



BOARD MEMBER FAQ

Make a difference as a community leader

Serving on the Interlakes Area United Way (IAUW) Board is an opportunity to help shape the future of Lake, Miner, and Moody counties. Board members work alongside local leaders, volunteers, and partners to improve lives and strengthen communities.

Board service allows you to:

- Create measurable community impact
- Help guide investments in programs that change lives
- Build leadership and nonprofit governance experience
- Expand professional and community connections
- Be part of collaborative solutions to local challenges

ABOUT IAUW

What is Interlakes Area United Way?

IAUW brings people and resources together to improve lives and strengthen communities in Lake, Miner and Moody counties in southeastern South Dakota. We work with a diverse network of Community Partners to mobilize communities to action so all can thrive.

Together, we target key Impact Areas to create long-term, meaningful change: Healthy Community, Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, and Community Resiliency.

Is IAUW a local organization?

Yes. IAUW is locally governed and operated. Decisions about funding and community priorities are made by local volunteers and leaders who live and work in our service area.

Are all United Ways the same?

United Ways across the country share a common mission and brand, but each chapter is independent and focused on local needs. IAUW serves Lake, Miner, and Moody counties and invests donations directly into programs that help people in these communities.

LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

What is the role of the Board?

The Board of Directors provides leadership, governance, and stewardship for IAUW. The board ensures the organization operates responsibly, fulfills its mission, and remains accountable to donors and the community. Members serve three-year terms concurrent with the calendar year.

Board responsibilities include:

- Setting strategic direction and community priorities
- Overseeing fundraising and community engagement
- Approving budgets and funding allocations
- Monitoring organizational performance and impact
- Hiring and evaluating staff leadership
- Serving as ambassadors for United Way

How does the Board oversee community investments?

One of the board's most important responsibilities is ensuring donor dollars are invested wisely and create measurable community impact.

IAUW uses an open annual application process for nonprofit partners seeking funding. The Allocations Committee within the Board reviews applications and evaluates:

- Community impact
- Program effectiveness
- Financial responsibility
- Organizational accountability
- Alignment with United Way priorities

The Committee provides funding recommendations, and the Board of Directors provides final approval to ensure investments reflect community needs and strategic goals.

Who can serve on the Board of Directors?

Board members are volunteers who live or work within the IAUW service area and are committed to strengthening their communities. IAUW seeks individuals representing diverse backgrounds, experiences, and professional expertise.

How can I join?

Individuals may apply or be nominated when openings occur. Applications are reviewed and approved by the board. Applications are available at interlakesunitedway.org/about/our-team.

What is the time commitment of a board member?

Board members typically volunteer 2–4 hours per month, including:

- Monthly board meetings (typically 1–2 hours)
- Committee participation or special projects
- Occasional fundraising and community events

Board meetings are generally held on the second Monday of each month unless otherwise scheduled.

What are the financial expectations?

Board members are expected to make an annual personal financial contribution to Interlakes Area United Way at a level meaningful to them. Board members also help promote community giving and fundraising efforts.

What leadership responsibilities do board members have?

Board members are expected to:

- Support and promote the United Way mission
- Participate actively in meetings and committees
- Assist with fundraising and community outreach
- Represent United Way positively in the community
- Help identify emerging community needs and opportunities

What ethical standards must board members follow?

Board members must:

- Sign an annual Code of Ethics policy
- Maintain confidentiality
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Act in the best interest of the organization and community

How does the board ensure accountability?

The board monitors:

- Financial oversight and fiscal responsibility
- Program outcomes and community impact
- Organizational compliance and governance policies
- Strategic planning and long-term sustainability