

Lincoln County Business Network: Mission, Principles, and Bylaws

Our referral group exists to help each other grow our businesses through the referral process. We promise to provide our services or deliver our products with the highest ethical standards.

Membership. We limit membership to one business per profession in order to avoid any conflict of interest. It's the responsibility of an existing member to determine if a potential member is in conflict with his or her profession and to bring the conflict to the attention of the membership chair.

We agree that we will attend meetings as scheduled. If we are unable to attend, we'll notify the president; we may send a qualified substitute in our place. We further agree that if we miss more than 6 meetings in any 6-month period, our position is subject to replacement with another person in our profession.

We allow seasonal membership as follows: Dues must be paid as specified below for the entire year. Should a similar business qualify for membership and agree to become a full-time member, the incumbent seasonal member will agree to become full-time or relinquish the membership.

Dues are \$50 per quarter, to be paid in advance, to cover the weekly charge for the breakfast and meeting place, and for such expenses as web-site hosting and the purchase of necessary materials.

Officers of the group are the president, secretary/treasurer, and membership chair. The term of office is 3 months (January-March; April-June; July-September; October-December). Every member is expected to serve in at least one of these positions while a member. The president is responsible for running the meetings. The secretary/treasurer collects the dues and pays the bills. The membership chair appoints at least one other member to serve on the membership committee to determine qualifications of potential members and to adjudicate disputes. If no one volunteers to serve as an officer, current officers will serve as a nominating committee.

Meetings start at 7 a.m. and end promptly at 8:30 one day a week as agreed on by the membership. The first 15 minutes of the meeting are dedicated to networking. Then, each member has 30 to 60 seconds to give an "elevator speech," or to discuss "what's new in my world" or any other topic.

Every other week, we have a 15-minute presentation by a member, to give members a chance to talk more in depth about their services. Once a month, we have a guest speaker who discusses a topic of interest to the group. The remaining meeting of the month is a small-table breakout session or a round-table discussion led by the president.

The final 15 minutes of each meeting are dedicated to focusing on referrals, sharing good-news testimonials, suggesting leads, or making announcements. All members are encouraged to participate in this part of the meeting.

I agree to abide by these bylaws and principles.

Signature _____

Printed name _____ Date _____