



WSBA

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Discussion Protocols Board of Governors 2003-2004

Philosophical Statement:

“We take seriously our representational responsibilities and will try to inform ourselves on the subject matter before us by contact with constituents, stakeholders, WSBA staff and committees when possible and appropriate. In all deliberations and actions we will be courageous and keep in mind the need to represent and lead our membership and safeguard the public. In our actions, we will be mindful of both the call to action and the constraints placed upon the WSBA by GR 12 and other standards.”

Governor’s Commitments:

1. Tackle the problems presented; don’t make up new ones.
2. Keep perspective on long-term goals.
3. Actively listen to understand the issues and perspective of others before making the final decision or lobbying for an absolute.
4. Respect the speaker, the input and the Board’s decision.
5. Collect your thoughts and speak to the point - sparingly!
6. Foster interpersonal relationships between Board members outside Board events.
7. Listen and be courteous to speakers.
8. Speak only if you can shed light on the subject, don’t be repetitive.
9. Consider, respect and trust committee work but exercise the Board’s obligation to establish policy and insure that the committee work is consistent with that policy and the Board’s responsibility to the WSBA’s mission.
10. Seek the best decision through quality discussion and ample time (listen, don’t make assumptions, avoid sidebars, speak frankly, allow time before and during meetings to discuss important matters).
11. Remember and use the parking lot for important but “off point” issues.

12. Don't repeat points already made.
13. Everyone should have a chance to weigh in on discussion topics before persons are given a second opportunity.
14. No Governor should commit the Board to actions, opinions, or projects without consultation with the whole Board.
15. Use caution with e-mail: it can be a useful tool for debating but e-mail is not confidential and does not easily involve all interests.
16. Maintain the strict confidentiality of executive session discussions and matters.