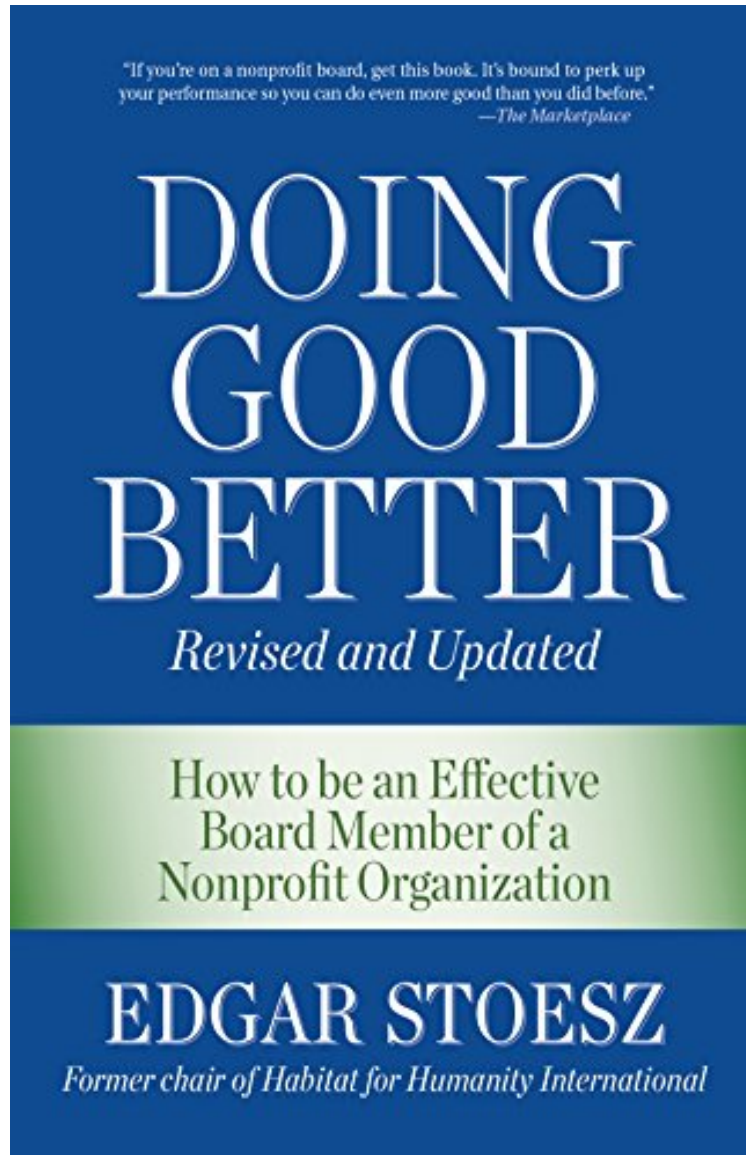


Doing Good Better: How to be an Effective Board Member of a Nonprofit Organization

Edgar Stoesz

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Edgar Stoesz : Doing Good Better: How to be an Effective Board Member of a Nonprofit Organization before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Doing Good Better: How to be an Effective Board Member of a Nonprofit Organization:

60 of 61 people found the following review helpful. Essential Reading for ANY nonprofit board memberBy A CustomerThis short book is a necessary resource for any new board member. I read it on first going on my local

