

How to Maintain a Healthy Board

By Bill Shewan, National Field Director

1. Develop unity by spending time with each other outside the Board.
2. Expect the Board Chair to really lead all aspects of the Board, then proactively follow his/her leadership, work together.
3. Own the responsibility of maintaining the board's vitality. This can be delegated to a permanent trustee affairs committee, or to a task force made up of board members, or to an individual.

This task involves overseeing:

- a. New member recruitment and screening, then presentation for Board approval
 - b. New member orientation.
 - c. Ongoing Board training – both in meetings and at regional/national events.
 - d. The organization (with ED & Board Chair) of annual Board retreats (if not overnight, a full day away).
 - e. The assigning and holding members accountable to visit the ministry in action.
 - f. With the Board Chair and ED, that each member has meaningful Board responsibilities outside of Board meetings
 - g. The creation of board traditions (like annual Christmas parties or Summer pool parties, and/or the awarding of annual awards to Board members, YFC volunteers, staff, etc.)
 - h. The celebration of God's hand of blessing on the ministry.
 - i. The Board's work of ministering to each other via prayer, visitation in times of loss, illness etc...
4. Realize it takes nearly 3 years for a board and a new Executive Director to know and understand each other. This is key to having a vital board. The Executive Director and Board **must trust, listen to and be honest** with each other.
 5. Remember that in the 1-2 years following the leaving of an Executive Director, there will likely be an increase in Board turnover.