**Role of the Members of the Coalition**

The Members of the Coalition are accountable

to the benefactors.

The Members have responsibilities, and if these are fulfilled, the membership will achieve its overall responsibility for accountability to the benefactors.

The Members are responsible for themselves and for the success of the coalition. The Members collaborate with the Network to impact the benefactors.

**Responsibilities of the Members**

1. Determine the purpose of the coalition.

2. Set the coalition’s agenda

3. Make decisions that take into account the impact on all members.

4. Hold each other accountable for compliance with agreements.

5. Enhance the coalition’s public image.

6. Assess its own performance.

**The Job of the Individual Coalition Member**

* ***Be prepared to participate responsibly*** *– attend meetings, prepare for meetings, participate using authentic communication.*
* ***Remember accountability is to the benefactors*** *– Coalition members have a sacred relationship with the benefactors – and the benefactors are trusting Coalition members to act in their best interest.*
* ***Represent all benefactors and not a single constituency*** *– regardless of the constituency a coalition member may be a part of or serve, they must consider the whole of all benefactors in their role as a coalition member.*
* ***Be responsible for group behavior and productivity*** – *if the coalition fails to fulfill its mandate, meddles, breaks its own rules, all members are culpable, even if an individual did not participate in offensive behavior.*
* ***Be a proactive coalition member –*** *insist that information that is shared with the coalition has relevancy and is a useful tool for making the kinds of decisions the coalition must make.*
* ***Use authentic communication and consensus decision making –*** *welcome divergent views and seek the input and opinion of all members.*
* ***Use personal expertise to inform the coalition*** *– Coalition members with expertise can use it to inform the Coalition, but it should not be used to override the wisdom of the Coalition in its entirety. Individual expertise can be offered, but in the role of a volunteer consultant and not a member of the Coalition.*
* ***Maintain Coalition Discipline –*** *Coalition members should support the decisions of the Coalition – even if they voted against a decision.*
* ***Speak with one authentic voice –*** *Coalition members should never, ever have side conversations with staff or with each other. If a staff member approaches a Coalition member, it is incumbent on the Coalition member to redirect the staff. Coalition members are not the friends or advocates of the staff – they are the trustees of the benefactors.*