

10 TIPS FOR NONPROFIT BOARD MEMBERS

QUEEN'S BENCH

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1. Be passionate about the cause.
2. Be clear about the difference between nonprofit and tax-exemption.
3. Clarify whether the organization is a direct-management or delegated-management organization. This dramatically affects what your duties are.
4. Understand the standards by which you act—duties of due care and loyalty and a requirement that you follow the corporate purpose.
5. Encourage board agendas that allow the board to focus on the big picture and ask interesting questions.
6. Support diversity of all kinds on the board and in the organization.
7. Support the Executive Director (if there is one) who is doing a good job. Generally, the most successful nonprofits are those with a good, long-term ED or CEO.
8. Make sure the organization attends to board development.
9. Watch out for some common problems—e.g., misclassification of employees as independent contractors, failure to have good financial controls, conflicts of interest, failure to file Forms 990, 990EZ or 990N.
10. Do good! Have fun!