

4.0 Board Code of Conduct

The board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as board members. Accordingly:

1. Members must represent un-conflicted loyalty to the interests of the ownership. This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership on other boards or staffs. It also supersedes the personal interest of any board member acting as a consumer of the organization's services;
2. Members must avoid conflict of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility:
 - A. There must be no self-dealing or any conduct of private business or personal services between any board member and the organization except as procedurally controlled to assure openness, competitive opportunity, and equal access to inside information;
 - B. When the board is to decide upon an issue about which a member has an unavoidable conflict of interest that member shall abstain herself or himself without comment from not only the vote, but also from the deliberation;
 - C. Board members must not use their positions to obtain employment for themselves, family members, or close associates. Should a member desire employment, he or she must first resign;
 - D. Members will annually disclose their involvements with other organizations, with vendors, or any other associations that might produce a conflict;
3. Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization except as explicitly set forth in board policies:
 - A. Members' interaction with the Director or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly board-authorized;
 - B. Members' interactions with public, press, or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the inability of any board member to speak for the board except to repeat explicitly stated board decisions;
 - C. Members will give no consequence or voice to individual judgments of Head or staff performance;
4. Members will respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature.