

ADVISORY BOARDS: OVERVIEW

In the business industry, an advisory (or board of advice) is a select group of people who provide advice and support to the owners of a business. An advisory board allows the owners or managers of the business to have access to an independent view and diverse perspectives, as well as a “safe” place to discuss issues of major significance.

Rainbow Advisory Boards are formed and function similarly. Advisory Boards are intended to bring together a group of diverse people with a shared interest in our Order and its members. Advisory Boards advise. They provided advice and support to the Mother Advisor and the members of the Assembly. Specifics regarding Rainbow Advisory Boards – their formation, authority, and duties – are included in the Supreme Statutes. This document conveys those requirements within the context of Nevada Rainbow.

How and when are Advisory Boards appointed?

Advisory Board members are appointed to serve a one year term, which begins at the January Installation of Officers and ends the following year when the next Advisory Board is installed.

Sponsoring Orders are to submit their recommendations for the incoming Advisory Board to the Supreme Officer in November or December of each year. The recommendation may include all or some of the current Board members, or it may recommend an entirely new roster of members. Following approval by the Supreme Officer and before December 31st, the incoming Advisory Board must convene for its organizational meeting. During this meeting, the incoming Board members elect a Chair, Mother Advisor, and Secretary for the upcoming year.

In Nevada, each Assembly’s Grand Deputy, who is most familiar with the adults who support the Assembly, begins working with the Sponsoring Order in late September or early October to develop the list of recommended Board members for the upcoming year. This recommendation is delivered to the Supreme Officer in late October or early November. This allows sufficient time for the Supreme Officer to consider the recommendation and for the organizational meeting to be held prior to December 31st.

Additionally, it is Nevada’s tradition to keep the membership of the incoming Advisory Board confidential until an announcement is made during the Assembly’s first January meeting.

Who can serve on an Advisory Board?

Majority members, Master Masons, and members of the Order of the Eastern Star, Order of the Amaranth, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, non-affiliated wives of Master Masons (at the discretion of the Supreme Officer), parents, grandparents, and legal guardians of active or Majority members are eligible to serve on an Advisory Board.

The provision allowing non-affiliated wives of Master Masons to serve on an Advisory Board is specific to those communities that have a Lodge, but no Eastern Star Chapter, thus preventing the woman the opportunity to join a Masonic organization. This provision is not applied in Nevada because Masonic organizations for women exist in our communities.

In Nevada, Majority members are not eligible to serve on an Advisory Board until they are at least 23 years old. This policy was established to allow our newest adults time to transition from their “girl” roles into “adult” roles, and to allow our Rainbow adults time to recognize that these individuals are now adults, no longer girls.

Without specific permission from the Supreme Officer, a Grand Deputy may not serve as a member of an Advisory Board, pursuant to the Supreme Statutes.

Who must be represented on an Advisory Board?

Each assembly must have an Advisory Board, consisting of not less than seven (7) members and no more than fifteen (15) members. An Advisory Board must be composed of no less than two (2) Master Masons and no less than two (2) members of Eastern Star, Amaranth, or White Shrine. The remainder of the members may be Majority members, parents, grandparents or legal guardians of active or Majority members. If possible, the number of non-Masonic members should not exceed the number Masonic related members.

There are to be no more than two (2) members of an immediate family on an Advisory Board, without the approval of the Supreme Officer, and only one member of an immediate family may serve as an officer of the Advisory Board.

Can members be removed from the Board?

Yes, the Advisory Board serves at the pleasure of the Supreme Officer. If determined to be in the best interest of the Assembly and its members, the Supreme Officer has the authority to remove an individual or, if necessary, an entire Board.

Advisory Board members are expected to abide by the same standards that apply to Rainbow members; therefore, Board members may be removed from the Board for unbecoming conduct, such as: involvement in the illegal or illicit sale or use of drugs or alcohol; arrest and conviction of a felony; cohabitation with one other than the member's spouse; pregnancy resulting from cohabitation with one than the member's spouse; and/or failure to abide by the Jurisdictional dress code.

Additionally, Advisory Board business is confidential and not to be discussed outside of the Advisory Board meeting or with non-Advisory Board members. Violation of this policy is grounds for removal from the Advisory Board.

EXPECTATIONS OF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

"Do not take a step you would not have them (the girls) follow." These words from the Ritual reiterate the high moral standards Advisory Board members, as well as all adults associated with our Order are expected to set. It is important for Advisory Board members to appreciate the unique opportunity they have to advise and mentor our Rainbow girls. It is because of this unique relationship that adults must set good examples for our Rainbow members - not only in their Rainbow lives, but in their everyday lives.

