

**MOUNTAIN LAKE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

General Statement

Mountain Lake Public Telecommunications Council (MLPTC) is a complex and dynamic organization. It operates in the public domain and takes seriously its responsibility to its viewers and supporters. MLPTC is an organization that has established and seeks a leadership role in non-profit management and governance. MLPTC sets standards of excellence for itself, including the importance of continuing its legacy telling the stories of the Adirondack region. Public television is a community asset and as such engenders a strong feeling of ownership from community members. The Board serves a diverse community of stakeholders and believes it can best fulfill its responsibility to uphold the organization's mission, vision and values by following a set of principles for individual Trustee and Board effectiveness.

Principles

1. A spirit of openness and candor is integral to the Board's effectiveness. The Mountain Lake Public Telecommunication Council Board believes that good governance can only occur in an atmosphere of shared information and trust. Trustees are expected to spend the time necessary to be informed on issues so that discussions are productive and inclusive of all viewpoints. Each Trustee is expected to share her/his opinion and listen to the opinions of others. Board discussions and materials are expected to be held in confidence by Trustees.
2. The Board exists to govern and serve the organization. Each Trustee is expected to act in concert with the best interests of the whole, while taking the time to understand the diversity of opinion. Trustees are expected to support majority decisions and participate actively in the discussions which precede them.
3. Each Trustee's opinion is important. Trustees are encouraged to discuss any issues of concern with the Committee Chairs, Board Chair, or the CEO.
4. Trustees serve according to a system of three year terms with no Trustee serving more than six consecutive years, except as indicated in the Bylaws.
5. Any Trustee whose affiliation or position of principal employment changes substantially after election to the Board is asked to submit a resignation for consideration by the Governance Committee. The Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the Board and the CEO, will assess the impact of the change on the interests of Mountain Lake Public Telecommunication Council and the ability of the Trustee to continue to support the mission of MLPTC, and decide whether to accept or decline to accept the resignation.
6. The business of the Board is conducted within the legal and ethical standards that distinguish a nationally recognized media/broadcasting company.