10 Examples of Good Behavior from Board Members

Posted by Jim Berigan in All Fundraising Ideas | 0 comments

I have recently been asked to consider volunteering to be on a non-profit board. This has got me to thinking about what makes a good board member and if I, myself, have those characteristics.

Today, I will brainstorm a list of admirable traits that I have encountered in board members I have known and worked with over the years. Tomorrow, I'll tackle the flip side.

So, here are ten attributes I have found helpful and valuable in a person who serves on a non-profit board of directors. There are plenty more, of course, but these are a good start. See if what I think matches up with your thoughts.

1. Knows that his or her role is to protect and preserve the overall mission of the organization, not to be involved in daily operations.
2. Sincerely desirous to serve the executive director. Has an attitude of “How can I help you?”
3. Willing to share his or her professional expertise, experience, and contacts, when appropriate.
4. Willing to show up at organizational events, like fundraisers, service projects, or award ceremonies and help by working a shift or just schmoozing with other supporters.
5. Does his or her absolute best to keep the organization free from emotional drama and politics. Puts the mission of the non-profit over personal concerns.
6. Is a problem solver, not a finger pointer.
7. Reads the notes the director puts together and sends out BEFORE coming to the board meeting. He or she is prepared to discuss the matters at hand.
8. Defers to the director’s judgment on day to day basis.
9. Is loyal to the organization and executive director out in public.
10. Is on the look out for new people who could become board members in the future.

Well, do some of these sound familiar? I hope many of them do. If you have a person or even a few people who have at least some of these traits on your board, consider yourself very fortunate.

Tomorrow, we'll take a look at some of the characteristics of bad board members. That should be fun!

Photo by: Enokson