

Connectress *Community*

Where We Do Business Better, Together!

Welcome to **Connectress Community**, a professional networking community created to foster meaningful relationships, business growth, collaboration, referrals, and opportunities among women in business.

By becoming a member, you agree to the following membership terms and community expectations.

1. Membership Term

Membership is for a period of 12 months beginning on the date the annual membership fee is paid and membership is accepted.

Membership is individual and non-transferable.

2. Annual Membership Fee

Members pay an **annual membership fee of \$100.**

The annual membership fee is due upon joining and annually thereafter on the member's renewal date.

The annual membership fee is non-refundable.

3. Membership Dues

In addition to the annual membership fee, members pay monthly membership dues at the current rate established by Connectress Community.

These dues may be paid monthly or quarterly.

Monthly dues include:

- **Unlimited attendance at Connectress Community meetings**, subject to space and registration requirements.
- Opportunities to deliver a **10-minute member presentation** to introduce, educate, or provide greater insight into your business, products, services, expertise, or professional story. Presentation opportunities are subject to scheduling and availability.
- Participation in Connectress networking, relationship-building, referral, and business-development activities.
- Access to member-only opportunities, programs, and resources offered by Connectress Community.

Monthly dues are due regardless of the number of meetings a member chooses to attend during that month.

Monthly dues are non-refundable.

If a member is unable to attend a meeting that has been paid for, they may send a substitute. The substitute is limited to attending our meetings twice in one year.

4. Member Participation

Connectress Community is built on the belief that networking works best when members actively participate and invest in relationships.

Members are encouraged to:

- Attend meetings regularly.
- Build genuine relationships with fellow members.
- Learn about other members and their businesses.
- Look for appropriate opportunities to make introductions and referrals.
- Participate in discussions and community activities.
- Support fellow members whenever possible.
- Conduct business with professionalism, integrity, and respect.

There is no requirement or guarantee that members will give or receive a specific number of referrals or business opportunities.

5. Member Presentations

Members may have opportunities to give **10-minute presentations** during Connectress meetings.

Presentations should be professional, educational, engaging, and relevant to the member's business or area of expertise. The purpose of the presentation is to help fellow members better understand **who you are, what you do, who you serve, and how they can best support and refer you.**

Pricing, costs, fees, rates, commissions, discounts, promotional offers, or other specific financial terms are not to be included in member presentations. Presentations should focus on educating and connecting with fellow members rather than directly selling products or services.

Presentation dates and frequency will be coordinated by Connectress Community and may depend on meeting schedules, membership size, and availability.

6. Professional Conduct

Connectress Community is committed to creating a welcoming, supportive, collaborative, and professional environment.

Members agree to treat other members and guests respectfully and professionally. Conduct that is disruptive, discriminatory, harassing, unethical, or otherwise inconsistent with the values of Connectress Community may result in suspension or termination of membership.

7. Business Relationships

Connectress Community provides opportunities for members to meet, connect, collaborate, and refer business to one another. Connectress Community does not guarantee referrals, clients, revenue, business opportunities, or financial results.

Members are responsible for conducting their own due diligence before entering into any business, professional, financial, referral, partnership, or other arrangement with another member.

Connectress Community is not responsible for transactions, agreements, services, representations, or disputes between members.

8. Membership Cancellation

Members may cancel their membership by providing written notice to Connectress Community. The annual membership fee is non-refundable once membership has begun.

Monthly dues already paid are non-refundable. Cancellation will stop future monthly dues according to the applicable billing cycle.

Connectress Community reserves the right to terminate a membership for non-payment of dues, violation of this Agreement, inappropriate conduct, or actions that are determined to be detrimental to the community.

9. Membership Changes

Connectress Community may periodically modify meeting formats, benefits, dues, policies, programs, or membership offerings as the community grows and evolves.

Members will be provided reasonable notice of material changes affecting membership fees or dues.

