



PolyColumbus **Board Member Financial Support Expectations**

last updated March 28, 2015

It takes money to run a successful organization. It takes even more money to grow a successful organization into a best-in-class organization. As board members, it falls upon us to show leadership in ensuring the financial stability of the organization. Before we ask others to give, we should give ourselves.

The board of directors has currently set a minimum expectation of \$250 unrestricted per year as a financial gift from each board member. Board members may choose to give more, and many do. Restricted gifts and matching offers are also welcome as separate gifts from the minimum unrestricted gift (but not a substitute). Board members who join mid-year may, if needed, prorate that minimum gift amount, although a full annual gift is encouraged. The board of directors as a whole sets the minimum expectation for the upcoming year in the third quarter's in-person meeting.

A firm pledge for a sum certain at or above the minimum expectation is expected from each board member shortly after they take their seat, or at the first regular meeting of the year for returning board members. This pledge can be fulfilled in a single lump sum gift, or via a recurring monthly or quarterly gift. The individual board member determines the timing of their gift. However, gifts given earlier in the year help with budgeting and cash flow, as third-party vendors generally will not accept an as-yet-unfulfilled pledge as payment for services.

In rare cases, providing a firm pledge will be a financial hardship for a board member who otherwise brings worthwhile expertise, connections, and perspective to the board of directors. In such a case, the Board Chair and/or Treasurer will work with the board member to determine a mechanism by which that board member can contribute to the financial stability of the organization without giving directly.

Potential avenues for meeting the personal gift minimum (aside from giving directly) include:

1. Personally soliciting local businesses whose interests overlap with the organization to either provide an outright gift, or to provide gift cards or merchandise for raffle or silent auction amongst the broader membership.
2. Personally soliciting those in the broader membership (generally one-on-one) for their financial support of the organization.

3. Personally soliciting fellow board members to not only renew, but increase their gift for the next year (with the increase “credited” to the soliciting board member).
4. Holding a pot luck / game night / other festivity, charging admission and/or passing a hat for donations during the event to help that board member meet their obligation.
5. With advance approval of the Board Chair or Treasurer, providing skills and time that are not only considered “far above and beyond” the normal efforts of a board member, but which also allow the organization to avoid an expense that would otherwise be incurred (with the expense “credited” to the board member).
6. Taking other actions that bring in funding to the organization.
7. With advance approval of the Board Chair or Treasurer, taking other actions that directly avoid expense that would otherwise be incurred by the organization.



PolyColumbus Policy License

for Board Member Financial Support Expectations

The core of the PolyColumbus Mission is empowering individuals that either self-identify as polyamorous, open, or ethically non-monogamous, or are exploring such possibilities. Part of this empowerment comes from serving organizations with similar goals by documenting best practices and creating other resources for successfully running such an organization.

Good policies facilitate the orderly and sustainable growth of communities and events that advance the PolyColumbus Mission, whether in the Columbus, Ohio area or elsewhere.

PolyColumbus does not claim a monopoly on wisdom. What we do claim is fifteen years (and counting) as an organization, and leadership with relevant and valuable education, experience, and training. We have confidence in the policies we draft, as well as the humility to revise them when necessary in light of experience.

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