

***Ex officio* member**

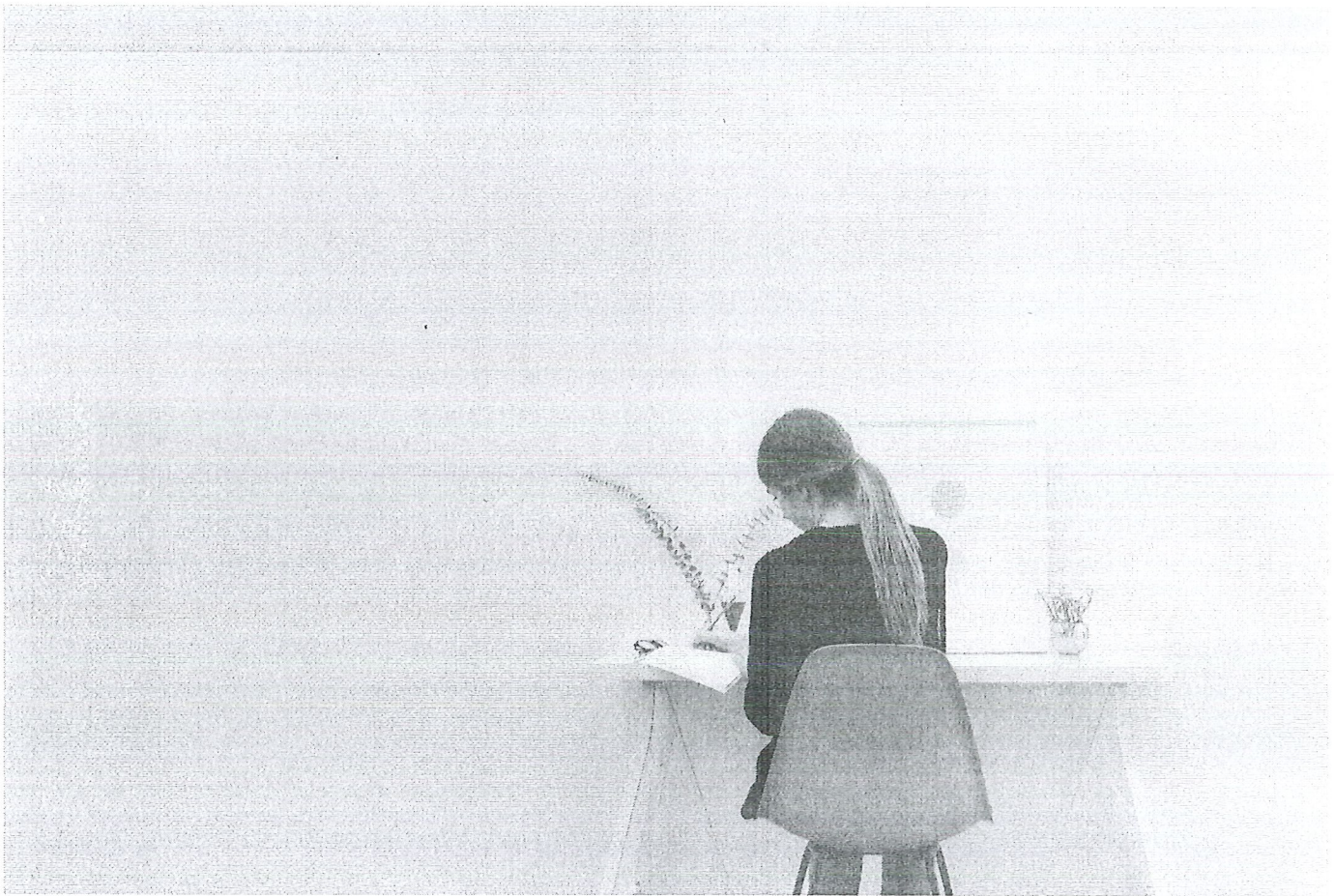
An ***ex officio* member** is a member of a body (notably a board, committee, council) who is part of it by virtue of holding another office. The term *ex officio* is Latin, meaning literally 'from the office', and the sense intended is 'by right of office'; its use dates back to the Roman Republic.

According to Robert's Rules of Order, the term denotes only how one becomes a member of a body.^[1] Accordingly, the rights of an *ex officio* member are exactly the same as other members unless otherwise stated in regulations or bylaws.^[2] It relates to the notion that the position refers to the position the *ex officio* holds, rather than the individual that holds the position. In some groups, *ex officio* members may frequently abstain from voting.

Opposite notions are dual mandate, when the same person happens to hold two offices or more, although these offices are not in themselves associated; and personal union, when two states share the same monarch.

For profit and nonprofit use

Any *ex officio* membership (for example, of committees, or of the board) is as defined by the nonprofit association's bylaws or other documents of authority. For example, the bylaws quite often provide that the organization's president will be *ex officio* a member of all committees, except the nominating committee.



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What Is 'Ex Officio'? A Complete Definition With Examples

Written by Toni Hoy

'Ex officio' refers to a person who holds a particular position or office and is therefore entitled to certain duties or privileges without additional authorization.

There is generally some degree of confusion surrounding the roles of non-executive directors, executive directors, CEOs and managers of corporations.

Now is the time to strengthen the governance practices at your organization! Here are the top 3 ways...

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What is the ex officio member meaning? Here, we unravel any doubt surrounding the term by exploring the

- The ex officio meaning
- What is an ex officio member of a board?
- Examples of ex officio
- Whether an ex officio must be a member of the organization
- How quorums and voting factor with an ex officio

What Does Ex Officio Mean?

The term 'ex officio' is a Latin phrase that translates as "from the office." According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, ex officio means "as a result of one's status or position" or "denoting or relating to a member of a body who holds the role as a result of their status or another position they hold."

What Does Ex Officio Mean on a Board?

To put the term ex officio into context for our purposes, ex officio on a board of directors means someone who automatically serves on a board by virtue of having some other position.

Robert's Rules explains the rules for how ex officio members serve on a board. For example, if an ex officio member loses the position that made them an ex officio member, their ex officio status ends. If that individual were a board member despite having ex officio status, they would continue to be a board member without having ex officio status.

Your board management system provides easy access to your bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order any time board members need a review.

Ex Officio Members of the Board

Ex officio members of the board have all the same rights, privileges, duties and obligations as any other board member. They can participate in debates and vote on all matters. As with all other board members, ex officio board members must always act in the organization's best interest.

Ex officio members of the board are not necessarily elected or appointed; rather, they agree to serve in a position because the organization needs their expertise or influence in that position.

Another common misperception is that ex officio is a category of a specific type of membership similar to a lifetime membership, emeritus membership or sustaining membership. While ex officio is not a type of membership, serving in the capacity of an ex officio board member may carry some of the benefits of