

Possible Topics and Their Order for the Free Management Library's Blog: Boards of Directors

The blog is likely to include posts about the following topics and in the following order. However, it's not uncommon in blogs that the posts follow an order of topics as suggested by readers of the blog. Thus, the following topics and their order cannot be guaranteed. The blog is about Boards of corporations, including for-profit and nonprofit corporations.

BOARD ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Variety of Boards Models for You

- What's the Difference Between Nonprofit and For-profit Boards?
- What is a Board of Directors?
- How Much Should Your Board Be Involved in Management?
- What Does a Healthy Board Look Like?
- Variety of Board Models to Consider
- Some New Board Models to Also Think About
- Typical Phases of Growing Your Board
- Other Types of “Boards” to Be Aware Of
- Most Important Governance Documents to Know About

Board Roles and Responsibilities

- Fiduciary Duties (Legal Responsibilities) of Your Board
- How to Minimize Your Liabilities as a Board Member
- How to Ensure Ethical Behavior of Your Board Members
- What Board Committees (or Task Forces) Typically Do
- Understanding the Roles of Your Board Members and Officers
- Critical Role of Your Board Chair
- Leadership Role of Your Executive Committee
- Your Board and Staff – So Who Usually Does What?
- Overview of Typical Board and Staff Relationships

HOW BOARD MEMBERS DO THEIR WORK

Your Board Calendar (Your Board’s Important Annual Tasks)

Strategic Planning: Direction for Your Board and Organization

- All Else Flows From Your Strategic Planning
- Guidelines to Develop Your Basic Strategic Plan for Now
- Sample Planning Process for Short-Term Strategic Plan
- How to Develop Your Initial Strategic Plan Now

How to Staff and Fully Equip Your Board

- Different Approaches You Can Use to Staff Your Board
- Adopt a Comprehensive, Yet Practical, Board Staffing Policy
- How to Identify the Best Potential Board Members
- How Potential Members Can Apply to Your Board
- How to Successfully Orient Members to Your Board

How to Be Sure Your Board Members Are Always Fully Informed
How to Recognize / Thank Your Board Members
How to Retire Your Board Members
How to Remove a Board Member
Answers to Some Frequently Asked Questions About Board Staffing

How to Organize Board Committees (If You Use Them)

Do You Want to Use Committees or Not? (Advantages and Disadvantages)
How to Organize Committees (or Task Forces) If You Choose to Use Them
What Each Committee Typically Does -- Its Typical Goals and Objectives
How to Successfully Start a Committee (or Task Force)
Work Plan -- Roadmap for Success of Your Committees (or Task Force)
How to Form an Advisory Board

Board Decision Making

Typical Types of Decisions Your Board Should Make
How to Ensure Effective Decisions On Your Board
How to Guide Your Board Members Come to Consensus
How to Be Sure Your Board Members Participative in Board Decisions

Strategic Oversight -- What Your Board Needs to Do:

To Ensure Strong Communications With Stakeholders
For Relevant and Realistic Strategic Planning
To Ensure Products and Programs Meet the Needs of Consumers
For Fair and Equitable Human Resources Management
To Ensure Sound Management of Finances and Taxes
When Monitoring All Kinds of Performance
For Safe Risk Management
To Ensure Sustainability of the Organization
To Regularly Measuring the Overall Health of the Organization
To Ensure Transparency and Accountability in Governance

How to Have Productive Board Meetings

How to Design Successful Board Meetings
Strategic Questions Your Board Members Should Always Ask
Avoid "Sidebar Meetings"
Roberts' Rules of Order -- Most Important Rules to Use
How to Compose Meaningful Board Meeting Minutes
When to Use an Executive Session (in camera)
When to Have an Open Board Meeting
How to Be Sure Each Member Takes Full Responsibility for Meetings

How to Ensure a High-Quality Board

Here's One Set of Core "Best Practices" for Boards
How to Design Useful Board Retreats For Renewal, Reflection and Planning
How Board Members Can Find the Root Causes of Problems in Their Organization
Matching Board's Priorities to Life Cycle of the Organization
How Board Members Can Measure Their Board Performance
How to Ensure Full Participation of All Board Members

BOARD AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

How to Hire Your Chief Executive Officer

- What Does a Chief Executive Officer Do?
- Wrong Reasons to Hire Chief Executive
- Right Reasons to Hire Chief Executive
- How to Determine the Compensation for Your Chief Executive
- How to Use an Employment Contract With Your Chief Executive
- How to Recruit and Select Your Chief Executive
- How to Orient Your New Chief Executive

How to Work With Your Chief Executive

- How Your Board and CEO Are Really In a Strategic Partnership
- How to Ensure Effective Relations Between Your Board and Your Chief Executive
- How to Ensure Effective Relations Between Your Board Chair and Chief Executive
- How to Evaluate Your Chief Executive Officer
- How to Quickly Replace Your Chief Executive Office

RESTORING STRUGGLING BOARDS

Context for Restoring Your Board

- Issues to Avoid On Your Board
- Common Types of “Broken” Boards
- General Principles for Restoring Your Board
- Why Board Training or Team Building Alone Won’t Transform Your Board
- Specific Principles for Restoring Your Board

Procedures to Restore Your Board

- Proven Steps to Transform Your Board
- How to Manage Interpersonal Conflicts
- How to Manage Board Conflict and Come to Decisions
- How to Get Your Board Members Unstuck

Recovering From Founder’s Syndrome

- What is Founder’s Syndrome?
- Leadership and Founder’s Syndrome – the Good and Bad
- Actions Your Board Members Must Take
- Actions Your Founder Must Take
- Actions Your Staff Members Might Take