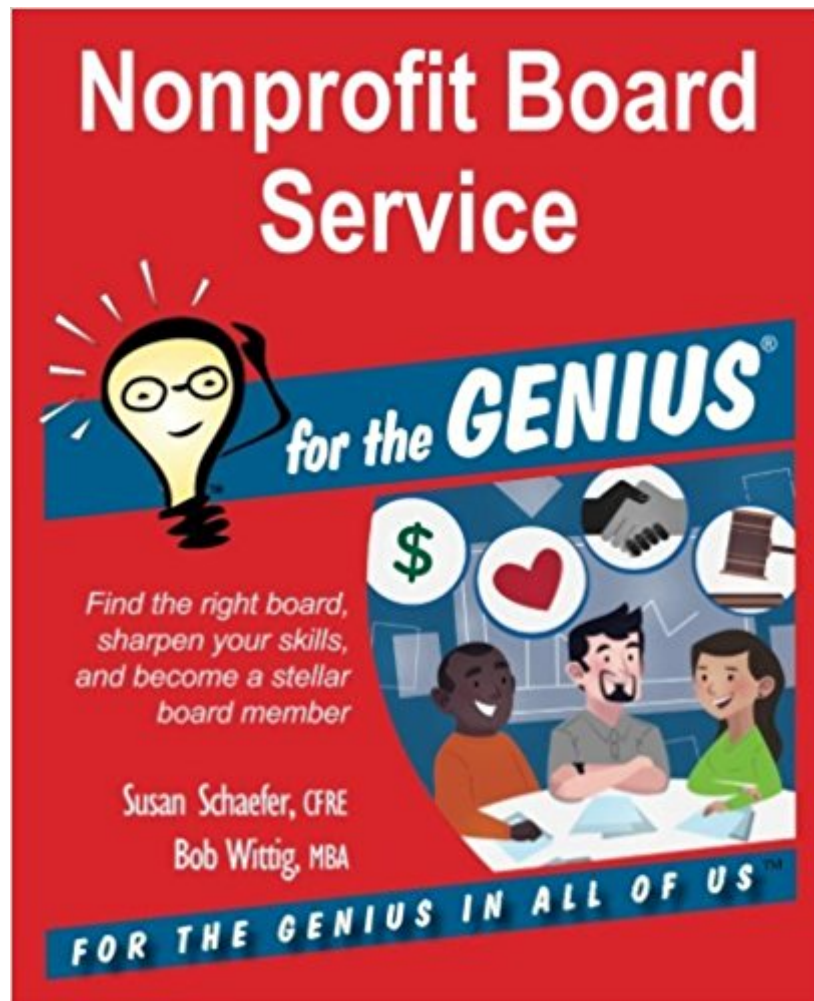


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# Nonprofit Board Service For The GENIUS



## 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**

Written with elegant clarity, real world expertise, and a gentle dose of wit this essential tool will help shape the future of nonprofit boards and their impact in the world. The book simultaneously serves as a primer, a practical template, a trusted guide, and a vision setting resource that will equip, renew, and align boards with vital energy. This book will be in the library of every organization that wishes to thrive, on the desk of every executive director that wishes to navigate the dynamic relationships that create stellar boards, in the briefcase of every board president and member who wishes to exercise their contribution with mastery, and on the laptop or tablet of every individual that is considering the best way to make their nonprofit impact in the world. From seasoned veteran to next-generation leaders learning to participate in the generative process, this book will serve as tool, guide, and friend. The website is of particular value with added features including's chapter summaries, blog, commentary, and webinars that support the field. Integrating expertise, years of experience, practical templates and resources, with wit and humor that enriches the ride, readers will find themselves thriving along the nonprofit journey. These authors recognize what is essential in creating boards of excellence. From my years of nonprofit experience I can solidly encourage you to

welcome this book into your world and share it with your boards and potential board members! Two thumbs up and hands-down one of the best nonprofit reads this year and possibly the decade.

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 serve on a nonprofit board and this book is making all the difference in my service. My learning curve is much less steep, my missteps are fewer, and my contribution more valuable thanks to this helpful, well-written guide. Christopher Madison

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!

As someone who has served as a board member on various boards both big and small, and who serves on the board of an organization she founded and still runs, I can honestly say that this is the most helpful resource on board service I have ever encountered. What struck me most about it was the comfortable combination of simple clarity and tremendous range and depth of thought. Covering just about every topic directly related to what a good board should do and be -- from the basics that all board members need to understand and take responsibility for (do your board members REALLY understand how those financial statements work and what they mean?), to the steps one can take to create an effective, inspired and engaged board meeting, to the creation of a culture of giving on your board that helps members become comfortable advocates for your cause -- there is no question that Wittig and Shaefer's book is a must read for nonprofit board members, board chairs, and EDs, no matter the size of the organization. It has real power -- the power to make an ineffective board truly functional and a good board so much better. Like many of those who have reviewed the book here, I plan to buy it for my board members. It is an essential read.

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