

GSDBA Business Networking Group Rules

PURPOSE OF THE BNGS: To offer a forum where GSDBA members can increase their business through networking with other members on a regular basis. To offer a supportive environment that allows each member to share products or services with others who want to help them succeed. Conflicts of interest are not allowed, meaning once you join, a competitor of yours cannot join. BNG members will follow the guidelines outlined below so that all become more profitable and successful, and the BNGs will continue to grow.

1. Any member of the BNG must be a member in good standing of the GSDBA. (4/17/02)

2. Members operate under the GSDBA professional code of ethics. (4/17/02)

3. Show loyalty to BNG member whenever you need a product or service.

4. Be an active listener in business and social settings (Tip, Tip, Tip).

5. A requirement of a total of either 2 tips or 2 guests per month. (2/21/01)

6. A BNG member, absent exigent circumstances, can be absent from a maximum of four BNG meetings per trimester. If a current member reaches 3 absences in a trimester, the Group Facilitator shall contact the member by phone or in person, confirm that the member is aware of the group's attendance requirements, and ascertain what business and/or personal issues may be affecting that member's meeting attendance. The Group facilitator must first confer with both the GSDBA CEO and the current GSDBA Chair of the BNG Committee prior to taking any action to terminate the member of the BNG.

If and only if by a majority vote they determine that termination action is appropriate, the Group Facilitator shall send the member a letter informing him/her that any further absence that trimester will result in loss of that member's membership in that particular BNG for a period of one year (three trimesters). Such letter must also advise the member that he/she has the right to be heard at the next monthly BNG Committee Meeting upon submission of a written request. (8/18/04)

7. Be on time - meeting begins promptly. Arriving 15 minutes after the start of the meeting, or later, will be considered an absence. (4/17/02)

8. Infomercials are limited to 1 minute to allow special speakers enough time for their presentation. (2/21/01)

9. Dues are not refundable, in whole or in part. Dues will be collected at the first meeting of the trimester or upon

joining. Failure to pay dues within two weeks will result in the loss of member's position in the BNG for three trimesters from the date of removal. (4/17/02)

10. Complaints about other members will not be discussed in the group forum. Issues between members must be dealt with privately. GSDBA politics will not be discussed. The Facilitator should be notified if a complaint exists and he/she should try to act as a moderator to assist with the problem or concern. If the Facilitator is not able to resolve the issue, the problem or concern should be directed to the GSDBA Board Member who is acting as the Committee Chair of the BNGs. (2/21/01)

11A. A GSDBA member may participate in only one BNG and represent only one specific Specialty Business Category.

Business members' discussion will be limited to only the specific Specialty Business Category that they designated on their Member Agreement which is signed at the beginning of each trimester. It is recognized that BNG members may also have other categories they could offer as services, but they are required to limit their discussion to their registered category. (Rev. 02/17/2010)

11B. A business may have only one representative in a given BNG. (01/21/2009)

12. Member is responsible for attendance and tip requirements. A replacement representative who must be a GSDBA member is permissible; however, an absence is issued against the primary member. If the allotted number of absences is exceeded, the result will be loss of the member's position in the BNG for three trimesters from the date of removal. (4/17/02)

A member may appoint a permanent replacement from his/her business to cover the same specialty. The replacement must be a member in good standing in the GSDBA. The replacement member will inherit absences from the previous member. The replaced member may return to a BNG after three trimesters from the date of replacement. (4/17/02)

13. For special situations, a leave of absence may be granted to a member of a BNG. Each facilitator may use his or her discretion for issuing a leave of absence. (4/17/02)

14. BNGs are limited to 35 members. (8/20/03)

15. A facilitator may lead a BNG so long as the facilitator has the support of the majority of the group and as long as the facilitator is willing to serve. It is good practice to have a vote of confidence at the end of each trimester of service. (Rev. 4/19/2006)

16. Once a BNG reaches the maximum number of members, any person wishing to enter that BNG must have his/her name on a wait list kept at the GSDBA office. It is the member's responsibility to contact the office and also designate a category. When an opening becomes available the facilitator will contact the office for the wait lists and contact those members in chronological order, to offer them to join the group. (3/24/04)

17. Visitors: GSDBA Members may visit a BNG for the purpose of making a short announcement, e.g., non-profit events. This visit must be approved by the group facilitator prior to the BNG meeting. A visitor should never be allowed to bring up business which is in direct conflict with a member of the group. (5/19/04)

18. All printed material put out by a BNG must have prior approval by the GSDBA CEO. (5/19/04)

19. Guests may visit a BNG one time only before joining. (Rev. 6/15/05)

20. All BNG Members must be GSDBA Members in good standing throughout their BNG Membership. (Rev. 6/15/05)

21. Each BNG may determine its membership, within the parameters of BNG membership rules. Before turning anyone away or before terminating a member, the facilitator will first discuss the situation with the member and then with the CEO and the GSDBA Chair of the BNG Committee. If the Group Facilitator, the CEO and the Chair of the BNG

Committee agree to refuse membership in a BNG or if they agree to the termination of a current member, the facilitator will contact the member informing him/her of the decision. The facilitator will also inform the member that he/she has the right to be heard at the next monthly BNG Committee Meeting upon submission of a written request. (01/18/2006)

22. Anyone leaving a group at any point in a trimester may not join another group until the beginning of the next trimester. Only one move per person is permitted in a calendar year.

23. Members representing more than one business must choose which business to represent and can only be in one BNG. (10/15/2008)

24. BNG meetings may not be used to solicit members for job positions, outside networking groups or any other venture. (10/15/2008)

25. While BNGs do make GSDBA announcements and other community announcements, individuals are not to ask group members for money to support personal or community projects unless approved prior to the meeting by the facilitator. (10/15/2008)

26. Show loyalty to the group and loyalty to GSDBA. Be professional in language and demeanor in business relationships and in BNG meetings. (10/15/2008).

DOCUMENT REVISED 12/07/2010



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