



BOARD NOMINATIONS

The ACS Board of Directors is an active and dynamic group that is deeply committed ACS's vision to be the leader in supporting and promoting American cheeses. The Board is tasked with fiduciary oversight and the long-term Strategic growth of the organization. Board members take an active role as leaders, advising on matters of strategic import and organizational policy, serving on committees and task forces, developing future leaders, and working with staff and volunteers to foster a vibrant, passionate, and knowledgeable cheese community.

Learn more about Board service in the [ACS Bylaws](#)

NOMINATIONS

Each year, the ACS Nominating Committee seeks nominations of cheese industry professionals to serve in Leadership positions on the ACS Board of Directors. The number of slots available and category of nominees sought is announced each year in advance of the nominating period.

The ACS Nominating Committee has identified a number of desired attributes that inform the selection process for nominees.

Potential nominees should possess:

- Demonstrated leadership commitment and involvement with ACS and the cheese community. Examples include: serving on ACS committees, participation in ACS events, serving in volunteer roles at conference, local involvement in your professional community.
- Recognized leadership in the cheese community. Examples include: serving as chair or president of a guild or related group; serving on ACS committees; or working with philanthropic organizations.
- Relevant expertise in industry and in the disciplines of organizational management in areas such as: branding, media relations, finance, strategic alliances, and non-profit structure.
- Positive leadership attributes, emotional intelligence, the ability to work collaboratively and engage in appropriate debate and discussion when needed. A strong commitment to uphold the vision, spirit, and ideals of the organization. Visionary and strategic drive to follow through on ACS's Strategic Plan.
- Collaborative approach to consensus-building and decision-making with ability to "speak with one voice" on board decisions.
- Discretion and diplomacy.



ACS values and seeks diverse leadership as defined by race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, appearance, geographic location, and professional level. It seeks leaders from all types and sizes of eligible organizations.

BOARD SERVICE TIME COMMITMENT

Nominees should be willing and able to commit the required time to this important service role including:

- Ability to participate in all board meetings.
- Willingness to chair and/or serve on at least one ACS Committee.
- Nominee's employer must have a clear understanding of this commitment and fully support nominee's service.
- Agree to the [Board Commitment Agreement](#)

The board meets in person three times each year.

- 2-day Fall Meeting in October (travel expenses paid by ACS)
- 1-2 day Winter or Spring Meeting – date/location TBD, possibly in conjunction with Winter Fancy Food Show (travel expenses paid by ACS)
- 1-day Summer Meeting in the Conference host city the day prior to Conference. (Additional required hotel night expense covered by ACS) See Travel Policy for details.

This schedule may change due to circumstances beyond our control.

In addition, the Board meets via conference call for 1 ½ - 2 hours every month when no in-person meeting occurs for updates, discussion, and votes (3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:00am PT; no call is held in December). Additional meetings can be called by the President as needed.

Directors shall not receive any compensation for their services as a Director.

ELECTION PROCESS & DEADLINES



Exact dates are set each year based on that year's specific calendar. Below are the key dates/activities that make up the Election Process. All dates are subject to change.

- *December-February*: Call for Nominations
- *February 12*: Deadline for Nominations
- *March*: Nominating Committee members interview nominees with completed packets
- *March*: Nominating Committee recommends slate of candidates for Board approval
- *Early April*: Applicants are notified of the status of their nomination. The committee asks that those who advance to the ballot as candidates keep that information confidential until the ballots are sent to members.
- *Mid-April*: ACS members with voting privileges will receive an online ballot and will be asked to select Candidates. Note: additional reminders to vote will be sent to those who have not yet voted up until the deadline)
- *May 28*: Election closes. The candidate(s) who receive the most votes will be elected.
- *Mid-June*: Election results communicated to the candidates. Reminder that the results are not announced and must be kept confidential until conference.
- *July 8-10*: New Board members will be announced at the ACS Business Meeting at the Annual Conference. New Board members are also asked to attend Board of Directors meeting on July 7 in Louisville, KY.

DURATION OF SERVICE

Directors serve one 3-year term with the potential to be re-appointed to a second 3-year term based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and approval by full Board. Each year of service begins and ends at the ACS Annual Conference. Board members are eligible for consideration to serve on the Executive Committee after one year of Board service.