

32<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association

## Board Policies

### 4.09 Community Relations and Advocacy

*Date Adopted/Last Revised: Month #, 20XX*

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*Note: Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Board Policy have the meanings set forth in the Definitions section of Board Policy 1.01. Should any provision in this policy contradict any provision of California law, California law shall control.*

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the community relations and advocacy responsibilities of the Board and the CEO.

#### **Policy**

It is the policy of the 32nd DAA that the Board represent the organization positively to the community, fairly represent member and community perspectives to the organization, ensure consideration of member and community input in its planning, and advocate for resources and support to help fulfill the 32nd DAA's mission and not the interests or objectives of any individual.

#### **Community and Public Relations**

The Board Chair and the CEO have the authority to speak on behalf of the 32nd DAA. In general, the Board Chair will represent the 32nd DAA on matters of policy and strategy, and the CEO will represent the 32nd DAA on operational issues. The Board Chair and CEO will coordinate with each other before the release of any public statement. The CEO or Board Chair can delegate this authority to another 32nd DAA employee or Board Member with special knowledge or competence in relation to a given topic.

#### **Advocacy**

Board Members serve as advocates for the 32nd DAA. As an effective advocate, each Board Member will take every opportunity to champion the 32nd DAA by educating policymakers and opinion leaders at all levels about the transformative mission of the 32nd DAA.

Any major advocacy-related statements must be consistent with the general parameters of Board-approved policies or positions. While this policy is not intended to inhibit private expression of personal or professional opinions, Board Members should distinguish personal opinions from 32nd DAA positions when engaging with the public, including policymakers and opinion leaders.

Board Members must speak with one voice, not as individuals, and always reflect the collective position of the full Board.

Board Members should coordinate all communication with the media through the CEO and the Communications Department when possible.

Board Members are also expected to avoid making public statements that might undercut or obscure the messages conveyed by the 32nd DAA's approved spokespersons. Board Members who hold elected public office concurrent with their membership on the Board are expected to be particularly judicious about this since their public profile may deflect attention away from messages conveyed by the official spokespersons.

### **Legislative Monitoring Committee**

Responsible for monitoring and reporting to the Board all pending state legislation that impacts the operations or interest of the 32<sup>nd</sup> DAA.