Habitat for Humanity board, and have recommended it to every nonprofit board member I know. To a one, they come back and thank me for the recommendation. "Doing Good Better!" covers all of the essential information one needs to perform the nonprofit board member fiduciary responsibilities and obligations. And it does so succinctly and understandably. It is also written with an uplifting and positive tone -- it makes you feel good about what you're doing as a nonprofit supporter. I regularly refer back to this book both for support and encouragement, and to refresh my knowledge of my duties as a board member.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the best book on boards
By Sarah Sumner
This little book is so simply written, yet utterly profound like a Hemingway book. Often when the author quotes someone famous, he follows it with a statement of his own that I found to be even more helpful. My copy is all marked up with "Quote" written in the margin on page after page. The book is so simple, but not at all simplistic. It takes years of garnering wisdom to distill the content contained in this book which I read in one day because I am so excited it exists. I have read many other books on boards. This one -- if you've already read John Carver and Peter Drucker-- stands out. Edgar Stoesz takes the best of Carver, but doesn't serve Carver Hash. Rather, he shares his own lessons learned, yet as one who learned from Carver as he went. I am not going to take time to write much more. But I can tell you I appreciate his statement that good boardsmanship pertains to people. It's about people, not money. People are the "smelling salts" for troubling organizations. And I loved his chapter on Spirituality. And I laughed out loud a number of times at the way he puts things -- given my deep resonance with his experiences. I could go on and on about this book. One more highlight: Edgar Stoesz recommends a board of nine with no executive committee (no caste system within the board), but a standing Futures Committee since most boards spend way too little time thinking about the future.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Board Member helpful Hints
By Customer
It repeated a lot of what I read in "Board Member Orientation" by Michael E. Bates. There were some new ideas so I chose to keep it for reference as well!

This trusted handbook for nonprofit board service is newly revised and includes new case studies and even more tips and ideas from the trenches of nonprofit board work. Doing Good Better is approachable wisdom. Edgar Stoesz has made Doing Good Better a guidebook for both board members of nonprofits, whether new to the task, or highly experienced.

First, Stoesz identifies two failings common to many boards of nonprofit organizations that are often overlooked:

1. A board's governance role is very different from the role of management. Making this distinction requires a reorientation for most board member, because in their day jobs, they are managers or employees.
2. Boards often fail at two matters: a.) preparation of their members, and b.) regular evaluations of their own effectiveness and focus.

In short, pointedly-written chapters, Stoesz covers: Helping Directors Understand Their Governance Role, A Plan to Fulfill the Purpose, Reporting Back to the Members, Planning Effective Meetings, Great Boards Have a Good Fight (occasionally), Working Your Way Through a Crisis, Great Boards Celebrate, Leaving Right. Stoesz deftly interweaves background philosophy, vision, and razor-sharp specific ideas. "Discussion/Action Questions" conclude many of the chapters. In addition, Stoesz offers a Board Evaluation Form; a Director's Self-Evaluation Form; and an outline for the Executive Director Annual Review.

From Library Journal
The spirit of volunteerism has swollen the number of volunteer organizations to over 1.14 million in the United States. Many people are asked to participate as a director on a nonprofit board but are clueless about their responsibilities. Stoesz, who has served on religious and other nonprofit boards, and Raber, a management consultant, have written a simple book about nonprofit governance. It does not offer any particular insights about nonprofit management, but it is a good primer for those who want to form a nonprofit board. The chapter on legal dimensions is particularly useful. Recommended for public libraries.

Rebecca A. Smith, Harvard Business School
Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A very fine book on board leadership of nonprofit organizations. This particular book will be very beneficial to many people who are members of nonprofit boards across the country." - Millard Fuller, President and Founder, Habitat for Humanity, International "If you're on a nonprofit board, get this book. It's bound to perk up your performance so you can do even more good than you did before." -The Marketplace "Worth its weight in gold." -Academic Library Book "This is a clear, comprehensive, and useful manual on the "how-to" of being a board member or administrator of a nonprofit organization. Doing Good Better should be read by everyone involved in organizational leadership." -Provident Bookfinder "We encourage board members of voluntary organizations to get their hands on this little book. The authors think of just about everything." -The Christian Century "Doing Good Better is the best there is." -Richard F. Celeste, former Governor of Ohio

From the Back Cover
Well-meaning individuals become board members, but few are given adequate instructions about how to do their job well. In this personally written manual, two veterans of many boards lucidly address the ideal relationship between a nonprofit organization and its board. They candidly cover the realities that often threaten that relationship, then suggest strategies for overcoming these common difficulties. They include many stories, guidelines, and suggestions.