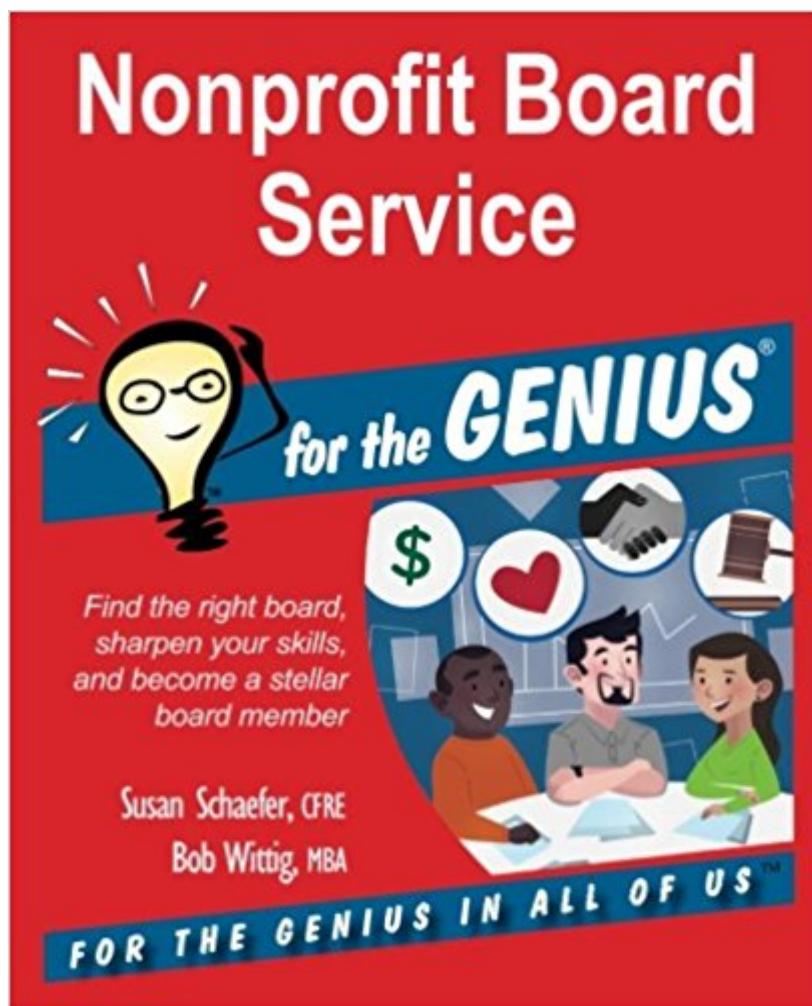


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Nonprofit Board Service For The GENIUS



Synopsis

Nonprofit Board Service for the GENIUS is a first-of-its kind reference for the millions of people who are seeking to serve on a nonprofit board or already serve on one. It is a fun, informative read that candidly highlights a board member's ups and downs. Perfect for the novice, the veteran who needs a refresher, or the executive director looking to take the group to a higher level; it has been acclaimed by experts as the resource that the sector has been waiting for. The book takes the reader through the process of searching for a board, the first year of membership, into the leadership realm, and beyond. It is ideal for these purposes: Decision-making tool for finding the right board Board orientation takeaway Board meeting reference Board development resource Executive director training Nonprofit training text The book and its appendices contain a number of templates and sample documents that will help any nonprofit strengthen its value. Nonprofit Board Service for the GENIUS moves sequentially through the stages of nomination, early candidacy, and more advanced topics: Part 1: Board Service with Your Eyes Wide Open Chapter 1: Why Would Anyone Want to Serve on a Nonprofit Board? Chapter 2: Board Basics Chapter 3: Just the Facts Chapter 4: Finding the Right Match Chapter 5: Getting From Here to There: From Candidate to Board Member Part 2: Hit the Ground Running Chapter 6: Ready, Set, Action! Wait, Who Does What? Chapter 7: Board Anatomy 101 Chapter 8: Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, 990s...Oh My! Chapter 9: Creating a Roadmap: Strategic Thinking and Planning Part 3: Digging In Chapter 10: Budgets: A Financial Blueprint Chapter 11: Other Fun Financials Chapter 12: From Ambassador to Advocate Chapter 13: The "F" Word: Fundraising Chapter 14: Risk Management: Covering Your Assets Chapter 15: Measuring Organizational Success: The Board's Role Part 4: Behind the Curtain Chapter 16: Board Recruitment: The Dating Game Chapter 17: Orientation: An Essential Beginning Chapter 18: Make Meetings Magical Part 5: The Care and Feeding of Your Leaders Chapter 19: ED-Chair Partnership: The Dynamic Duo Chapter 20: Supporting and Evaluating the ED Chapter 21: Hiring and Firing the ED Chapter 22: What If Your Leaders Flee to Cancun? Chapter 23: Founders and Long-Time Leaders Part 6: Taking the Reins Chapter 24: Assessing the Board's Performance Chapter 25: Keeping Board Members Engaged and Connected Chapter 26: When Things Go Awry Chapter 27: Board Culture: Boards Are People Too Appendices include a sample board commitment form, individual board member fundraising plan, conflict of interest policy, whistleblower policy, document retention and destruction policy, and executive director evaluation. Nonprofit Board Service for the GENIUS is a must-have guide for these groups: Executive directors looking to propel the board to the next level Community members interested in exploring board service Novice board members driven to learn more Veteran board members who would like to

