

GLVBN Membership Guidelines

GLVBN Member Guiding Principles:

Upon acceptance to GLVBN, I agree to abide by the following guiding principles during the period of my membership.

1. I will provide quality services at the prices I have quoted.
2. I will be honest with the members and their referrals.
3. I will establish goodwill and trust among members and their referrals.
4. I will take action to follow up with the referrals I receive.
5. I will live up to the ethical standards of my profession.
6. I will have a positive attitude.

General Membership Policies:

General. Membership is granted to individuals specifically, not to companies. Therefore, substitution at meetings to receive attendance credit is not allowed and replacement in the Association by other members of a member's company requires application by and approval of the new member.

Professional Responsibilities. Membership is limited to business owners and executives of businesses that regularly deal with business owners and senior business executives in the conduct of marketing and delivering their professional services and/or products. Members must represent their primary full-time occupation, not a part-time business.

Industry Representation. To achieve broad industry representation and to the extent practical, membership is limited to one representative from each professional category for each 20 members. Professional categories are defined by the Membership Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Members may not expand or change the category approved for them without official approval by the Membership Committee. This change will require a new application. Any and all unamortized dues will be credited to the changed membership.

- There is no classification for Business Opportunities. Members such as multi-level marketers may discretely list such opportunities in their literature and discuss such opportunities only after a member or referral asks them about this opportunity.

Group Size. From time to time, the maximum number of association members is set by the Board of Directors.

Guests. Members may bring guests to any regular meeting. Guests do not have voting rights. A Guest Fee – set by the Membership Committee – will be assessed. Any individual guest may not attend more than two (2) of the regular meetings within a six month period without applying for membership. If a member feels that a visitor in any way conflicts with their professional category or the interests of the Association, it is that member's responsibility to file a concern (in writing) with the Membership Committee.

New Member Application Process: It is recommended that each new member attend at least two (2) consecutive meetings before an application can be accepted. Each prospective member must fill out and submit a membership request form, which will be reviewed by the Membership Committee. Each new member must be approved by a majority vote of the membership committee. If membership is denied, that individual may not attend as a guest, unless attendance is approved by the membership committee.

Termination of Membership. Membership can be terminated:

1. At the member's request.
2. If the member's business interests change during his/her membership term and they come in conflict with an existing member in good standing.

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3. Failure to conduct business and GLVBN activities in a professional manner.
4. Failure to regularly attend meetings or actively participate in activities. If a member anticipates an extended absence he/she should contact and inform the GLVBN President of the circumstances in writing. Regular attendance is deemed to be attendance at two thirds (2/3) or more regular meetings within a six-month period. Participation includes:
 - a. Being present for more than 85% of an attended meeting.
 - b. Actively participating in GLVBN meetings, activities and referral programs.
 - c. Providing content as appropriate for GLVBN meetings and activities.

The Board of Directors has the right to terminate a member for the good of the organization or for failure to comply with the GLVBN policies. Termination of membership shall be by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Facts and circumstances pertaining to the proposed termination of membership shall be gathered and the vote taken as soon as practicable.

Membership Policy. Any questions regarding GLVBN membership policies should be discussed with the Membership Committee.

Probation. In case of complaints regarding a member's business practices or commitment to the group the Membership Committee may put that member on probation. The member must be notified in writing of the circumstances / complaints and terms of probation. The probation period and the time allotted to the member for complaint resolution shall be no longer than six months.

Referrals. Members are encouraged to provide six or more legitimate referrals or introductions to other GLVBN members and to bring two or more prospective members,

visitors and guests to the GLVBN meetings during each membership year.

Solicitation of Members. Members may not unduly pressure any other member to do business with them. This includes active pressure such as direct conversations and passive pressure such as unsolicited fax or e-mail distributions. Members should avoid actions that may be perceived as unwelcome solicitations for contributions.

Distribution of Member Lists. Members may not hand out a list of current members to anyone for the purposes of marketing to them without getting their permission first.

Member Behavior. Members should always remember that the GLVBN is run in a positive, professional manner. Derogatory comments and actions directed against other members, the GLVBN, or GLVBN Officials will not be tolerated. A member who does this may be in violation of the GLVBN Guiding Principles. Remember that the GLVBN mission is: ***“To provide a supportive, learning environment where member businesses can grow and prosper.”***

Membership Fees.

1. There is a yearly membership fee.
2. All fees must be paid, by cash or check, to the Treasurer .
3. Membership fees are due the 2nd Tuesday in January. The Past Due Date is the 1st Tuesday of February. Members not paid by the Past Due Date are considered late and will be assessed a 10% late fee. If fees are not paid within February, the member will be officially dropped.
4. Membership Fees are prorated for new members joining during the period March through December.
5. Fees are non-refundable.