

A Code of Ethics for Board Members

As a member of a board I will:

- Establish as a high priority my attendance at all meetings of the board.
- Exercise the duties and responsibilities of the office with integrity, collegiality and due care.
- Come prepared to contribute to the discussion of issues and business to be addressed by the board.
- Participate actively in board meetings and actions.
- Observe good parliamentary procedures and rules of order.
- Recognize that all authority is vested in the board when it meets in legal session and not with individual board members.
- Consider myself a “trustee” of the agency and do my best to ensure that the agency is well maintained, financially secure, growing and always operating on the best interests of the constituents.
- Recognize that the board member’s job is to ensure that the agency is well managed, not to manage the agency.
- Represent all constituents of the agency and not a particular geographic area or special interest group.
- Keep well informed of relevant to issues and developments that may come before the board.
- Listen carefully to my fellow board members, teammates, and constituents I serve.
- Attempt to interpret and communicate the needs of constituents to the agency, and interpret communicate the action of the agency to its constituents.
- Separate personalities from the issues so all situations are viewed and acted upon equitably.
- Display courteous conduct in all meetings of the agency.
- Respect the opinion of my fellow board members because I expect them to respect mine.
- Respect the majority decisions of the board, even when I’m in the minority position on such actions.

- Represent the agency in a positive and supportive manner at all times and in all places.
- Call to the attention of the board any issues that I believe will have an adverse effect on the agency or our constituents.
- Refer constituent or staff complaints to the proper level on the chain of command.
- Vote to hire the best possible person to manage the agency.
- Always work to learn more about the board member's job and how to do the job better.
- Declare any conflict of interest between my personal life and my position on the agencies board, and avoid voting on issues that appear to be a conflict of interest.

As a member of the board I will not:

- Be critical, in or outside of the board meeting, of fellow board members or their opinions.
- Use the agency or any part of the organization for my personal advantage or the personal advantage of my friends or relatives.
- Discuss the "confidential proceedings" of the board outside the board meeting.
- Promise prior to a meeting how I will vote on any issue in the meeting.
- Interfere with the duties of the executive and staff, or undermine the executive's authority.
- Micromanage the affairs of the organization.

RETURN TO AGENDA