

MCL Board Member Agreement

I, _____, understand that as a member of the Board of Directors/Trustees of the _____, I have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure that the organization does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals. I believe in the purpose and the mission of the organization, and I will act responsibly and prudently as its steward.

I understand that as part of my responsibilities as a board member:

1. I will actively assist the board in securing adequate funding for the library's future.
2. I will attend the System Required New Board Member Training in my first year.
3. I will interpret the library's work and values to the community, represent the library, and act as an advocate for the library.
4. I will never exercise authority as a board member except when acting in a meeting with the full board or as delegated by the board.
5. I will make a personal financial contribution annually at a level that is meaningful to me and participate in fund development activities.
6. I will act in the best interests of the organization and excuse myself from discussions and votes where I or a family member has a conflict of interest.
7. I will keep confidential matters confidential.
8. I will stay informed about what is going on in the organization and take responsibility for making decisions on issues, policies and board matters.
9. I will attend regularly scheduled board meetings, unless I have a conflict and advise the board president or library director prior to the meeting.
10. I will recognize the role of the board as a governing body and not a management body and work in good faith with the library director.
11. I will protect community members' freedom to read, view and listen, which might mean setting aside my personal preferences.

If I do not fulfill these commitments, I expect the board president or his/her delegate to take appropriate action.

In turn, the library:

1. will provide me with the minutes, library director's reports, and monthly financial statements so that I can meet the "prudent person" standards of the law
2. will work in good faith with me toward achievement of our goals
3. will offer me opportunities for professional development as a board member
4. will keep the lines of communication open so that I may stay informed.

The library has provided me with an orientation with the library director and the board president (or his/her delegate) to explain to me the history, mission, values, programs, pressing issues, finances, facilities, bylaws, organizational chart, committees, key staff members, etc., and I understand my rights and responsibilities under the library's bylaws and the law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Board Member _____ **Date** _____.

Board President _____ **Date** _____.

Adopted by the Library Board of Directors/Trustees on _____.