

New Board Member Orientation

As Chapters, you help keep geographically close credit unions cooperating and sharing resources. In support of the Leadership pillar, GoWest and Chapters will foster new board members through an onboarding program that includes:

- Welcome (Chapters)
- Orientation (GoWest & Chapters)
- Mentoring (Chapters)

Welcome

GoWest exists to bring cooperative power to credit unions throughout our six-state region. Together we will help to coordinate credit union advocates and support community impact projects in the spirit of collaboration.

Chapters serve as a forum for teaching and a means for publicizing the benefits of the movement. GoWest will continue to support all chapter activities, whether they involve sharing best practices, educating credit union staff, or supporting the local community - we remain united by the common objective of fostering the growth of the credit union movement.

Best Practices for Chapter Welcome

To add more onboarding structure, Chapters can hold new board member orientations monthly on the day of Chapter meetings.

Set a 30-minute or hour-long meeting (via Zoom or a local coffee shop) to get to know each other, both personally and professionally.

Talking points for a welcome meeting could be:

- Learning the “big picture” of GoWest and the Chapter
- The Chapter’s mission, vision and values
- The Chapter’s focus areas

Orientation

To support the growth and partnership of our region’s CU Communities, GoWest will hold a new board member orientation for new Chapter board members.

This GoWest orientation will cover:

- GoWest Overview
- Chapters Within GoWest
- How Chapters Work Together
- L.E.A.P Pillars
- Chapter Listserv
- Chapter webpage functions on GoWest website

When a Chapter gains a new board member, please notify Lexy Strong at lstrong@gowest.org, as we will schedule a new board member orientation.

Orientation (continued)

As for Chapters, below is a checklist to assist in onboarding your new members and ensuring they have all the information needed to get involved and contribute to the success of your Chapter.

New Board Member Orientation Check-List (for Chapters)

Mentoring

Pairing an incoming board member with a board member who has served several terms can provide an easy “go-to person” who can answer questions and help with the learning curve. The mentor and mentee should set up time outside actual board meetings to review things like the history of board decisions, the credit union’s strategic plan, and how they can make the most of their role as director.

In continuation of supporting the growth and collaboration of Chapters, GoWest can pair new chapter board members with other CU Chapter members in the region. This collaboration is a great way to further develop credit union advocates to shape the credit union movement.