

Porter County Business League – Bylaws

MISSION

The mission of the Porter County Business League is to generate business for fellow League members. Members shall do so by educating themselves about the products and services offered by fellow members' businesses, recommending member businesses to associates, colleagues, friends and family in need of these products and services, and providing fellow members with referral contact information for follow up.

It is the sincere hope of the League that trust, friendship and camaraderie are evident in our organization, but that members' first responsibility is to assist in the generation of new business for all members.

MEMBERSHIP

The maximum membership of the Porter County Business League shall be thirty (30) members.

There shall not be any duplication of business categories represented with the League. Each member is guaranteed that their business will be exclusive to their desired business category. In the event of a possible duplication of a business category, the League President shall consult with the current member. If current member finds no conflict with the applying member, he/she may approve application by counter signing same. IF however, current member deems that applying member does indeed duplicate their business category, applying member shall not be approved for membership in the League. Under these circumstances, approval or disapproval of applicant is at the sole discretion of the interested current member.

Multi-level businesses (Amway, etc.) may join the League providing their business does not duplicate a current member's exclusive business category. However, a multi-level business may only represent their product or service to League members and shall not engage in soliciting members as distributors or dealers.

CHANGE IN BUSINESS CATEGORY

If a current member wishes to change business category due to a change in employment or ownership, he/she may do so as long as their new business category is not in conflict with another member's business category.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the League will be forfeited when:

1. Member has more than twelve (12) unexcused absences within a calendar year.
2. Member is more than one (1) month delinquent in paying membership fees.
3. Member has four (4) consecutive unexcused absences.
4. Two-thirds majority of current membership votes to rescind membership of a current member for cause; cause includes but is not limited to unethical business practices, or a period of six (6) months wherein member has provided no referrals.

MEMBER LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A current League member in good standing may be granted a three (3) month leave of absence by the League President for the following reasons:

1. Serious illness – themselves or an immediate family member.
2. Military service.
3. Business activities affecting the member's ability to attend meetings (i.e. temporary transfer to another location for training, etc.)
4. Unresolved business category conflict.

Leaves of absence for reasons 1 & 2 above must be requested within one month of onset/occurrence and may be renewed. Leaves of absence for reasons 3 & 4 above must be requested in advance, and may not be renewed.

Members on Leave of Absence for any reason must keep annual and monthly dues current.

AGENTS

A member may have a substitute represent his/her business when he/she is unable to attend a meeting or function and representation by a substitute shall count as a regular attendance. However, substitute representation shall be limited to no more than 50% of meetings within a calendar year.

VISITORS

Visitors are encouraged to attend League meetings to learn more about the organization and should be prepared to give a thirty second promotion about their business, as well as handout business cards and/or brochures to other members.

Visitors representing a current member's exclusive business category are not welcomed at League meetings. However, if this does occur, Visitor should be informed of conflict as soon as possible.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To apply for membership, candidate must complete the League approved Membership Application, and submit it along with two recommendation forms, initiation fee of \$100.00 and current month's dues of \$25.00. If application is received prior to the 15th of the month – monthly dues of \$25.00 are applied to that month. If application is submitted after the 15th of the month, monthly dues of \$25.00 are applied to the following month. Dues will not be prorated for any given month.

The Executive Committee of the Porter County Business League, consisting of the President, Vice President and Treasurer shall review and approve all Membership Applications. See Membership section above for business category conflict resolution rules.

The Executive Committee is to give due regard to the applicant's integrity, demonstrated leadership, level of responsibility and willingness to provide referrals for other League members during said review.

If an application is not approved, all monies will be refunded to the applicant.

FEES

Initiation Fee - \$100, due with Application for Membership

Monthly Fee - \$ 25*

*If paid quarterly (1/1, 4/1, 7/1 & 10/1) = \$70/Quarter

*If paid semi-annually (1/1 and 6/1) = \$130/Six Months

*If paid annually (1/1) = \$250/Year