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## *Weddings of Distinction*

### *Membership Requirements and Responsibilities*

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#### **New Members**

All new members will receive a Weddings of Distinction notebook, Welcome Letter, listing on the Weddings of Distinction website, and listing on our brochure.

#### **Dues and Fees**

The annual membership fee (1 year commitment) is \$550 and is paid directly to the Treasurer, and payable to Weddings of Distinction. This fee must be paid on an annual basis. Membership fees shall be due and payable by December 15th of each year. Payment is expected and must be received no later than 15 days past the due date (or January 1st). New members joining during the year shall be pro-rated on their membership dues. Payments for new members shall be due 15 days after approval for membership, or before the next monthly luncheon. The annual membership fee covers the cost of monthly group luncheons, misc. supplies, and our annual holiday social. This fee is non-refundable and subject to change.

A one-time Marketing Fee of \$75 is also assessed and must be paid on application for Membership to activate your placement on the Weddings of Distinction website, cover group advertising costs, marketing, social media, and Quarterly SEO. All pertinent company information must be submitted to the Marketing Director for accurate placement within 30 days of acceptance into the group. This fee is non-refundable and subject to change. This amount is prorated based on the time of year New Member has joined. In the event payment(s) is not received within the specified time period, membership will be deemed to have lapsed.

If more than one representative for a business is attending the monthly meeting, a \$40.00 luncheon fee will apply for the 2nd representative. This fee is due at the meeting of attendance and is paid directly to the Treasurer.

#### **Attendance**

In a group format, it is well understood that the success of the group depends greatly on the attendance and promptness of everyone involved. Nevertheless, we understand that from time to time circumstances may arise that result in the occasional absence or tardiness. Please contact the Vice President if you must be absent or will be tardy to the meeting. This is necessary since a mandatory headcount is needed for each month's meeting location and associated costs. Members that RSVP and do not show up, or cancel their RSVP after the final date will be assessed a \$40 fee.

If you are not showing up regularly, valuable space is taken up for a potential new member that might benefit from the group and vice-versa. If a Leave of Absence is required, specific reasons will be considered by the Board of Directors. Please set up a time to discuss the issue(s) with them. No refunds are issued for dues if a member decides to take a Leave of Absence.

### **Responsibilities**

On the Weddings of Distinction application, you are asked about your commitment toward generating business referrals for other group members. The importance of this obligation cannot be understated. In order for the group to succeed, each and every member must display a high level of commitment to the group with at least a 60% attendance rate (attend 6 out of 9 meetings). If you are unsure that you will be able to fulfill your ongoing responsibilities to the group, it is recommended that you refrain from joining. Any member who does not comply with their commitment will be liable to have their membership revoked by the Board of Directors with all fees being non-refundable.

Members must represent a discipline that is their main business or represents a substantial part of their business activities. In the event that a current business member wishes to change their core business within the group, a vote is required by the Board of Directors.

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Generating business referrals for your fellow members is the primary objective of Weddings of Distinction. This requires effort from everyone in the group. You are strongly encouraged to learn as much as possible about your team members and their specific business. When meeting with a prospective client, try to find out their specific needs so that referrals can easily be made. Provide the business lead to your team member prior to the upcoming meeting either via email or phone with the client's information.

It is important to note that you may receive numerous business referrals from a team member that you simply have a hard time generating leads for. That is completely normal and you should never feel as if you are letting a particular team member down by failing to generate referrals. For the group to be a resounding success, each member must give their best effort in generating business referrals for the group as a whole. With each member working together for the betterment of the team, the group will continue to grow and prosper to everyone's benefit.

Each month, 1-2 group members will be asked to present their product(s) and service(s) that they offer. This is an excellent opportunity for the group to understand what their fellow team member offers and confidently refer them to prospective clients.

Because we are a professional group of vendors, we do ask that each member or guest attending comply with our business attire policy.

### **Recruiting**

The recruitment of new members is critical to the success of the group. If you feel there is a particular vendor that would benefit the group, please approach the Board of Directors. The Board will discuss the prospective member and their business, vote, and send an invitation to them for the next monthly meeting.

Prospective new members shall be charged for lunch at their initial meeting, and will thereafter be charged \$40.00 per meeting until becoming an active member. Each potential member will be introduced at the beginning of the meeting. Please make every effort to make them feel as comfortable and welcome as possible.

### **Resignation of Membership**

In the event that a member decides to cease membership with Weddings of Distinction, no fees are refundable. Notification of resignation may be rendered only in writing to the President. A member who resigns in good standing (to include dues paid up to date) may reapply for membership within the period of the remaining calendar year.

### **General**

Weddings of Distinction reserves the right to revoke membership of any group member at any time at its sole discretion. All fees are non-refundable. In the event of any conflict or complaint, the situation should be presented to the President (and not brought up during a meeting). He/she will make every effort to resolve the issue in a timely manner, and before the next monthly meeting.

In the event membership is terminated by Weddings of Distinction, no fees are refundable. Weddings of Distinction reserves the sole right to make any and all membership decisions based on the merits of each individual case. Decisions made by the Board of Directors on any membership may or may not be considered by Weddings of Distinction as binding precedent.