



Business Leader Forum

– A Personal Board of Advisors for Your Life

Match with a group of leaders who regularly meet to discuss the challenges of running a business.

THE FORUM EXPERIENCE

A leadership position in a privately held business can be tough and lonely.

Forum provides leaders with a personal board of advisors to connect, learn, and grow both professionally and personally. Members have a unique opportunity to leverage the different perspectives of peer leaders in a confidential environment across 20 groups in North Carolina.

"I am part of several professional associations and Forum is by far the most rewarding. Sharing experiences with a diverse group of leaders provides valuable insights and unique perspectives." **Jennifer Struchen, CFO, DoubleRadius**

"My Forum group has been an incredible resource for my professional growth, providing a dynamic platform where the exchange of knowledge among fellow Members is truly invaluable. The insights and expertise shared within the group have significantly enriched my understanding and positively impacted my business acumen." **Amy E. Carroll, President, Trademark Properties**



fast facts.

AVERAGE FORUM SIZE

- 6-10 individuals in ownership or leadership positions within their company.

THE PLACEMENT PROCESS

- Matched so that each group has a diverse blend of experiences, viewpoints and industries.

NON-SOLICITATION POLICY

- Selling and self-promotion is prohibited within groups to keep motivations pure.

100% CONFIDENTIAL

- Forum members take a vow of confidentiality to keep each meeting a safe, judgment-free zone.

COST

- \$1,000 for an annual membership to The Center and a one-time \$1,000 initiation fee to join Forum.

TIME COMMITMENT

- 4-5 hour meeting per month; plus an annual 2-day retreat.

LOCATIONS

- Each Forum is comprised of business leaders across the state of North Carolina.

PEER-MODERATED

- Members rotate shared leadership roles following a self-facilitated, programmatic meeting format.

Sample 4 Hour Forum Agenda

- 1:00 p.m. **Welcome, Meeting Goals and Shared Leadership Role Selection**
- 1:05 p.m. **Confidentiality Check and Words for the Good**
Moderator reminds members of the importance of confidentiality and asks whether any issues have arisen that could prevent full and open discussion.
- 1:15 p.m. **Discussion Starter - 1 Minute Per Member**
Discussion starter is assigned to a different member each meeting. That member asks a question. Responses are timed and uninterrupted.
- 1:25 p.m. **Uninterrupted Updates - 5 Minutes Per Member**
Each member updates group on key matters occupying their thoughts focusing on their feelings. No discussion.
- 2:20 p.m. **"If I Were to Work on One Issue Today, It Would Be _____"**
Each member identifies the one key issue that he/she would discuss that day.
- 2:25 p.m. **Issue Prioritization**
Each person rates his/her priority issue using a 5-point rating scale. Group reaches consensus on the most important issues to discuss that day.
- 2:35 p.m. **Break - 10 Minutes**
- 2:45 p.m. **First Topic Exploration - 45-60 Minutes**
Deep dive into an issue topic using Forum's discussion flow chart.
- 3:45 p.m. **Break - 10 Minutes**
- 3:55 p.m. **Second Topic Exploration - 30-45 Minutes**
Deep dive into an issue topic using Forum's discussion flow chart.
- 4:35 p.m. **Future Forum Calendaring and Reminders**
- 4:50 p.m. **Meeting Debrief: What Worked and What Didn't? How Can We Improve?**
Members are encouraged to provide feedback on how the meeting went to assist the Moderator in conducting future meetings.
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

■ FROM OUR MEMBERS

"You can bring any issue to the Forum, work or personal, and talk with someone with a similar experience and useful perspective. We recognize the value it brings to us as leaders. We can listen and lean in with experiences, instead of our natural inclination to give advice.

We believe the Forum's common structure gives us effective tools for our work and day-to-day interactions. This helps make us better leaders and better people, too."

**Mac Steele, President, J.C. Steele & Sons, Inc.
5th Generation Family Business**

