



COMMITTEE HANDBOOK

UPDATED: JANUARY 2025

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Vision:

To be the most trusted voice of business in the Dayton region

Mission:

Working shoulder to shoulder to shoulder with businesses to help them succeed.

Purpose:

To make it easier to do business.

Key Activities:

ADVOCACY: As the most trusted voice of businesses in our region, act as the leading **advocate**.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Provide access and resources to cultivate business success through **professional development**.

CONNECTIONS: Create **connections** and foster relationships.

DELIVERING VALUE: Ensure the highest **value** for members' investments and trust.

Values:

RELATIONSHIPS: Are at the heart of everything we do. We believe that connection is critical to our success and central to our ability to build community.

INCLUSION: We are purposeful in our inclusion of diverse perspectives. We believe we do our best work when everyone feels respected, supported and valued.

ACCOUNTABILITY: We are accountable to each other and our members. We believe that acting daily with integrity, consistency and transparency is key to earning loyalty.

Roles & Responsibilities

Board Members

The Board of Trustees, the governing body of the Chamber, determines the policies and procedures of the organization and assures that sufficient financing resources are available to carry out those policies. The position of a Board Member is not an honorary one. Board Members are expected to contribute to and participate in Board and Chamber activities. In addition to participating in Board meetings, Board Members should agree to accept additional specific tasks. Potential areas of service include:

- Serving on a committee or task force.
- Recruitment of new members.
- Working on member retention through personal contacts.
- Contacting legislators and/or members of government.
- Assisting with the identification and recruitment of diverse topics and speakers for member events.

Committee Chairs

The committee Chairs are the enthusiastic leaders of the Chamber's committees. Committee Chairs work together with Chamber staff to develop an agenda for each meeting, facilitate team interaction and provide support and guidance to the staff liaison on committee business. Committee chairs should work with staff to ensure that committee membership is inclusive of the diversity of the chamber membership as a whole.

Committee Members

A committee serves as the clearinghouse for all suggestions which are referred to it by the officers and the Board of Trustees, members and others concerning priorities which are or should be receiving active attention of the Chamber. Committees are action oriented. As applicable, committee members should assist with the identification and recruitment of diverse topics and speakers for member events.

Staff Members

Work with committee Chair to develop goals and objectives for programs and projects with a timeline. They oversee the actions of the committee and make sure that all the Chamber policies and procedures are being followed. Staff members maintain notes from meetings and maintain committee budgets and financial records.

Expectations

- Volunteer time should be used wisely, not wasted on tasks which could be more efficiently handled by staff.
- Volunteers should provide input or direction on options and recommendations from staff with the necessary background or research provided.
- Staff should provide direction to the volunteers based on professional judgment and Chamber policies and procedures.

Function

A committee member's basic function is to regularly attend meetings of the committee and work toward the fulfillment of the committee's objectives.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Attend committee meetings.
- Carry out individual assignments made by the committee chair.
- Participate in committee discussions and decisions.
- Review all material prior to meetings.
- Attend appropriate chamber functions and events.

NOTE: By accepting a volunteer position, a volunteer is automatically placed on the Chamber's email distribution list. The purpose of this is for the volunteer to be able to keep up to date on Chamber activities to assist him/her with his/her volunteer services to the Chamber.

Authorities

- As per Policy ADM 104, except for officers **no volunteer has the authority to commit the Chamber financially or contractually.**
- Communications to outside parties and stakeholders including the media should be coordinated with the marketing department by the staff liaison of the committee. The Chair of the Board and the Chamber President are the spokespersons for the organization. **Volunteers should speak to the media only when requested by the Chamber staff.**
- Use of the Chamber name, brand and logos including those of programs and activities must be coordinated with the marketing department through the program's staff liaison. All production proofs can only be approved by Chamber staff.
- All electronic and social media sites of Chamber programs are the property of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. Any modifications or updates regarding the program should be maintained by Chamber staff.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does a member of the committee have to be a member of the Chamber?

Yes, only members of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce can serve on committees. Committees which are specific to auxiliary memberships (LDAA and Safety Council) require committee members to be members of that group. At times it may be appropriate to bring a guest as a reference or speaker. However, they are not added to committee rosters or become a regular part of the meeting.

Who prepares meeting agendas?

Staff members prepare the agenda under the guidance of the committee Chair.

Who sends out the meeting notices?

Staff members send out the meeting notices prior to the committee meeting.

Is it necessary for staff to be at all committee meetings?

Unless for unforeseen reasons (i.e. conflicting schedule with other Chamber event with higher priority), a staff representative shall attend any official meeting regarding a Chamber project or event.

Is there an attendance policy for committee members?

Any committee member who consistently misses meetings will receive a personal call from the committee Chair. The committee Chair will find out why the committee member has not been in attendance and ask if they want to continue to be part of the committee. Staff will keep the chairperson informed of any attendance issues.

How long should a meeting last?

Most meetings, unless otherwise noted, should be completed within one hour.

Can non-members be solicited for sponsorships or vendors for events?

It is the policy of the Chamber to only solicit members for events and activities. If something is donated from a non-member they will not receive any promotion for the item. It is Chamber policy to do business with Chamber members only, if possible.

