Thank you for joining:

*Why and How to Join a Nonprofit Board*

The webinar will begin shortly.

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Why and How to Join a Nonprofit Board

Presented by: Misha Charles, GSEHD MA '08

February 14, 2013
12 pm – 1pm ET
Why and How to Join a Nonprofit Board

Misha Charles

14 February 2013
You Can Make a Difference

That’s Why

You can also:

- Develop new skills and insights
- Expand your professional and social networks
- Find meaning
Beyond the Smoke-filled Room

- Visibility
- Regulation
- Professionalization
- Diversity
Boards 101
The Order of Things

Board

CEO

[Diagram of organizational structure with multiple levels]
Governance

If management is about running the business, governance is about seeing that it is run properly.

Robert Tricker

Governance is the distribution of legitimate authority to influence and enact policies and decisions; it defines who has the power, who is in charge, and who is responsible; its primary roles are setting the direction, ensuring adequate resources and overseeing the health of the organization.

Fiduciary Duties

- Care
- Loyalty
- Obedience
# Responsibilities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Board</th>
<th>Individual Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Define mission and vision</td>
<td>- Work in committees</td>
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<td>- Set strategic direction</td>
<td>- Participate in meetings</td>
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<td>- Hire and evaluate CEO</td>
<td>- Contribute expertise</td>
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<td>- Provide fiscal oversight</td>
<td>- Make annual gift</td>
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<td>- Ensure resources</td>
<td>- Expand reach and visibility</td>
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<td>- Monitor programs</td>
<td>- Ask questions</td>
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<td>- Ensure compliance</td>
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<td>- Recruit, develop members</td>
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Position Description
Wanted

- Mission-alignment
  Do you believe in the mission and how it is executed?

- Availability
  Do you have time to help govern an organization?

- Experience
  Do you have a background, perspective, or professional expertise that the organization needs and are you prepared to contribute it?

- Resources
  Do you have resources to contribute, e.g. social and professional networks, facilities, money?
Not Wanted

- Resume builders
- Absentee directors
- Director-managers
- Lone rangers
Joining a Board
The Process

It varies

Outreach by Nominating Cmte Board Members CEO

Engagement through Interviews Meetings

Nomination

Vote
Where to Look

- Favorite organizations
- Alumni and professional associations, charter schools
- Networks
- LinkedIn
- Idealist
- Training/placement programs
- Bridgespan
- Boardnet USA
The Moves
Positioning Yourself for Board Membership

- Volunteer time and expertise
- Learn the issue
- Add a cause to your LinkedIn profile
- Host an event
- Meet staff, volunteers, board
- Share your network
- Make a financial gift
The Questions

What to Ask as You Consider Board Membership

- Strategic plan
- Expectations
- Terms
- Monthly time commitment
- Meeting frequency
- Finances
- Board giving policy
- Directors & officers insurance
- Orientation process
Raise the Bar
Checkered Reputation

"There is one thing all boards have in common . . . . They do not function."

Peter Drucker

“Effective governance by a board of trustees is a relatively rare and unnatural act . . . . trustees are often little more than high-powered, well-intentioned people engaged in low-level activities."

Richard Chait, Thomas Holland, and Barbara Taylor

"Ninety-five percent (of boards) are not fully doing what they are legally, morally, and ethically supposed to do."

Harold Geneen

"Boards have been largely irrelevant throughout most of the twentieth century."

James Gillies

“Boards tend to be, in fact, incompetent groups of competent individuals."

John Carver and Miriam Carver
Be an All-Star

- Know the numbers
- Focus on governance
- Ask constructive questions
- Know meeting procedure
- Learn what you do not know
- Step up to leadership
- Be flexible
- Be generous
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