

Center for Nonprofit Leadership Newsletter

September, 2013

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Upcoming Events

FREE Center Webinar Watch

Join us for a FREE webinar to learn how to maximize your fundraising efforts through proven tactics and smart strategies. This one-hour session will dissect what works in direct mail and e-mail fundraising and offer insights into why.



Fall is a good time to step back and reflect on developing and strengthening the board. The right board is critical to organizational performance and impact. This month's LeadTime offers articles and resources to help you develop the board of directors that you always wanted and enrich your current board. Consider forwarding LeadTime to members of your board.

Getting the Right Members on Boards

Before recruiting new board members a board must be clear who and what the organization needs on the board. The Center encourages organizations to build a board for where an organization is going, not for where it has been. A governance committee (or nominating committee) usually is charged with board development.

Check out the [Prospective Board Candidate Form](#) on the Center's website. An article in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* makes a strong case for how to recruit the right board members.

To read more [click here](#)

The Board Chair is a Key Leadership Position

September 26, 2013
Adelphi University,
School of Social Work,
Room 302
2:00 to 3:30 pm

If you're a nonprofit executive, development officer, or interested staff member and would like to attend, please email Diane Wunderlich at dwunderlich@adelphi.edu

A Webinar to Watch on Your Own

Why do nonprofits so broadly fail to use their boards wisely? And how might they do better? This FREE webinar will look at four interrelated areas: Membership, process, capacity, and fiduciary issues.

September 18, 2013
1:00 to 2:00 pm

To register, [click here](#)



Clearly defined board member roles and expectations are critical for successful boards. This is especially true for the role of board chair. It is important that the incoming fully understands his/her role and responsibilities. An article in the *Philanthropy Journal* discusses keys to successful board chair leadership.

To read more [click here](#)

Board Self-Assessments, a Valuable Tool

A board self-assessment is an efficient way to get input from all of your board members on how the full board is performing. An assessment leads to a shared understanding of the board's responsibilities related to compliance, structure, accountability, financial oversight, and ultimately, setting direction for the organization. And, it provides the framework for setting priorities that will maintain the organization's strengths and will address those areas needing improvement. Check out the [Board Evaluation Form](#) on the Center's website.

For more reasons to conduct this and other board assessments, [click here](#)

A Board Member's Guide to Mergers

Compasspoint developed a guide to help nonprofit board members and executives think through mergers. The booklet, which can be downloaded from the Center's website, will help you (1) understand how and why to explore a merger; (2) consider alternatives to mergers; (3) differentiate between the roles of boards, staff and funders; (3) know what to expect and look for during the merger process; (4) and decide whether a merger is a viable option.

To download *The M Word: A Board Member's Guide to Mergers*, [click here](#)

Quick Links

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Center Board Development Resources

The Center for Nonprofit Leadership offers a variety of resources for boards such as board meeting evaluation, board member contracts, bylaws and code of ethics. Visit the Center's website for downloads.

[Visit here](#)

AU Volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island

On Thursday, August 8, the Center's Program Coordinator, Diane Wunderlich, led administrative staff and family members from Adelphi University as they volunteered at the *Ronald McDonald House of Long Island*. They prepared and cooked dinner for 85 guests. Coming back to the House after spending a long day at the hospital, families appreciated the good, home-cooked meal.



From left to right, Tim McGovern, Gina McGovern, Camille McCue, Pat Durecko, Claire Durecko, Patti Valerio, Kelly Valerio, Angelina LaMacchia, Tommy Wunderlich, Diane Wunderlich and Brooke Wunderlich.