

**BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bethlehem Area Public Library, I have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure that the organization does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals. I believe in the purpose and the mission of the organization, and I will act responsibly and prudently as its steward.

I understand that as part of my responsibilities as a board member:

1. I will represent the interests of all people served by this library and not favor special interests or any particular municipality or municipalities.
2. I will participate in advocacy efforts to protect and advance the library’s progress, when desired.
3. I will divulge actual or potential conflicts of interest and avoid using my board position for my own personal advantage or that of my family, friends and significant others (as described in the Bethlehem Area Public Library’s Conflict of Interest Policy).
4. I will support the policies adopted by the board, but maintain the right to personally disagree with the majority.
5. I will attend meetings regularly and participate actively, including serving on committees and representing the library board in other groups, as requested.
6. I will listen to others with an open mind and show respect for their opinions.
7. I will refrain from gratuitous negative remarks about an individual or a municipality, and will treat everyone with courtesy and respect.
8. I will keep the discussion focused on the agenda and the topic at hand.
9. I will participate in orientation and other training opportunities offered to become a better educated and more effective board member.
10. I will keep confidential matters confidential, including library patrons’ privacy.
11. I will not exercise authority on behalf of the Board member except when delegated by the Board.
12. I recognize the role of the board as a governing body, and will focus on policies and practices that permit a well-run organization.
13. I will maintain a positive relationship with and/or become a member of the Friends of the Library.
14. I will actively foster community involvement with the library.
15. I will keep the lines of communication open between government officials, trustees, library staff and the community.

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**Trustee Signature & Date**

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**Printed Name**