

IRVA INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (IC) and COMMUNITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST (CSIs)

Overview

CSIs are subcommittees of the IRVA IC and are an integral part of IRVA. The governance of CSIs falls under the IC, the latter which establishes the guidelines, policies, procedures, and best practices in consultation with the Board of Directors. All CSIs are established with approval of the IRVA Board of Directors and must adhere to the policies and guidelines established by IRVA and the IC Committee.

CSIs are focused on either languages and/or geographical regions. They will be led by volunteer CSI leaders. CSIs help support IRVA's goals and mission while providing extra activities, programs, and benefits to a specific subgroup that is delineated by either a non-English language ("foreign") or geographical area outside of the United States and its territories.

Oversight Measures

Potential CSI leaders must go through an application and background check process and must periodically undergo IC reviews of their CSI efforts. CSI leaders who have inactive CSIs or who violate the rules set forth to them will not be renewed and may be replaced with another volunteer.

CSI leaders, through the application process, will sign the "CSI LEADER PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT":

The CSI leadership positions are unpaid, volunteer positions. CSI leaders will undergo periodic reviews which could lead in continuing their arrangement as a leader or ending it, at which time you'd be asked to cooperate with transitioning to a new leader. In developing a group you are doing so for the organization. As a CSI leader you must always comply with IRVA's principles of community found here: <https://www.irva.org/about/principles-of-community>. You will be required to conform with IRVA's restricted use and placement of logos and to maintain clear boundaries between your own business or commercial interests and the volunteer work you are doing for IRVA. You will not be asked to receive monies for IRVA directly (if an event involves a registration fee it will be made through IRVA's website) but if anyone does give you a donation or payment for an IRVA-related event, you will promptly turn it in to IRVA's accounting department. Please indicate that you understand and I agree to the above.

Activities of CSIs/Subcommittees

Once a CSI leader is approved, they can recruit other volunteers to help them manage CSI activities if desired. Their assistants need to be IRVA members too. As stated above, CSIs are subcommittees of the IRVA IC and an integral part of IRVA. The

content developed by CSIs using the IRVA brand will adhere to the vision, mission and values of IRVA and follow the CSI glossary, style guides, and translation management system to ensure IRVA's brand is protected.

If a CSI leader wishes to conduct an event under the CSI subcommittee, a proposal needs to be submitted to the IC Committee Chair for consultation with the IRVA Board of Directors for approval. Activities such as classes should be submitted to the IRVA Education Committee Chair. Once the event/activity is approved it will be listed with other IRVA events and IRVA will assist in the promotion of it through appropriate social media and other IRVA outlets.

In addition to events/activities, CSI leaders will be encouraged to assist with translations, publishing materials, membership recruitment, and overall promoting of both IRVA and RV activities through written materials and technology.

Benefits Related to CSIs

CSIs provide the following benefits to their community of IRVA members:

- Offer either geographically co-located or common language speaking members a virtual or local place to engage with others with similar interests in remote viewing
- Allow for creation and participation of special projects, gatherings, and events related to the topic of remote viewing education and research.

CSIs benefit the overall IRVA organization by:

- Serving as a source for new members.
- Serving as a resource for developing future organizational leadership.
- Serving as a fund-raising avenue, as appropriate.
- Fulfilling a constituency-building role.
- Providing a source of volunteers in support of IRVA programs.
- Providing networking opportunities for members.
- Providing opportunities to enhance members' connections with and involvement in remote viewing, engaging in such activities as the sharing of practice targets, how-to tips, comparisons and contrasts of different methodologies and research developments in the field, discussions of RV community news, encouragement of conference participation, etc.
- Increasing cultural diversity within the organization's overall membership and leadership
- Promoting remote viewing through countries and common-language communities around the world.

Guidelines and Policies for CSIs

Membership fees: All CSI leaders and associated volunteers are IRVA members and should encourage participants in CSI activities to become IRVA members. To mitigate the concern from some that people from developing countries may not have the funds, IRVA has a scholarship program for a limited number of people who can apply for membership if they demonstrate hardship and a strong interest in RV. CSI leaders should work with the IC Committee Chair on a case-by-case basis.

