

BUILDING BETTER LIBRARY BOARDS



A GOOD BOARD EXISTS WHEN BOARD MEMBERS

- Have library interests as their driving force.
- Are informed.
- Attend meetings.
- Contribute to proceedings
- Have connections to groups within the community
- Know their role in the provision of library service
- Work together effectively

A world map rendered in various shades of blue, from light to dark. The text "HOW ARE THEY BUILT?" is centered over the map in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

HOW ARE THEY BUILT?

SELECTION PROCESS

- Have a good working relationship with funding/appointing body
- Board members involved in recommending new members
- Development of a candidate pool reflecting community makeup
- Pool members are library supporters with no specific library agenda.
- When vacancies occur give appointing body recommendations for new board members

BOARD ORIENTATION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

- Orientation is a shared responsibility of board president and library director
- Information packet should be prepared for each new board member.
- Board member should be given tour of library facility, be introduced to staff, and have a presentation of items in packet.

KEEP BOARD MEMBERS INFORMED

- Membership in Iowa Library Association
- Membership in American Library Association
- Attendance at state library meetings and workshops
- Board agendas distributed in a timely manner
- Regular communications from Library director

ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

- An established policy on board member attendance.
- Policy must be enforced.
- Attendance means attendance at the whole board meeting, not just part of it
- Recognized means for removal of a board member who does not meet attendance policy.

NEED FOR BOARD MEMBER CONNECTIONS



- Governing bodies such as counties and cities
- Civic groups
- Fraternal organizations
- Church groups
- Historical, ethnic and cultural organizations and societies
- Business and industry
- Political organizations
- Non-profit organizations

BOARD ROLE IN THE PROVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICE

- Advocate for the library in the community.
- Advocate for the community as a member of the board.
- Plan for the future of the library.
- Monitor and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the library.
- Set policies.
- Hire and evaluate the director.

ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR IN THE PROVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICE

- Hire, supervise, and evaluate staff.
- Develop and implement procedures in support of board policy.
- Operate the library on a daily basis.
- Work with the Board in planning the future of the library.
- Recommend policy to Board.
- Be an active member of the community.

INTERNAL BOARD RELATIONSHIPS



- Respect other board members
- Share talents
- Place interests of library first
- Accept disagreement
- Accept decisions
- Take leadership responsibility