Building Better Boards
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What's the Difference?
Volunteers, Donors and Board Members

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

Financial Component

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

How To Begin

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

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