CORA IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

The Committee on Regional Associations consists of ten regional association officers elected to the Alumni Council Executive Committee for a two-year term. Their mission is to work with regional associations to engage alumni with the University and with one another. CORA serves as a resource in developing ideas and providing guidance for: programs; recruiting volunteers; organizing, operating and managing regional associations; and enhancing outreach to alumni. Available resources include:

• **Regional Roar:** This newsletter keeps you informed of available resources and best practices from the regions.

• **Teleconferences and webinars:** They are scheduled to connect you with other volunteers engaging in regional work. CORA will continue offering a broad selection of programming next year and welcomes your feedback on future topics.

• **CORA discussion group:** This is a private forum for regional officers to share information. Minutes and PowerPoint presentations from the teleconferences/webinars and past issues of the Regional Roar are posted here. Click to join.

• **“Take Your Association to the Next Level” Grant:** Do you have a great idea for starting a program or revitalizing your regional association but need funding to get off the ground? Applications are due January 1st but its not too early to start planning now.

Please email us with suggestions to serve you better.

_Bookmark_ [http://alumni.princeton.edu/main/volunteers/regional_volunteers/leadership](http://alumni.princeton.edu/main/volunteers/regional_volunteers/leadership) for the complete listing of online resources for regional volunteers!

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**ELEMENTS OF FLOURISHING REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**Barry Nann ’57**

**President, Princeton Alumni Association of Eastern Connecticut**

The recent webinar on “Reinvigorating Your Regional Association,” identified elements of strong and growing associations. Use them!

**Energetic Leadership:** Committed and effective executive teams lead strong regional associations (RA). In Nevada, a functioning Alumni Schools Committee (ASC) preceded the RA; it provided the executives who launched the RA. Several Connecticut RAs became defunct when key leaders left the state; with new leadership teams, they reinvigorated themselves.

**Start Small and Build on Success:** The Nevada, Northern New Jersey and Eastern Connecticut RAs represent re-starts of dormant associations. All three re-invigorated themselves by beginning with a small steps; they found success by beginning with a small number of events on which they could concentrate their energy and build momentum.

**Engaging and Assessing Your Programs:** Our regions vary in readily available resources. The RAs in the vicinity of other Ivy schools enjoy several rich lodes: visiting Princeton sports teams; alumni/ae in grad school; and alumni on the Ivy’s faculty. The first provides spirited entertainment and the latter are sources of both membership and intellectual programs. Recently, several RAs drew constituents into projects “in the region’s and community’s service.” And, many alumni enjoy working on the ASC and other Princeton-related activities such as book awards to local students.

**Critical Mass:** Know your constituency. Nevada is considering a split into two sub-regions because its population is concentrated in discrete loci around Reno and Las Vegas. Northern New Jersey found health by combining several adjacent RAs. Eastern Connecticut is seeking ways to better serve constituents east of New Haven and to cooperate with the PAA of Rhode Island in that effort. All three Connecticut regions collaborate on major events such as a Triangle Club visit. PC of SW Florida concentrates its programs around the seasonal peak population.

**Stimulated Membership:** The RA’s constituency is its most valuable resource. It provides not only dues but the essential energy at events and in special projects. Keep stirring it!

**Alumni Office Support:** The University’s support staff provides key resources, information and advice. RAs will profit from its help and expertise.

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**COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

*Jameson B. Carroll ’83, Chair, PC of Georgia*
*Charlene Huang Olson ’83, Vice Chair, PC of Chicago*
*John F. Carter ’63, PC of Hampton Roads*
*Seemant Chaturvedi ’85, PC of Michigan*
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*Norma Iris Garcia ’79, PC of Southern California*
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