

AGM Networking Luncheon
Friday, June 17, 2005
A Question of Ethics: What's the Right Standard for Directors?

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What do we mean by ethical conduct?

- Director to understand that they don't get special treatment
- Conflict of interest that you can't vote on an issue that is your family or friend
- Non-discrimination with any member re" race, religion, sex is unethical
- Directors have to follow a code of ethics
- Ethics and confidentiality go hand in hand
- Every board should have an ethical standard adopted
- Directors should and are expected by the members to operate by code of ethics
- Tell the truth, lead by example
- Trust board to help each other to keep directors to not have hidden agendas
- Lack of respect for each other and your board
- Have an ethical conduct agreement adopted, posted and voted on by board and membership and have a policy made and procedure

How are legal and ethical responsibilities the same, or different?

- Yes and no
- You can be legal and yet be unethical at the same time
- Every member or director has the same rights and should be treated the same

Does conflict of interest relate to ethical standards?

- In some cases only you would know if you are operating in an ethical manner – when acting in your own set of values

Is there a 'right' ethical conduct standard that co-ops should follow?

- Yes, but your co-op must develop and abide by it.
- You are the only one who can live with your values