How does the committee work with the budget?

Typically, the staff member puts together a draft budget for the committee/program to be submitted to the Audit & Finance committee. Proposed expenditures must be coordinated with the Chamber staff. Programs and events are expected to be financially self-sustaining and generate revenues in excess of expenses.

Who develops press releases and other marketing for the event/program?

Staff members coordinate marketing material including press releases for committee-related programs and events. They also coordinate responses to the media.

How can we use the newsletter/website to promote our program/project?

Committee members can submit an article or information to the Chamber's marketing department through their staff liaison. Articles will be first reviewed by Chamber staff for approval. Information on the website can be posted as needed. However, it must be submitted to staff for final approval.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES MANUAL EXCERPTS

SUBJECT: OTHER VOLUNTEERS

1. Eligibility – except as otherwise noted, **a volunteer for the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce must be affiliated with a Chamber member in good standing.**
 - a. In the case of separate membership areas, i.e. safety council, Leadership Dayton, the volunteer must be a member in good standing of the particular membership base he/she represents. **However, committee Chairs must be affiliated Chamber members in good standing.**
 - b. **If a volunteer leaves a Chamber member organization, he/she can remain a volunteer for up to 60 days until a new affiliation is established.**
2. Term of service – except as otherwise noted, **volunteer committee Chairs shall serve a two-year term.**
 - a. In rare instances, the Chair may ask an Oversight Committee Chair to serve an additional one-year extension.
 - b. Boards of Trustee terms are outlined separately under ADM 103.
 - c. **A committee Chair (excluding oversight chairs) may serve no more than two consecutive terms.**
3. Oversight Committee Chairs must be members of the Chamber's Board of Trustees as outlined in ADM 103.
4. It is preferable that there is only one volunteer per member organization per committee. In those rare instances where more than one volunteer participates, one member organization can make up no more than 15% of the composition of any one committee.
5. **Except for officers, no volunteer has the authority to commit the Chamber financially or contractually.**
The policy on official signatures on commitments is found in ADM 203.

An orientation will be given to new volunteers yearly when joining a committee by that committee's staff liaison.

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

The management of the Chamber's external communication program is the responsibility of the organization's MARCOM department. Accordingly, the communication function is charged with the coordination of all external communication activities of the Chamber. No other departments or functions are authorized to engage in proactive or reactive external communication efforts without prior consultation with a member of the Chamber's communication staff.

According to the Chamber's by-laws, the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall act as the organization's spokesperson. In consultation with the communication function, the CEO may authorize other Chamber staff members to act proactively or reactively as spokespersons on a one-time or topic-specific or ongoing basis. **No member of Chamber staff is to speak on behalf of the organization with any member of the media without prior coordination with the Chamber communication function or the President. In most cases, when the matter relates to the policies and general programs of the entire organization, any written communications should be signed by the President and / or the Chair of the Board (Chair-Elect in the Chair's absence). If it is with reference to a specific committee, the Committee Chair can be added in conjunction with the President and Chair of the Board.**

- a. All written external communications targeted at non-members, including press releases, media advisories, backgrounders and other similar materials shall be developed by or in coordination with the Chamber's communication function. Final approval for all such written communications must be provided by the communication function, which has sole responsibility for their distribution to the media and other external audiences.
- b. **Creation, posting, and editing of all social media outlets will be the sole responsibility of MARCOM. Employees are encouraged to like, share and comment on chamber postings where appropriate. However, employees are not to engage with others through the Chamber's social media outlets without prior discussion and approval from MARCOM. Staff outside MARCOM is prohibited from using Chamber social media sites as an administrator and/or posting under the Chamber name.**

- c. Employees or volunteers are prohibited from using the Chamber's logo, or branding components on their personal websites, social media outlets, and/or pages.
- d. Employees or volunteers may freely disclose their association with the Chamber via social media outlets with the following requirements:
 - a. Staff must protect confidential Chamber information at all times.
 - b. Posts should be honorable, factual and a reflection of the Chamber's mission and values.
 - c. Chamber senior staff and MARCOM reserve the right to have any posts in violation of this policy removed.
- e. All content posted on any chamber website, social media outlet, etc. is the property of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

SUBJECT: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The purpose of the conflict-of-interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (DACC) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

1. Interested Person -Any director, principal officer, member of a committee with governing board–delegated powers or paid employee or staff member who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

2. Financial Interest - A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Chamber has a transaction or arrangement,
- b. A compensation arrangement with the Chamber or with any entity or individual with which the Chamber has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Chamber is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Duty To Disclose - In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of either the Executive Committee or Board of Trustees considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists - After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he or she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

- a. An interested person may make a presentation at the Executive Committee, but after the presentation, he or she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- b. The chair of the Board of Trustees shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c. After exercising due diligence, the Executive Committee shall determine whether the Chamber can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the Executive Committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested

directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Chamber's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination, it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. Violations of the Conflicts-of-Interest Policy

- a. If the Executive Committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Executive Committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

5. Each director, principal officer, and member of a committee with governing board-delegated powers or paid employee shall annually sign a statement that affirms such person

- a. Has received a copy of the conflict-of-interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy and
- d. Understands the Chamber is non for profit and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities that accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION & NON-DISCLOSURE

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce possesses extensive confidential information that is not generally known to others. This results in a body of confidential information of various kinds which enables the Chamber to conduct its business successfully and which thereby provides employment opportunities for its employees.

