

# Affinity Group Discussion - Board Presidents:

## Discussion topics:

1. **Keeping the peace/Role of the Board President in keeping the Board running**
  2. **Succession planning – finding future leaders**
  3. **Board Governance**
    - **Professional and lay leadership relationship**
    - **Getting subcommittees to work**
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## Small groups' lessons and ideas:

1. Have clear expectations of the roles/goals
  2. Getting rid of dead weight on the Board
  3. Engage people /make them part of the process
  4. Find and use the Resources for Board Presidents (e.g. how to run a meeting; *BoardSource* – [www.boardsource.org](http://www.boardsource.org); GIJP mentors, etc.)
  5. Practice shared responsibility
  6. Assess who you have on your Board to plan and recruit accordingly
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1. Have an honest and attractive job description
  2. Use term limits (rotate)
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1. Use self and peer evaluation – “to improve or leave”
  2. Adhere to the 3 “Ws” of key Board Members’ responsibilities - work, wisdom, wealth
  3. Make Board retreats a practice (ideally, annual) (great team building tool)
  4. Use outside experts
  5. Learn more about consent agenda and use it
  6. Attract a community member to serve on your board
  7. Keep emphasizing the importance of being on the board
  8. Institute the minimum donation (not necessarily the amount -commitment/investment)
  9. Conduct executive committee meetings by phone
  10. Have the nominating committee (or better a Governance Committee assuming the nominating function)
  11. Find a meaningful job for your Board members to engage them/use their skills/talents
  12. Create an Honorary Board and an Advisory Group (they are not the same thing) – securing the financial support, keeping people engaged and active, but without a voting power