Governing statutes for CSIs

- 1) No local CSI shall have the authority to encumber the International Remote Viewing Association (IRVA) financially or by executing contracts or obligations of any nature. IRVA shall not be liable for any financial liabilities incurred or transactions negotiated by CSIs. IRVA bears no fiduciary responsibility for the functioning or financial soundness of the local CSIs.
- 2) Each local CSI shall be headed by at least one designated officer approved by IRVA. Local group officers serve at the pleasure of IRVA and may be removed for justified cause by IRVA's Board of Directors without any CSI membership vote.
- 3) To maintain status as an active IRVA CSI, the CSI must meet a minimum of twice a year but is encouraged to meet quarterly, bi-monthly, or even monthly, if desired or possible given sufficient resources.
- 4) IRVA CSIs can create their own unique CSI IRVA logo like other programs and committees with the aid of IRVA's design department. All logo use and placement must be used only for CSIs and not for any non-related CSI/IRVA related activity. CSI leaders must keep their own business and logos on materials, websites, social media, etc. separate from IRVA logos at all times.
- 5) CSIs are subcommittees (of the IC Committee) with IRVA. Therefore, CSI leaders must be aware of and follow all financial rules governing the conduct of businesses and nonprofits in the U.S. that IRVA is subjected to.
- 6) CSIs are expected to follow the financial rules of their country governing the conduct of businesses or nonprofits. IRVA is not liable for any financial wrong-doing.
- 7) Since the focus of the International Remote Viewing Association is remote viewing per se, CSIs shall exercise care not to allow other topics of discussion/interest to intrude and eclipse the remote viewing emphasis. There are other venues for discussing a broad range of "paranormal" or "parapsychological" phenomena such as UFOs and extraterrestrials, channeling, shamanism, dowsing, etc. Discussion of these topics is allowed, but should be conducted sparingly, and reasonably within a remote viewing context. Any local CSI that loses its remote viewing emphasis may be put on probation by the Board and may even lose its status as an accredited CSI of IRVA if such diversions are carried too far too long.
- 8) At the discretion of the IRVA Board, CSI Chairs may be granted the status of Advisors at Large to provide counsel and advice to the Board regarding local CSI affairs and other IRVA concerns.

Applying for CSI Status and CSI/IC Subcommittee Leadership

Those interested in becoming a CSI leader or starting a CSI should 1) submit an application through the IRVA website and 2) sign the CSI Leader Code of Conduct and submit to icIRVA@irva.org. Approval is required before moving forward. Approval will be dependent on a number of considerations such as:

1. Meeting the pre-established requirements listed above.
2. Consideration of the overall need and fit of the CSI to the organization's needs. Individuals will be encouraged to start CSI in underrepresented areas. So, for example, if a group already exists in a specific region of a country, then requests by someone else to start a local CSI for the same reason would likely be denied.
3. Consideration of an applying leader's ability to form and maintain the CSI.

IRVA has the right to deny requests for CSI formation under the IRVA brand if it feels that it is not in alignment with its goals, ethics, or standards. IRVA also has the right to either remove a leader from a CSI or dissolve it if there is a finding that a crime, or harassment (sexual or any other) or discrimination against any member based on gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, social class, age, has occurred.

Why Would Someone Want to be a CSI Leader instead of or in addition to an Established RV Group or Organization?

- CSI leaders and members become part of the trusted, prestigious "International Remote Viewing Association" Brand.
- IRVA is recognized nationally and internationally by researchers, media, think tanks, business and non-government organization (NGO) executives and associations, authors, leading academics, and journalists – and speakers.

Network Strength and Stewardship

- Convening power: Covering a 20-year tradition
- Representation and advocacy of our vital, shared educational mission in support of national network's brand and convening power
- Best-practice sharing: annual meetings; occasional conference calls; online; one-on-one advice
- Opportunities to serve on the IRVA Board

Professional Development & Networking Opportunities

- CSI leaders can receive mentorship in leadership development and network with other CSI leaders.
- This will be achieved through regular CSI leader meetings and training activities.
- CSI leaders will also be encouraged to report CSI activities at national conferences within publications such as IRVA's Aperture magazine and to also run CSI forums on the IRVA website.

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National Programs and Services

- IRVA membership discounts may be available to members in countries who cannot afford to pay the full dues.
- Access to participation in Awards, grant opportunities, research opportunities, etc.
- Consultations as needed with the IRVA board of directors.

Promotion of CSI leaders Programs

- CSI leaders events and activities – speakers, initiatives (IRVA newsletters, website, social media)
- CSI leaders and staff in the media – press coverage, op-eds, notable broadcast interviews (IRVA newsletters, website, social, media, podcasts)
- CSI leaders job listings (IRVA newsletters, website, social media)

HOW TO APPLY:

PLEASE CONTACT: iclirva@irva.org or visit the IRVA website