Board members are expected to:

- Abide by the same moral code and rules required of the girls
- Demonstrate positive attitudes toward the girls and each other at all times
- Maintain the confidential nature of Advisory Board meetings by not discussing Advisory Board business outside of the Board meeting, including with non-Board members, family members, parents or girls
- Attend Assembly meetings and activities, assisting in whatever way possible
- Assist the Mother Advisor in the performance of her duties
- Comply with the dress code guidelines for adults (found in the Clothing Guidelines)

- Be on the look-out for new and innovative ideas for fun, service, membership, and service projects

Attendance

Attending Advisory Board meetings as well as Assembly meetings and participating in the Assembly's activities is essential for Advisory Board members. These experiences provide information and insight that will be necessary when making decisions and recommendations on behalf of the girls. Ideally an Advisory Board member will attend all Advisory Board meetings and Assembly meetings. Each Advisory Board member should consider this commitment when accepting an appointment to serve on an Advisory Board.

To set a positive example and to be respectful of the girls, Advisory Board members should not participate in the Assembly meeting unless asked to do so by the Worthy Advisor or the Mother Advisor. Advisory Board members, as well as all adults in attendance, should refrain from chit-chatting during the Assembly's meetings. (If the girls aren't supposed to do it, the adults shouldn't either!)

When an Advisory Board member must miss a Board meeting, he/she should contact the Advisory Board Chairman, explaining the nature of the absence. When a Board member must miss a Rainbow meeting, he/she should contact the Mother Advisor.

If a Board member is unable to attend at least half of the Assembly meetings per term (four (4) meetings if the Assembly has three terms per year or six (6) meetings if the Assembly has two terms per year), that member is not eligible to vote on Grand Officer or Grand Cross of Color recommendations.

Assist the Mother Advisor

Advisory Board members are expected to assist the Mother Advisor, and in turn the Assembly, throughout the year. Rather than waiting for the Mother Advisor to ask for assistance, Board members are encouraged to offer to assist with things such as:

- Helping with transportation needs to meetings and events, both in town and out of town. Board members may assist the Mother Advisor in ensuring girls are appropriately chaperoned at all times. When traveling, a minimum of one (1) adult is required for each eight (8) girls (or as directed for specific out-of-state travel). No adult male should ever travel alone with Assembly members, other than his own daughters/granddaughters. Additionally, all laws pertaining to seatbelt usage, child safety seats, and cell phones must be obeyed!
- Greeting guests at Installations, Open Meetings, and Receptions, making them feel welcome and reminding them, if necessary, that hats and gloves are not worn in the Assembly Room and photos are not taken when the Bible is open (except during Installation or by the Official Photographer for the event)
- Assisting the Assembly Recorder, ensuring the Assembly's records are in order, meeting minutes are properly made, etc.
- Maintaining the girls' service hour records and submitting the monthly report on-line
- Acting as the prompter; prompting should be done in a thoughtful manner, allowing time for those speaking to collect their thoughts; prompts should be given in a quiet manner, yet loud enough to be heard by the speaker
- Serving on the various committees established by the Assembly or the Board, such as Visitation committees, Official Visit or Reception Committees, Budget Committee, Audit Committee, etc.

- Assist with or chaperone Assembly events; the Mother Advisor does not, and often cannot, attend every event for the entire year
- Pursue opportunities to promote Rainbow and its successes – with friends and co-workers who have relatives who may be Rainbow age, with community leaders, in the media, etc.
- Going to the Lodge/Temple, in the event a meeting must be cancelled (due to inclement weather, for example) to advise members and guests who many not have been notified of the cancellation; the physical safety and welfare of our members is always our first concern; we would not want a girl dropped off by her parents who were unaware of the cancellation

Things to avoid

At no time should an Advisory Board member correct, either publicly or privately, the ritualistic work or behavior of a Rainbow girl. Concerns in these areas should be addressed privately with the Mother Advisor, who will then determine how to best address these with the girl.

Additionally, an Advisory Board member should never discuss Advisory Board business with Rainbow members. The Supreme Statutes are clear – all instructions from the Advisory Board shall be conveyed through the Mother Advisor to the Assembly. If an Advisory Board member is approached about something that was discussed during a Board meeting, he/she should refer the girl to the Mother Advisor.