

Voluntary Sector Studies Network

A message sent on members from Rob Dalziel, VSSN Secretary

Dear VSSN member

Please consider supporting the Voluntary Sector Studies Network (VSSN) by nominating yourself for its Steering Group or the Voluntary Sector Review Editorial Management Board or by offering to moderate our email discussion group.

VSSN activities include one day conferences and an annual joint conference with the National Council for Voluntary Services (NCVO) and the Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR); maintaining a website and the production of the journal Voluntary Sector Review (VSR). VSSN is a volunteer-led organization and its success relies very much on the commitment and donated time of VSSN Steering Group members and the VSR Editorial Management Board.

We are now inviting self-nominations to the VSSN Steering Group and the VSR Editorial Management Board.

There are two separate elections (each by single transferable vote), one for the VSSN Steering Group (trustees) and one for the VSR Editorial Management Board.

Please consider self-nominating if you are:

1. interested in supporting the work of VSSN;
2. are able to contribute a few hours a month of your time;
3. have views on how VSSN and VSR should develop;
4. have editorial, chairing, financial, secretarial, or marketing skills and experience.

VSSN Steering Group

There are currently three vacancies for the VSSN Steering Group. The roles that elected members take are decided between them consensually after the election. These include: chair, treasurer, secretary, membership and marketing, responsibility for overseeing web services, the maintenance of a research directory, and helping to arrange the annual conference. In 2015, VSSN are particularly keen to encourage nominations from members with secretarial or accounting skills or who are interested in building our membership or new researcher network. A commitment to VSSN work and its continued success is just as valuable as particular skills and all self-nominations for VSSN Steering Group vacancies are welcomed.

Terms of office can vary but will normally be for three years in the first instance (and not more than six years in total). Details of existing Steering Group members and their roles can be found at www.vssn.org.uk/about/people.

VSR Editorial Management Board (EMB)

There are three vacancies for the VSR Editorial Management Board (EMB). The terms of office for two of the vacancies is for three years and for the remaining vacancy is two years (lengths of terms will be decided after the election in line with the provisions of the VSSN Constitution).

Board members may stand for re-election, but only serve for a maximum of 6 years.

The Editorial Management Board represents the VSSN in working with the Publisher to publish the journal. The role of the EMB is to support the editorial team and ensure that high editorial standards are maintained and that the journal is produced in accordance with the Publisher's Agreement.

The current editorial team is Nick Acheson (Ulster), Rob Macmillan (Birmingham) and Bernard Harris (Strathclyde) who took over from the founding editor Peter Halfpenny at the beginning of 2015. Additional details about the roles and responsibilities of the EMB can be found at the end of the nomination form.

*Please note: For your nomination, to either body, to be considered you must have paid your VSSN membership fee for 2015-6 and had its receipt confirmed by the VSSN office **before** the election opens on 21st October 2015. If you pay online using Worldpay your membership can be confirmed the same day. If paying by cheque or bank transfer, please allow up to 5 working days for it to arrive at the VSSN office.*

Standing for a VSSN Steering Group role means also becoming a trustee of the organisation.

You may stand for the VSSN Steering Group and the VSR Editorial Management Board but will need to complete separate nomination forms for each role. These can be downloaded for completion from the links below:

[VSSN SG election nomination form 2015](#)

[VSR EMB election nomination form 2015](#)

All completed nomination forms must be received by **19th October 2015** as an email attachment sent to execofficer@vssn.org.uk with a **signed copy** sent to VSSN Office, PO Box 7917, Swadlincote DE11 1ET, UK (to be received **by 19th October 2015**).

All VSSN members will be notified of the nominations received and, if elections are necessary, details of an online ballot will be sent by email to all members a few days later. Results of the election will then be announced at the VSSN Annual General Meeting, which will be held on 26th November 2015 in London. At this point new VSSN Steering Group and VSR Editorial Management Board members will formally become active.

In addition to these roles within the formal governance structures of VSSN and VSR, we are keen to involve more members in other areas of VSSN and VSR work – to make use of member skills and expertise in developing the VSSN & VSR networks and activities. A number of members currently volunteer to help in this way. They provide a valuable and much appreciated service to the VSSN Network and VSR Board activities. We now need more volunteers to help to develop the Network to its full potential.

Currently VSSN is keen to for someone to volunteer to moderate the VSSN email discussion list. This is an important role, but not an onerous one: it would only take a few minutes of your time each week. If you are interested in finding out more about this role please contact Angela Ellis Paine at a.ellis@tsrc.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about the self-nomination process, please do not hesitate to contact me by email via execofficer@vssn.org.uk, otherwise we shall look forward to

receiving your nomination forms soon.

Best wishes

Rob Dalziel, VSSN Secretary