





Building Better Boards

Lisa M. Dietlin
President and CEO
Lisa M. Dietlin and Associates, Inc.
November 12 – 13, 2009

www.lmdietlin.com

What's the Difference?

Volunteers, Donors and Board Members

- ❖ Volunteers give their time
- ❖ Donors give their money
- ❖ Board members give both

www.lmdietlin.com

Types of Boards

- Governing
- Advisory
- Honorary

First Things First

- Audit and assessment of current board
 - ❖ Current composition
 - ❖ Average length of service
 - ❖ Financial support
 - ❖ Other factors to consider as appropriate
- Benchmark other institutions/nonprofit organizations

Job Description (not optional)

- Clear and concise
- Outlines expectations, responsibilities and duties and term limits
- Include a time commitment
- Include a financial expectation

Support and Buy – In

- Organization Leadership
- Board Leadership
- Staff Leadership

www.lmdietlin.com



Financial Component

- What do you expect from your board members?
- When do you expect the donation?
- Is it a get or give attitude?

www.lmdietlin.com

How To Begin

- Decide how to approach current board members regarding the change:
 - ❖ Group
 - ❖ 1:1
 - ❖ Letter
 - ❖ Phone
- Get the ball rolling!

www.lmdietlin.com

Keeping Your Board Involved

- Critical to Success is Board Involvement
- Ways to keep your Board Members Involved
 - ❖ Committee Work
 - Regular; Special; Ad Hoc; Blue Ribbon; Task Force
 - ❖ Guest Speaking/Teaching
 - ❖ Mentoring
 - ❖ Special Projects
 - ❖ Featured in organization's publications
 - ❖ Other
- LMDA's Golden Rule

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

Ways to stay in touch with Board Members:

- 1:1 conversations
- Many connections with the organization
- Electronic newsletters/bulletins
- Regular newsletters
- Special projects

Evaluating and Adjusting

- Attendance
- Participation
- Financial Contributions
- Special Assignments



Questions?

Contact Information:

Lisa M. Dietlin
President & CEO
Lisa M. Dietlin and Associates, Inc
PO Box 7029
Chicago, IL 60680-7029
(773) 772-4465
(773) 772-0073 f
lisa@lmdietlin.com
www.lmdietlin.com

www.lmdietlin.com
