Excellence in Board Governance

Don’t Just Sit There

Dr. Monica Scamardo
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What’s Your Legacy on the Board?
# Which Board Member Are You?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weak Members</th>
<th>OK Members</th>
<th>Good Members</th>
<th>Exceptional Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they say</strong></td>
<td>“This will look great on my resume.”</td>
<td>“What do I have to do?”</td>
<td>“How can I be most helpful?”</td>
<td>“Thanks for the opportunity. Let’s get to work.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they add</strong></td>
<td>Dead weight</td>
<td>The minimum</td>
<td>Dedication</td>
<td>Passion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they take</strong></td>
<td>A valuable spot</td>
<td>Instructions</td>
<td>Role seriously</td>
<td>Time to do 110+%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How they look</strong></td>
<td>“cool”</td>
<td>Usual</td>
<td>Eager</td>
<td>Unassuming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What they read</strong></td>
<td>TV Guide</td>
<td>Time Magazine</td>
<td>Industry newsletters</td>
<td>Servant Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whom they serve</strong></td>
<td>themselves</td>
<td>Their obligations</td>
<td>The organization</td>
<td>The org &amp; community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from National Council of Nonprofits
Think back to a board position you held in which the experience was problematic for you, the organization, or the community.

Why was it so terrible? What happened? Interventions, outcomes?

What lessons did you learn from the experience?
8 Best Practices of the Most Successful Boards & Members

• Passionate About the Mission & Purpose
• Behave Based on the Mission & Purpose
• Make Decisions Based on the Mission & Purpose
• Prepared to Contribute Strategically at Meetings
• Build Trusted Relationships
• Engage Between Meetings
• Activist for the Organization’s Mission
• Communicate How the Organization Creates Value
An Exceptional Board Governance Experience

• Think about the most exceptional board governance experience you have had in your career.

• What made it so impactful? Outcomes of it?

• What were your lessons learned from it?
Personal Core Values

Clarify your understanding of who you are
Require no justification to others
Guide you in making decisions and choices
Run all your relationships
Does Your Network Support Your Legacy?
Who are the individuals in your network?
Mistakes in Networks

• Too formal
• Too many
• Too safe
• Too biased
• Too superficial
• Too inconsistent
What will be Your Legacy as a Board Member?
A well-written life is almost as rare as a well-spent one.

The **choices** we make about the lives we live **determine** the kinds of legacies we leave.

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