

Getting the Most Out of Your Board Meeting

Overview

Whenever your board members gather for a meeting, there's a lot of wisdom and passion in the room. Are you getting maximum value out of that precious time?

Webinar

Board Meetings with Susan Howlett

[Webinar Recording](#)

Date: May 31, 2017

Whether you're an all-volunteer organization or a major institution, you can get more out of your board members – as leaders, ambassadors, and fundraisers – if you use meeting time more strategically. You'll leave this lively webinar with practical, no-cost tips for getting your trustees fired up at the meetings and doing more between meetings

This webinar will help you to:

- Focus your agendas on the most important topics;
- Engage everyone in the conversations (not just the usual suspects)
- Make real progress, including clear next steps for leaders to commit to.

Presenter

Susan Howlett

<https://susanhowlett.com>

Susan Howlett has been eliciting optimal leadership from boards for over 40 years, as a trustee herself, as an executive director, and as a consultant to thousands of nonprofits across the continent. Acclaimed author (***Boards on Fire*** and ***Getting Funded***) and long-time UW instructor, Susan speaks, trains and consults nationally, known for delivering sensible solutions to persistent problems with humor and stories.

Resources needed

1. Computer. We recommend you download the webinar onto the desktop so that you aren't relying on the Internet.
2. Projector/screen or HD television.
3. Handouts
 - Discussion Guide ([next page](#))
 - [Webinar PowerPoint](#)
 - [Follow-on Worksheets](#)

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Discussion Guide

Key questions

- Susan Howlett introduces the six elements of holding a great board meeting. Taking each one individually, how will you implement these six elements in your organization?
- What are specific ways you can educate your board to ensure all your members are equipped to be competent, responsible, powerful, and effective governors?

Clips of video

4:26 – 6:44 - **Planning your agenda**

Susan reviews the tendencies that lead to ineffective board meetings.

- Do your board meetings follow any of these tendencies? Why do you think that is?

6:44-37:04 – **Elements of a meeting**

Susan discusses the strategies that go into creating a compelling board meeting

- What strategies will you implement to re-inspire your board to become more connected with your organization's mission?
- How will you educate your board to be more knowledgeable of the field you are in.
- Which of these elements will be most beneficial in your future board meetings?

44:11-56:40 – **Governance as leadership**

Susan shares the three modes in which boards operate in

- How do these three modes (fiduciary, strategic, and generative) relate to one another?
- What special skills do your board members offer to create organizational opportunities?

Action steps

- Create an effective agenda to produce engaging correspondence among board members and develop focused attention
- Educate your board on various relatable topics so they may be equipped to make better and more informed decisions.
- Get your board to be bastions for your organization's mission and vision.

Resources for further study

Tools:

If you are looking for more information on boards operations and education contact Washington Nonprofits or 501 Commons for ideas and upcoming workshops.

- [Boards in Gear](#) – Washington Nonprofit Institute

Reading:

- [Boards on Fire!](#) by Susan Howlett

Website:

- <https://susanhowlett.com>