needs a Quiet place to meet. It may feel its work is as difficult as the Quest for the Holy Grail!

Members must give and Receive Respect so that the organization gets a Return on their work. All committees must deal with Reality as well as ideals and goals.
S

A Strong committee can contribute to the Stability of an organization. The Size of the committee is important to its Success.

T

Every committee must Try its hardest, even when things are Toughest. It will get the most accomplished by working Together.

U

The work of a successful committee might be Unbelievable; the experience of working with a committee might be Unforgettable; but we hope that the experience won't be totally Unnerving.

V

Committee success thrives on the Vitality of the organization and the Vigor of individual members, but it keeps chairs and members Very busy and the organization Visible.

W

It's important to think seriously about Who should serve, Why their contributions will be useful, Where and When the committee will meet, and What it will report.

X

A committee should strive for eXcellence, require eXpertise of its members, and know when to make its eXit.

Y

SGA needs Your ideas for projects and Your support. We don’t want an invitation to appointment to Yield the response "Yuck"!
So help us Zero in on other groups we might reach and projects we might Zip right into, so our whole organization—committees and all—won’t lack for Zest!

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