

I, _____, will work to carry out the OAAS Mission Statement: The OAAS is a resource for its members, providing leadership through communication and education, and encouraging the promotion of a rural way of life in Ontario. I further agree that I will adhere to the Code of Conduct as set out in the OAAS Policy Manual and recorded below.



The OAAS Board Member's Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to all Directors, including ex-officio Directors, staff, and non-Board Members of Board Committees.

The OAAS Board of Directors is committed to teamwork and effective decision-making. Towards this end Board Members will:

1. Endeavour to represent the broader interests of Agricultural Society members and/or stakeholders.
2. Adhere to the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act, the OAAS Constitution and Bylaws, and Policies.
3. Seek to balance their contribution as both an advisor and learner.
4. Be honest with others and true to themselves.
5. Refrain from trying to influence other Board Members outside of Board Meetings that might have the effect of creating factions and limiting free and open discussion.
6. Maintain the highest standards of integrity.
7. Be willing to be a dissenting voice, endeavour to build on other Director's ideas, offer alternative points of view as options to be considered, and invite others to do so too.
8. On important issues, be balanced in one's effort to understand other Board Members and to make oneself understood.
9. Once a Board decision is made, support the decision even if one's own view is a minority one.
10. Not disclose or discuss differences of opinion on the Board with those who are not on the Board.
11. The Board should communicate externally with "one voice".
12. Respect the confidentiality of information on sensitive issues, especially in personnel matters and at all times what occurs "in camera" meetings.
13. Be an advocate for the organization and its mission wherever and whenever the opportunity arises in their own personal and professional networks.
14. Follow approved meeting agenda.
15. Limit discussions at OAAS Board and committee meetings to matters of concern.
16. Use established and approved communication channels when questions or concerns arise and not resort to utilizing public forums, media and/or social media for a personal platform of complaint.
17. Disclose one's involvement with other organizations, businesses or individuals where such a relationship might be viewed as a conflict of interest at a meeting (see Conflict of Interest Policy).
18. Refrain from giving direction, as an individual Board Member, to any member of staff.
19. Refrain from investigating or discussing staff's performance with staff members or stakeholders without Board authorization.

If any of the above standards are not conformed to the penalty of:

First offence, the guilty party shall be immediately asked to leave the meeting and/or event and be notified by letter that they have received a first offence warning.

Second Offence, the offending party will be notified by registered mail that they are no longer a member of the OAAS Board. The respective District will be notified of the OAAS Board actions and asked to name a replacement immediately.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood the above information and agree to the terms.

Signature _____ Date _____