



## **National Participant Network (NPN)**

### **TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP FOR STATE DELEGATES**

**Length of term.** A state delegate in good standing may hold the position for 5 years before being replaced by another qualified applicant in that state. If, during the 5 year term, the state delegate is elected to the position of the Board of Directors, he/she gives up the position of state delegate, to allow someone else from that state to become a state delegate and active in the NPN. Board of Director terms are not affected by limitations of state delegate terms.

**What is Good Standing?** The NPN values the input of its members, and recognizes the need for regular participation in meetings. To be a member in good standing, a state delegate may not miss more than two consecutive meetings. Beyond that, it means a member has been absent for a quarter of the year, and has had no input toward NPN issues at hand during that period.

**Process to Re-establish Good Standing.** After the second missed meeting, an email (or letter for those without access to email) automatically goes out to the state delegate within two business days, stating that he/she has missed two meetings in a row, and in order to remain a member in good standing, he/she needs to submit a "Recommitment Statement". This states his/her desire to remain an active participant and a state delegate in good standing of the National Participant Network. This email (or letter) to the member also asks him/her to review the archived presentations of the missed meetings, and respond to the questions in the presentation in order to indicate a grasp of the information and also to give input as to the issues at hand in the missed meetings. If the missed member submits a Recombitment Statement and also submits the responses to the archived meeting, he/she remains a member in good standing. This action must be taken within three weeks of the second missed meeting, in order to provide timely feedback and input to the issues

**Opting Out of Membership.** If the member chooses not to do the activities needed to remain a member in good standing after the second missed meeting, it means that he/she has chosen to opt out of NPN. He/she then automatically steps down as state delegate, opening the position to someone else who is able to be active in the NPN group.

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**Reapplication for Membership.** A member who steps down from being a state delegate may reapply after 3 months from the second missed meeting date. This amount of time may allow the former member to have a change in personal circumstances, and make it possible to once again be considered for active membership as a state delegate. If there is a waiting list of interested people for that state's delegate positions, the stepped-down member will go in order to the end of the applicant waiting list in that state.

**Responsibility as Member.** Each state delegate must take his/her own responsibility for staying an active member in good standing. There shall be no NPN mechanism such as the Membership Committee "considers extenuating circumstances", because that becomes a policing policy which could be politically alienating and cause strife between state delegates and Membership Committee members. It would also produce unneeded work and time for the Membership Committee.