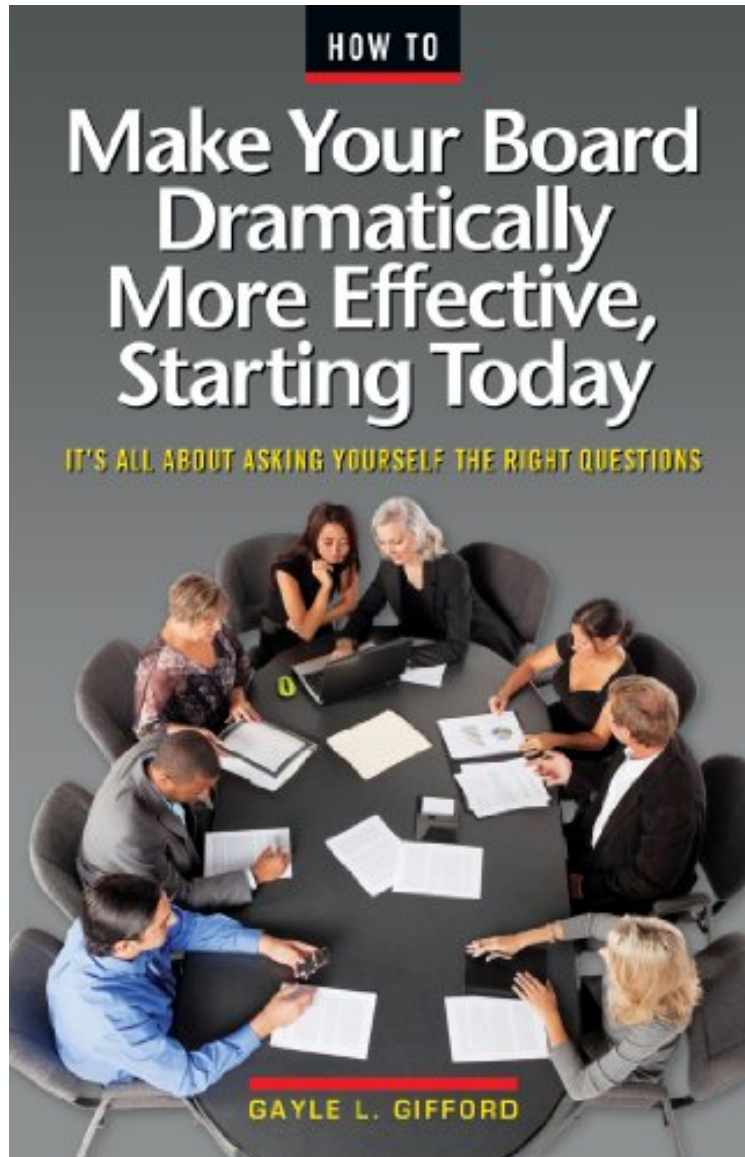


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# How to Make Your Board Dramatically More Effective, Starting Today

Gayle L. Gifford

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in our 501c3 organization. Many of the Board persons will need to read it and consult each other on the contents. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of those books you should read every year or so By John Matlock Most non-profits get a board of directors that are primarily interested in doing what the non-profit does, that is, choirs get singers, theaters get actors, the big horn sheep preservation society or the mule deer association get hunters. And that's good because they bring a drive and understanding to the organization and are willing to put in a lot of time and effort. But is a board of directors filled with such people the best kind to have -- probably not. A singer, actor, hunter probably doesn't understand the implications that down at the bottom, this is running a business. You have records that must be kept, for the IRS and the state if nothing else. The board should be a key part of the fundraising effort. This little book takes a somewhat different approach than most. The author presents a bunch of questions that the board members should discuss. They are broken down into three areas: Are we making our community better? How can we make our board members better? How do we attract the needed talent to our board? It is not a difficult book to read, but I think it is impossible to read it without getting a few ideas about what you should do at the next few board meetings. I think that this is a book that you should read, think about, work through the ideas you have. Then in a few months do it again. It's a small book, barely a hundred pages, but in reading it you will get an idea or two of things you should do to make your organization better. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Should be required for every new Board Member By cjc Every Board member, of a not-for-profit, should read this book. I have been volunteering for organizations for 30+ years - recently, the current board I am on, decided to do an educational session on enhancing our board and the work we do. We used this book as our guide and even better - secured the services of Gayle Gifford to guide us thru the process. The book is nicely written with each topic being presented as its own challenge question for thought provoking discussion. It definitely is a gem of a book that I wished I had connected with earlier in my career.

A high-performing, diligent board that takes its responsibilities seriously is the Holy Grail of nearly every nonprofit in the U.S. Such a board means more money raised, swifter policy decisions, steady governance, and less Advil for the CEO. But can you realistically get there from here? Can you put your average or good board on the road to greatness? Indeed you can, says Gayle Gifford, and you're closer than you think. Gifford's approach is as fresh as a morning-picked berry. She doesn't lecture, doesn't scold, doesn't harangue. Instead she challenges your board to transform itself by answering a series of probing questions. As your board answers (and sometimes debates) each one, they simultaneously take stock of the overall job they're doing - or not doing. All without delay or the help of an expensive board consultant!

Learning how to be a nonprofit board member is similar to parenting: most people learn on the job. For those already serving, or thinking about serving, on a nonprofit board, *How to Make Your Board Dramatically More Effective, Starting Today* offers practical insight and guidance. --Peter Lowry, MassNonprofit.org The contribution this book makes is not so much that it offers startling new answers on its own. Rather, the thoughtful questions it raises stimulate readers' own thinking, encouraging them to raise similar questions with their own boards. That's why I've ordered 30 copies. --Philip Love, for *In Trust Magazine* About the Author Gayle L Gifford is a provocative writer, respected consultant, creative strategist and long-time advocate for peace and justice. For Gayle, every nonprofit is a promise to its community, a societal commitment to create a better life full of hope, beauty, promise and equal opportunity for all.