10. Community Commitment

Connectress is more than an exchange of business cards. Our goal is to create a community where members **know one another, understand one another's businesses, build trust, and create opportunities for each other.**

By joining Connectress Community, I agree to contribute to a culture of connection, collaboration, professionalism, generosity, and mutual business growth.

11. Waiver, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnification

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THIS SECTION AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND INCLUDES A RELEASE OF CLAIMS FOR ORDINARY NEGLIGENCE.

In consideration for being accepted as a member of and/or participating in Connectress Community ("Connectress"), I acknowledge, understand, and voluntarily agree to the following:

11a. Voluntary Participation and Assumption of Risk

I understand that my membership in Connectress and participation in Connectress meetings, networking events, programs, presentations, workshops, social gatherings, meals, happy hours, off-site events, member-hosted events, and other activities (collectively, “Activities”) are entirely voluntary.

I understand that participation in these Activities may involve risks, both known and unknown, including, without limitation, personal injury, illness, accidents, slips and falls, food or beverage-related illness or reactions, property damage or loss, theft, transportation-related incidents, and injuries or damages caused by other members, guests, speakers, vendors, property owners, venues, or other third parties.

I knowingly and voluntarily assume all risks reasonably associated with my participation in Connectress Activities, whether such Activities occur at a Connectress-designated location, private residence, restaurant, business, meeting facility, event venue, or other location.

11b. Release and Waiver of Liability — Including Ordinary Negligence

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY CALIFORNIA LAW, I KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY RELEASE, WAIVE, AND DISCHARGE CONNECTRESS COMMUNITY AND ITS FOUNDERS, OWNERS, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, ORGANIZERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, VOLUNTEERS, EVENT HOSTS, SUCCESSORS, AND ASSIGNS (COLLECTIVELY, THE “RELEASED PARTIES”) FROM CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, LOSS, OR OTHER DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO MY PARTICIPATION IN CONNECTRESS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CLAIMS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY NEGLIGENCE OF A RELEASED PARTY.

This release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted under California law.

Nothing in this Agreement is intended to release, waive, or limit liability for gross negligence, fraud, willful or intentional misconduct, or any other liability that cannot lawfully be released or waived under California law.

11c. Third-Party Venues, Members, Guests and Service Providers

I understand that Connectress Activities may take place at restaurants, hotels, offices, private residences, meeting facilities, event spaces, and other locations that Connectress does not own or control.

Connectress does not control and is not responsible for the acts, omissions, safety practices, conditions, products, food or beverages, services, security, accessibility, or conduct of third-party venues, property owners, vendors, speakers, members, guests, or service providers.

I understand that participation at any such location is voluntary, and I am responsible for determining whether a particular location or Activity is appropriate for me.

11d. Personal Property

I am solely responsible for safeguarding my personal and business property during Connectress Activities. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Connectress is not responsible for lost, stolen, misplaced, or damaged property belonging to members or guests.

11e. Business Relationships, Referrals and Introductions

I understand that Connectress is a professional networking organization designed to facilitate relationships, introductions, referrals, collaboration, education, and business opportunities.

Membership in Connectress does not constitute an endorsement, certification, verification, or guarantee by Connectress of any member, guest, speaker, business, professional, product, or service.

Connectress does not investigate, verify, warrant, or guarantee the qualifications, licenses, insurance, professional standing, business practices, representations, financial condition, products, services, or conduct of members or persons introduced through Connectress unless Connectress expressly states otherwise in writing.

I am solely responsible for conducting any due diligence I consider appropriate before hiring, retaining, referring, recommending, investing with, entering into a transaction with, or otherwise conducting business with another member or person introduced through Connectress.

11f. Member-to-Member Transactions

Any contract, referral, purchase, engagement, partnership, collaboration, investment, professional relationship, or other transaction between members, guests, or third parties is solely between those individuals or entities.

Connectress is not a party to such transactions and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, assumes no responsibility for disputes, losses, damages, claims, nonperformance, misrepresentations, professional errors, or other consequences arising from those relationships or transactions.

