

## CRITERIA FOR CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP TO NOACC



The following criteria will be used to determine the eligibility of an organization to join NOACC and enable their members to access the NOACC benefits if the organization functions like a chamber but does not include “chamber of commerce” in the organization’s name.

### *Mission Statement/Objectives/Purpose*

1. The organization should have a mission statement positioning the organization as an advocate for business, its members and the service area.
2. The organization should have a clear set of objectives/purpose. They could include the following:
  - a. Offer benefits; maintain programs and activities that are positive experiences for the members.
  - b. Promote membership in organization and encourage networking of all members through meetings, and other events that promote the members and the organization.
  - c. Serve as an advocate for business in legislative matters in local, regional, state and federal levels.
  - d. Work to improve the economic development of area, including referrals, attraction and retention.

### *Governance*

3. The organization should be incorporated and organized as a not-for-profit corporation under state non-profit corporation laws that prescribe the form and charter for chamber activities.
  - a. The organization should have By-Laws or a Constitution.
  - b. The organization should be governed by a volunteer board consisting of members of the organization and Officers will be appointed/elected by the board or by the members.
  - c. Staff may be hired by this board

### *Communications*

4. Organization should have an exchange of communications with its membership through one or all the following:
  - a. Meetings/Events
  - b. Newsletter/Direct Mailings
  - c. Electronically via Phone/Fax/Email
  - d. Web Site
5. Organization agrees to inform members about its membership in NOACC and provide information about NOACC benefits and activities to members on a regular basis. Direct contact with NOACC vendors will be encouraged according to NOACC guidelines.

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### *Financial*

6. The organization should establish tax exemption status under Section 501 (c) (6) Internal Revenue Service Code “business association” tax exemption classification. NOACC By-Laws under Article V “...shall be limited to Chambers of Commerce in Ohio...” For this purpose, a chamber is defined as a private, voluntary, not-for-profit organization of diverse businesses and professional people. They may use a name other than “chamber of commerce.”
7. Financial resources shall primarily come from the members through dues, initiatives, programs and projects. Income from grants or government sources designated for specific purposes, i.e., economic development, tourism, should be accounted for in an appropriate manner.
8. NOACC Chambers are required to pay annual dues in the amount established by the NOACC Board of Trustees as determined by NOACC By-Laws. Exceptions shall be determined by the NOACC Board of Trustees.

### *Membership Requirements*

9. The organization will automatically become a member of NOACC upon receipt of dues and initiation payment and NOACC Membership Application as determined by the NOACC Board of Trustees.
10. The NOACC Board of Trustees will vote to accept new member(s) at regularly schedule NOACC board meetings.
11. NOACC Members agree to maintain the above criteria and NOACC reserves the right to review adherence to this criteria.
12. NOACC Board of Trustees reserves the right to update the above criteria.

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