

MOUNTAIN LAKE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Mountain Lake Public Telecommunications Council (MLPTC) Board of Trustees fulfills the critical role of governance of the organization. The principal responsibilities of the Board include setting the broad policies of the organization, its direction and its priorities. The Board assures that the organization has nationally recognized leadership and provides fiduciary oversight. The Board is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the broadcast services for the benefit of the communities served. The Board upholds the organization's mission and supports its highest values: independence, non-profit, members supported status.

While the Board does not become involved in the details of day-to-day business and programming, it periodically receives an operational overview to ensure that the direction of the organization matches the policies and strategies established by the Board.

The Board's role is:

1. Establishing, updating, preserving, and promoting the organization's mission, vision and values. This includes ensuring that the Board and leadership of MLPTC are in touch with the communities MLPTC serves, with the industry in which MLPTC operates, and with the technologies that define MLPTC's capabilities. The Board is expected to differentiate its responsibility for policy and strategy from management's responsibility for implementation.
2. Selecting, supporting, advising, and evaluating the CEO. This includes providing feedback to enhance performance, as well as planning for leadership succession that facilitates smooth transitions and ensure the longevity and success of the organization and its mission.
3. Adopting fundamental policies relating to the management of the organization.
4. Ensuring the financial stability of the organization through the exercise of traditional fiduciary responsibilities, as well as through personal financial support and leadership in fundraising on behalf of MLPTC.
5. Providing for effective Board process and succession.

Role of the Board Chair

The Board Chair facilitates the constructive and respectful interaction between the Board and the organization's CEO. The Chair will be fully aware of both the condition of the organization and the concerns and recommendations of Trustees. The Chair provides an opportunity for the full and open participation of each member at every Board meeting. The Chair serves as the lead Trustee in the evaluation of the CEO. The Chair is responsible for appointing Trustees to standing and ad hoc Board Committees. The Chair is the lead Board spokesperson. The Chair presides over Board meetings and executive sessions of Board meetings.

Size of the Board

A Board membership of fifteen is considered optimal. According to the Bylaws the number of Trustees may not exceed eighteen nor be fewer than twelve. (The actual number of Trustees is determined from time to time by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Trustees.) The appropriate size of the Board is reviewed periodically by the Governance Committee.

Composition of the Board

The Board should have a reasonable balance between males and females, among ethnic backgrounds, between residents of Plattsburgh and residents outside the Plattsburgh, and among professional situations. The Governance Committee of the Board has responsibility to review and maintain the Board's "balance" and to recommend new Trustees to the full Board.

Further clarification on the Role of the Trustees is provided in the Trustee Position Description. Both the Role of the Board and the Trustee Position Description are informed by the organization's Governance Principles.