11g. No Guarantee of Referrals or Business Results

I understand that Connectress does not guarantee any particular business result from membership or participation.

There is no guarantee that I will receive referrals, clients, customers, revenue, sales, business opportunities, professional relationships, collaborations, or other financial or business benefits. Results will vary depending upon numerous factors, including each member's participation, relationships, business practices, and individual circumstances.

11h. Member Responsibility and Indemnification

I accept responsibility for my own conduct while participating in Connectress Activities.

To the fullest extent permitted by California law, I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Released Parties from third-party claims, liabilities, damages, losses, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees arising from or relating to my own acts or omissions, my violation of this Membership Agreement, my unlawful or wrongful conduct, or claims arising from products or professional services that I personally provide, recommend, or sell.

This indemnification provision is not intended to require me to indemnify a Released Party for that Released Party's gross negligence, fraud, willful misconduct, or other liability that cannot lawfully be shifted or waived under California law.

11i. California Law and Severability

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to its conflict-of-law principles.

If any provision of this Waiver, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnification is determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable, that provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

11j. Acknowledgment and Voluntary Agreement

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK & INDEMNIFICATION. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT AFFECTS MY LEGAL RIGHTS AND INCLUDES A RELEASE OF CERTAIN CLAIMS, INCLUDING CLAIMS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES.

I acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding this Agreement and, if desired, to consult with legal counsel before accepting it.

I enter into this Agreement knowingly and voluntarily and agree that it shall remain effective throughout my membership in Connectress and my participation in Connectress Activities.

12. Good-Faith Informal Resolution

PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY. IT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING YOUR RIGHT TO HAVE CERTAIN DISPUTES DECIDED IN COURT BY A JUDGE OR JURY.

12a. Good-Faith Informal Resolution

Connectress Community ("Connectress") and Member agree that, whenever reasonably possible, any dispute, claim, controversy, or disagreement arising out of or relating to membership in Connectress, participation in Connectress activities, this Membership Agreement, or the relationship between Member and Connectress shall first be addressed through good-faith informal discussions.

Before commencing mediation or arbitration, the party asserting a claim shall provide the other party with written notice describing the nature of the dispute and the relief requested.

The parties shall have **30 days after receipt of the written notice** to attempt in good faith to resolve the matter informally.

12b. Mediation

If the dispute is not resolved through informal discussions, the parties agree to attempt to resolve the dispute through confidential mediation before initiating binding arbitration, except where immediate injunctive or other provisional relief is reasonably necessary.

The mediator shall be mutually selected by the parties. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, mediation shall take place in **Los Angeles County, California**.

The parties shall share the mediator's fees and costs equally, except where applicable law requires a different allocation. Each party shall otherwise be responsible for its own attorneys' fees and expenses incurred in connection with the mediation.

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12c. Binding Arbitration

If the dispute is not resolved through mediation, the dispute shall, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, be resolved by **final and binding arbitration rather than through litigation in court**.

The arbitration shall be conducted before a single neutral arbitrator pursuant to the California Arbitration Act and applicable California law.

The arbitrator shall have authority to award any remedy or relief that would otherwise be available to the parties under applicable law, subject to the terms of this Membership Agreement and any limitations permitted by law.

Unless the parties mutually agree otherwise in writing, arbitration shall take place in Los Angeles County, California.

Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

12d. Waiver of Jury Trial

MEMBER AND CONNECTRESS UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT, BY AGREEING TO BINDING ARBITRATION, EACH IS WAIVING THE RIGHT TO HAVE A DISPUTE SUBJECT TO THIS ARBITRATION PROVISION DECIDED BY A JUDGE OR JURY IN COURT.

The parties knowingly and voluntarily agree to resolve such disputes through the dispute-resolution procedures stated in this Agreement.

12e. Individual Claims

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, Member and Connectress agree that disputes subject to arbitration shall be brought and resolved on an **individual basis**.

