

To: NBLSA National Executive Board
From: Mark A. Dunham, Jr., NBLSA National Chair
Date: August 20, 2017
Re: NBLSA National Executive Board Standards

To the National Executive Board:

All of you have received my general guidance to all NBLSA Leadership, entitled “*NBLSA at 50: Our Way Forward This Year – Guidance for NBLSA Leaders*,” which provides direction to all NBLSA leaders on the baseline for how leaders should act. The National Executive Board, however, as the corporate managers of the organization, should and will be held to an even higher standard of excellence, professionalism, and collaboration.

To that end, I’m laying out the following five guidelines specifically for the National Executive Board. In our dual roles as both individual programmatic executives and a group exercising oversight over the advancement of national and regional progress, it is critical that we are all on the same page.

1. The National Executive Board, as a group and individually, should understand and have working knowledge of the policies that govern the organization. This includes: the NBLSA Constitution, the NBLSA Bylaws (including one’s duties under the Bylaws), all current policies of the organization, *Robert’s Rules of Order*, and, where applicable, Regional Governing Articles and Regional Bylaws. Ignorance of NBLSA policy cannot and will not be an acceptable excuse for a National Board member, as our members look to us as leaders and examples.
2. Board members are expected to be well informed on matters being discussed and voted upon at Board meetings, and are expected to debate and vote with the best interest in the health of the *entire* organization – not only individual program areas or individual Regions. Board leadership shall be responsible for providing the Board with information in a timely and comprehensive manner to cultivate the Board’s ability to digest information.
3. Every National Executive Board member is legally responsible for the fiscal health of the organization, under New York and federal law. Financial decisions should be weighed carefully and the advice of the National Treasurer or the recommendations of the Finance Committee should be considered thoughtfully in any allocation of funds or approval of contracts. The National Chair reserves the right to deny consideration of proposed spending or budgetary matters not sufficiently supported by data, accompanying internal or external funding source, or reasonably demonstrable business need.
4. The National Executive Board exercises oversight over all Board members and their work, pursuant to Article V, Section IV, Subsections (a) and (i) of the NBLSA Constitution. The Board may, at its collective discretion, inquire and gather information as to the status of any project, program, or matter conducted by any one Board member, NBLSA Committee, or another ad-hoc project group. Board members will be transparent in dealings with the Board and update it regularly on any ongoing projects as necessary to ensure the advancement of the goals and objectives of NBLSA.
5. Collaboration is a critical piece of the National Board’s work. It is my expectation that we will work as collaboratively as possible to support each other in executing NBLSA programming and initiatives. This includes lending help outside of one’s realm in planning and framing our work and providing help during physical events and conferences. As a corollary to this, National Board members should be active participants in their local chapters and make themselves reasonably available to their Regional Chair as the situation may require.