



Allegheny Mountain Institute

Board Candidate Package

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Opening Letter

Hello Prospective Board Member,

We appreciate your interest in serving on the Allegheny Mountain Institute Board of Directors!

The Board of Directors guides the organization's strategic direction and plays an integral part in serving our community.

This packet is intended to provide you with the information you need to determine if a position on the AMI Board is a good fit for you and help you determine what kind of commitment you can make to the Board before submitting an application.

Prospective Board members are evaluated and added on a rolling basis, with about three new members added each year. Board members can elect a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year term.

AMI seeks a diverse spectrum of skills, talents, and interests on the Board, including but not limited to:

- Alignment with AMI's core values and **commitment to the local food economy**, equitable food access, and social entrepreneurship
- **Connections** and commitment to farm to table, farm to fork, farm to cafeteria, or farm to school
- Commitment to **best agricultural and land conservation** practice
- **Expertise in the food system** (i.e., access, health, agriculture, local food economics, best business practices)
- Experience in non-profit board governance. **Legal, accounting, grant compliance, human resources, or organizational operations**
- **Strategic thinkers** can identify the levers which shift systemic problems and find local, sustainable solutions

Please feel free to reach out to the Director of the Board at Laurie@amifellows.org with any additional questions.

Thank you,
Allegheny Mountain Institute Board of Directors

Allegheny Mountain Institute is a 501c3 Educational Nonprofit. P.O. Box 542, Staunton, VA 24402
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Cultivating Healthy Communities Through Food And Education



Board Member Expectations

Expectations of the Board as a Whole

As the highest leadership body of AMI, the Board of Directors fulfills AMI's mission by providing the following primary fiduciary duties:

1. Take care of the nonprofit by ensuring prudent use of all assets, including facilities, people, and goodwill; provide oversight for all activities that advance AMI's effectiveness and sustainability. ("Duty of due care")
2. Make decisions in the best interest of AMI, not in their self-interest. ("Duty of loyalty")
3. Ensure that AMI obeys applicable laws and acts in accordance with ethical practices, that AMI adheres to its stated corporate purposes, and that AMI's activities advance its mission. ("Duty of obedience")

To achieve these overarching responsibilities, the Directors of the AMI Board are responsible for:

- Determining the mission and purposes of the organization
- Selecting and evaluating the performance of the Executive Director
- Strategic and organizational planning
- Ensuring strong fiduciary oversight and financial management
- Fundraising and resource development
- Approving and monitoring AMI's programs and services
- Enhancing AMI's public image
- Assessing its performance as the governing body of AMI

Expectations of Individual Board Members

Each individual board member is expected to:

- Know the organization's mission, policies, programs, and needs
- Faithfully read and understand the organization's distributed financial reports
- Serve as active advocates and ambassadors for the organization and fully engage in identifying and securing the financial resources and partnerships necessary for AMI to advance its mission
- Leverage connections, networks, and resources to develop collective action to achieve AMI's mission
- Give a meaningful personal financial donation
- Help identify personal connections that can benefit the organization's fundraising and reputation and can influence public policy
- Prepare for, attend, and conscientiously participate in board meetings
- Participate fully in one or more committees (i.e. Development, Farm Operations, Human Resources)
- Follow the organization's bylaws, policies, and board resolutions
- Sign an annual conflict-of-interest disclosure; update it during the year if necessary; disclose potential conflicts before meetings and actual conflicts during meetings
- Maintain confidentiality about all internal matters of AMI



AMI Mission, Vision Strategies, Values

MISSION:

Allegheny Mountain Institute is a 501 (c) 3 educational nonprofit organization that cultivates healthy communities through food and education.

VISION:

A thriving network of collaborative, vibrant communities that value the connection between food and health.

STRATEGIES

AMI strives to reach its mission through three interrelated strategies:

1. We implement an 18-month, tuition-free, experiential Farm and Food System Fellowship that empowers individuals to become leaders in and advocates for a food system that is socially, environmentally, and economically just.
2. We support schools, hospitals, and organizations to integrate farming, nutritious vegetables, and related education into their food systems and outreach initiatives.
3. We participate in regional collaborations to build a strong, equitable, and healthy food system.

VALUES

AMI is committed to six interrelated values in developing our priorities, and we strive to reach them through the organization's operations.

Community: AMI believes that working together is critical for real change. We believe in creative collaboration that promotes the resiliency, adaptability, and strength of our communities. AMI recognizes the collective energy in diverse thought, backgrounds, skills, and education as a powerful tool for innovation, leadership, and positive change.

Education: We learn best by “getting our hands dirty” - whether on the farm or in the classroom - action, experience, discovery, and exploration fuel our pedagogy. We believe that immersive experiences, coupled with reflection, encourage the development of new skills, attitudes, and ways of thinking.

Environment: By emulating natural systems, we become better stewards of the land, our resources, and our relationships. Our sustainable farming practices are guided by a deep reverence for the natural world and a desire to rectify conventional agriculture's effects on climate change. By emphasizing biodiversity while protecting watersheds, we work to replenish the health and vitality of the precious soils that sustain us.

Equity: We value a stable food system that enables healthy food for all. Communities and individuals thrive when every person has the opportunity to grow and enjoy healthy, affordable, and culturally significant foods. By sharing knowledge, expanding local food production, training farmers, and leveraging the impact of institutions, we can advance equity in the food system.

Health: We believe in the interconnectedness of environmental, personal, and community health. Healthy soils produce nutrient-dense foods that nourish and sustain us. Healthy individuals form strong communities that, in turn, prioritize and foster social, economic, and environmental well-being.

Integrity: We lead with honesty, empathy, positivity, and transparency within our organization, in our partnerships, and throughout the communities we serve. We honor the Indigenous communities and others who stewarded the land before us and remain true to our mission to cultivate healthy communities through food and education.