Neither party shall seek to have a dispute arbitrated as a class, collective, consolidated, or representative proceeding except to the extent that applicable law provides a nonwaivable right to do so.

If any portion of this provision concerning class, collective, consolidated, or representative proceedings is determined to be unlawful or unenforceable, that portion shall be severed or limited to the minimum extent necessary, and the remainder of this Dispute Resolution Agreement shall remain effective to the fullest extent permitted by law.

12f. Exceptions

Nothing in this Dispute Resolution Agreement shall prevent either party from pursuing a claim in California small claims court when the claim qualifies for small claims jurisdiction and remains an individual action.

Nothing in this Agreement prevents either party from seeking temporary, preliminary, or other provisional injunctive relief from a court of competent jurisdiction when necessary to preserve the status quo or prevent immediate or irreparable harm pending mediation or arbitration, to the extent permitted by law.

Nothing in this Agreement is intended to prevent a person from filing a complaint, charge, or report with a governmental or regulatory agency where the right to do so cannot lawfully be restricted.

12g. Arbitration Fees and Costs

Arbitration fees and costs shall be allocated in accordance with applicable law and the rules governing the arbitration.

Nothing in this Agreement shall require a Member to pay arbitration fees or costs that applicable law requires Connectress to pay.

Each party shall otherwise bear its own attorneys' fees and expenses unless a statute, this Agreement, or other applicable law authorizes the arbitrator to award attorneys' fees or costs to the prevailing party.

12h. Governing Law

This Membership Agreement and any dispute arising out of or relating to it shall be governed by the laws of the **State of California**, without regard to California's conflict-of-law principles.

To the extent that a dispute is permitted to proceed in court rather than arbitration, the parties agree that the action shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction in **Los Angeles County, California**, except where applicable law requires otherwise.

12i. Member-to-Member Disputes

Connectress provides opportunities for members to meet, develop professional relationships, exchange referrals, collaborate, and conduct business independently.

Connectress is not a party to agreements, transactions, referrals, professional engagements, purchases, sales, collaborations, partnerships, investments, or other business relationships entered into between members.

Members are expected to make reasonable, good-faith efforts to resolve disputes arising between themselves.

Connectress shall have no obligation to mediate, arbitrate, investigate, adjudicate, or otherwise resolve a private business or personal dispute between members. Connectress may, however, take appropriate action concerning membership status or participation when a dispute or a member's conduct materially affects the safety, integrity, reputation, operations, or community standards of Connectress.

Any decision by Connectress concerning continued membership or participation is separate from the underlying private dispute between the members.

12j. Confidentiality

To the extent permitted by law, the parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of private mediation communications and arbitration proceedings, including documents and information exchanged specifically for purposes of dispute resolution, except where disclosure is reasonably necessary to enforce an agreement or arbitration award, comply with applicable law, obtain professional legal or tax advice, or exercise a legal right that cannot lawfully be restricted.

12k. Severability

If any provision of this Dispute Resolution Agreement is determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unenforceable, that provision shall be modified or severed to the minimum extent necessary, and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent permitted by law.

COMPLETE SIGNATURE SECTION ON NEXT PAGE

12l. Acknowledgment

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT REQUIRES CERTAIN DISPUTES BETWEEN ME AND CONNECTRESS TO BE RESOLVED THROUGH BINDING ARBITRATION AND THAT, FOR THOSE DISPUTES, I AM GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO HAVE THE MATTER DECIDED IN COURT BY A JUDGE OR JURY.

I acknowledge that I have had the opportunity to review this provision carefully, ask questions, and consult independent legal counsel before agreeing to it.

I voluntarily agree to these dispute-resolution provisions as a condition of membership in Connectress.

Member Name:

Business/Company:

Business Category/Profession:

Email:

Website:

Address: Address

City: City

State: State

Zip: Zip

Signature:  Signature

Date: 10/2/2026