

For the individual: Considering being a board member?

Here are some questions prospective board members should answer before joining a new board.

1. Why am I considering this board?
 - I admire the person who asked me to serve.
 - I believe in the mission of the organization.
 - I believe the organization needs to change and I can help it do so.
2. Do I have the time required to devote to this organization?
 - The executive director and board chairperson should tell you how much time you will be required to invest.
 - You should not accept a board position if you cannot give all the time expected.
3. Will I enjoy giving time to this organization through service on its board?
4. If financial support is expected, can I afford the level of support requested?
5. Would I be willing to ask my friends and associates for financial support for this organization?
6. What do I hope to accomplish by serving on this board?
 - Advancing the mission
 - Changing it into what I think it should be
 - Meeting new people
 - Gaining experience as a board member
 - Adding this experience to my resume
 - Making contacts for my business
7. Am I willing to serve the full term expected?
8. Do I know of anything going on at this organization that makes me reluctant to join?
If you answer yes, talk with the board chairperson, executive director, and two or three other board members to gain an understanding of the issue and the likelihood it can be simply resolved.