No employee, Board of Trustee or committee member may disclose to a third party or use for personal gain during or after employment or service with the Chamber, confidential information of the type above relating to the Chamber. Although an employee may or may not be asked to sign a supplemental agreement pertaining to disclosure of confidential information depending on the nature of the work he or she will be performing, any such disclosure or personal use violates this policy regardless of whether the supplemental agreement is signed.

Public Relations - Material of this nature shall be cleared by the President whenever the cooperative relationships of the Chamber, current issues or policy matters are involved. This clearance shall apply also to speeches and radio and television scripts. Care shall be exercised to assure that the statement of anyone -- Board, Committee or staff -- who talks about the Chamber and their programs, are factually and philosophically consistent. (Refer to ADM 201 External Communications)

Employee or Volunteers Publications or Speeches - Employees shall be encouraged to prepare articles for publication on subjects in their major area of interest and endeavor and to respond favorably to invitations to speak for professional groups. However, since any public statements or articles may be construed as having Chamber endorsement, all materials shall be cleared with the President.

Request for clearance is to be submitted in writing, including the group or organization to be addressed, time and place of meeting, or all pertinent information about the publication.

Financial Information - No employee or volunteer shall be authorized to release previously unpublished financial information to any outside party without prior approval of the President. Previously published financial information shall be released exactly as published and shall not be amplified. These rules shall govern direct releases to the press as well as all disclosures to other outside persons, agencies or groups.

"Financial Information" includes all statistical, factual and interpretive data, past, present and projected, that involve expenses, financing or revenue.

SUBJECT: HARASSMENT

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to an inclusive work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each employee (volunteer) has the right to work in a professional atmosphere that promotes equality and inclusive opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices, including harassment. Therefore, the Chamber expects that all relationships among persons in the workplace will be business-like and free

of bias, prejudice and harassment. It is the policy of the Chamber to recognize the need to promote a productive work environment free of discriminatory intimidation and harassment.

These policies apply to all employees, applicants, vendors, volunteers and members and prohibit harassment, discrimination and retaliation whether engaged in by fellow employees, by a member of the management team or by someone not directly employed by the Chamber (e.g., an outside vendor, volunteers) .

Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related setting outside the workplace, such as during business trips, business meetings and business-related social events.

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature are considered to be sexual harassment when:

1. Submission to the conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or promotion;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting the harassed individual;
3. Such conduct has an adverse effect on the terms and conditions of employment of others in the workplace and creates an ongoing effect of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not so subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include, but are not limited to: unwanted sexual advances or requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes and innuendo; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; leering, catcalls or touching; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; display or circulation in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures (; and other physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature. Sex-based harassment that is, harassment not involving sexual activity or language (e.g., male supervisor yells only at female employees and not males) may also constitute discrimination if it is severe or pervasive and directed at employees because of their sex.

Harassment on the basis of any other protected characteristics is also strictly prohibited. Under this policy, harassment is verbal or physical conduct that shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his or her race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by law. Harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to: epithets, slurs or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; hostile jokes and display or circulation in the workplace of written or graphic material that shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group (including digital).

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE:

If harassment has occurred or is occurring, it is the employee's responsibility to report the incident to his/her supervisor. If the employee is uncomfortable reporting the incident to his/her supervisor or this individual is the harasser, the employee should report the incident to any member of the senior management team, the President, or an officer of the Board of Trustees (if President is harasser) without fear of retaliation or reprisal. Regardless of the outcome of the matter, there will be no retaliation against an employee for bringing an occurrence to management's attention or filing a record of complaint.

- The incident will be outlined in writing, and be descriptive as possible as to what happened and give the names of the individuals involved, dates and times of the events, a full description of what was said or done and by whom. If there were any witnesses, their names should also be provided.
- The individual receiving the complaint will provide a written response within 24 hours of personal receipt and,
- If warranted, conduct an investigation into the alleged circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent that is possible and as far as can be done, without violating any person's rights to privacy.
- If an issue cannot be resolved by the senior management team and/or President, it will be brought before an Officer of the Board of Trustees and legal counsel, if appropriate, for resolution.
- All documentation relating to any type of harassment will be maintained in a confidential file in the President's office.

Any employee or volunteer who is determined, following an investigation, to have engaged in the harassment of any other person while on Chamber property or while performing Chamber work will be disciplined up to and including termination. Furthermore, any employee who registers a complaint, which is discovered to be malicious and untrue, will also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Employees who have experienced or are aware of conduct they believe is contrary to this policy have an **obligation** to take advantage of the Chamber's complaint procedure. An employee's failure to fulfill this obligation could affect his or her rights in pursuing legal action.

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or harassment or participates in an investigation of such reports. Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment or discrimination or for participating in an investigation of a claim of harassment or discrimination is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action.