



American Cheese Society (ACS) Board of Directors Roles & Responsibilities

The ACS Board is an active and dynamic group of people, deeply committed to the vision of the organization: to be the leader in supporting and promoting American cheeses.

The Board is tasked with fiduciary oversight and long term strategic growth of the organization. Board members take an active role as leaders advising on matters of strategic import and organizational policy, serving on committees and task forces, working with staff and volunteers to foster a vibrant, knowledgeable, and passionate cheese community.

ACS is currently seeking nominations for new board members. The Nominating Committee is currently interviewing candidates, and will select a slate to run for two Cheesemaker and one At-Large seat.

The ACS Nominating Committee has identified a number of desired attributes that will be part of the selection process for nominees. Potential nominees should possess:

- Demonstrated leadership commitment and involvement with ACS and the cheese community. Examples include: serving on ACS committees, participation in ACS events, serving in volunteer roles at conference, local involvement in your professional community.
- Recognized leadership in the cheese community. Examples include: serving as chair or president of a guild or related group; serving on ACS committees; or working with philanthropic organizations.
- Relevant expertise in industry and in the disciplines of organizational management in areas such as: branding, media relations, finance, strategic alliances, and non-profit structure.
- Positive leadership attributes, emotional intelligence, the ability to work collaboratively and engage in appropriate debate and discussion when needed. A strong commitment to uphold the vision, spirit, and ideals of the organization. Visionary and strategic drive – particularly as 2016 is a year in which we will renew our strategic plan to serve us through 2020.
- Collaborative approach to consensus-building and decision-making with ability to “speak with one voice” on board decisions.
- Discretion and diplomacy.

In addition, nominees should be willing and able to commit the required time to this important service role including:

- Ability to participate in all board meetings and conference calls.
- Willingness to chair and/or serve on at least one ACS Committee.
- Nominee’s employer must have a clear understanding of this commitment, and fully support nominee’s service.



Board Service Time Commitment

The board meets in person 3-4 times each year. For the 2016-17 Board Year this includes:

- 2-day Fall Strategic Visioning session, October 24-25, 2016 in Denver, CO (travel expenses paid by ACS)
- 1-day Winter Meeting, January 25, 2017 following the Fancy Food Show in San Francisco. (hotel compensated for extra night(s), air/ground/limited meals covered for those not attending the show)
- 1-day Summer Meeting, the day prior to Conference. (One hotel night covered by ACS for required early arrival in Conference city – 2017 Denver.)

In addition, the Board meets via conference call for 60-90 minutes once a month when no in-person meeting occurs for updates, discussion, and votes (3rd Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am PT, no call is held in December).

Election Process and 2016 Deadlines:

- February 26: Deadline for Nominations
- April 13: Candidates must submit a photo, brief biography, and statement of intent to the ACS office
- May 18: ACS members with voting privileges will receive an online ballot, and will be asked to select candidates. (Note: additional reminders to vote will be sent to those who have not yet voted up until the deadline)
- June 29: Election closes. The candidate(s) who receive the most votes will be elected.
- July 13: Candidates will be notified of results within two weeks of close of elections.
- July 28: New Board members will be introduced at the ACS Business Meeting/Lunch at the annual conference in Des Moines, IA.

Directors serve one 3-year term with the potential to be re-elected to a second 3-year term based on recommendation of Executive Committee and approval by Board. Each year of service begins and ends at the ACS Annual Conference. Board members are eligible for consideration to serve on the Executive Committee after their first full year of board service.

ACS values and seeks diverse leadership as defined by race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, appearance, geographic location, and professional level. It seeks leaders from all types and sizes of eligible organizations.