brush up on basics or take on a leadership post. With real examples of inspiration and what to avoid, the book's vignettes show that board work takes time and commitment, but enables creativity and provides immense personal and professional benefits and opportunities. Its spirited tone will follow readers to the boardroom and into communities around the country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As legal counsel in my fourth decade of practice, and legal advisor to several dozen nonprofit organization boards, I can't tell you how many serious legal issues have arisen for organizations, and even sometimes for individual board members, simply because those serving failed to fully comprehend their rights and responsibilities as board members. In my quest to increase their skills and competency, over the years I have recommended to board members various books and booklets--with mixed results. Frankly, most of what's available has fallen short, one way or another. As you can imagine, I have been on something of a quest for a fun-to-read yet thorough book that I can put into the hands of every board member--not just those new to a board, but those who have been serving for years and don't know what they don't know. I'm pleased to say that Schaefer and Wittig have written a thorough yet surprisingly conversational and fast-reading guide, which is good--board members are busy people! So, as part of my mission to educate board members on their role, I am going to make sure that the boards I advise give a copy of this book to each board member--even if I have to pay for the copies myself. I will also recommend that it be included in every new-board-member orientation packet, and I plan to conduct board workshops based on it, as well.

I recently purchased "Nonprofit Board Service" and found this book to be exceptionally well written and practical; it is also timely, as more people consider joining boards as a way to engage in skills-based volunteering. Having sat on a non-profit board and recruited members to non-profit boards, I was delighted to finally have a resource I could hand out to potential board members as well as first-time recruits. For example, the chapters on "Budgets" (Chapter 10) and "Other Fun Financials" (Chapter 11) provide the fundamentals for new recruits who have a passion for the mission but would like to educate themselves on non profit business models. This book also offers plenty of advice and tips for seasoned board members and board chairs as it tackles the trickier issues of assessing the board's performance (Chapter 24), how to keep board members engaged and connected (Chapter 25), and what to do when things go awry (Chapter 26). The book chapters are so well organized, having richness in detail while not being overwhelmingly jargon laden, that the book would work really well as textbook or reference material for introductory courses on Non Profit Management, Social Entrepreneurship, and Social Innovation. Overall, I highly recommend this book for anyone who is considering joining a non-profit board as well as currently serving on a board!

Nonprofit Board Service for the GENIUS is a must-have primer for anyone who has worked with or served as a board member! This book has something for everyone. If you are considering joining a non-profit board, Wittig and Schaefer's book guides you through the process of finding the right fit for your passion to serve. If you are already a board member, this book will help you increase your personal effectiveness and the overall effectiveness of the nonprofit you serve. If you work with a board, you will treasure this book as a "go-to" resource for training and guiding your board members to new levels of competency, fulfillment, and self-satisfaction. In sum, Nonprofit Board Service for the GENIUS matches our passion for serving with the tools needed to be competent stewards of the nonprofits we guide. If you want to be a more effective leader and advance the mission of your chosen organization--you NEED a copy of this book!

This is a must read if you serve or are interested in serving in the nonprofit community. It is clear, to the point with highly useful information with charts and quick tips to ensure you everyone's time and resources are maximized. You can quickly pinpoint the information you need and get needed answers and direction. I think this should be the first thing any board chair gives a new board member!

I got this book to have as a resource in my position as a charter school governance committee chair, and I will be recommending it to - or providing it for - all our new members. The Genius guide is practical and easy to use. It's comprehensive, but not overwhelming. I wanted help improving the process for evaluating our board, and started with that section. The chapter is full of good ideas and examples. I also found tools for executive director evaluations and succession planning, which are the next items on my to-do list.

I bought a copy of this book as a gift for each member of my board as part of our recent board retreat. This is an easy to read reference book that should provide valuable guidance on the issues big and small that are part and parcel of board service. It is appropriate whether you are a new or seasoned board member.

This uncomplicated, easily digestible book contains practical tools and tips for clarifying the essential building blocks of any mission-driven organization: goals, roles, processes, and relationships. And, using the guiding questions for each of the book's sections will help any board newbie or long-timer sound like a GENIUS!

Good reference book for anyone trying to construct or re-construct a board.

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