

2020 Board Chair Development Seminar

JULY 13–14, 2020

LE WESTIN MONTREAL. | MONTREAL, QUEBEC



Overview

The board chair is in some ways the most influential and important position in any credit union, but also often receives the least rigor when it comes to role definition, recruitment and performance oversight. What does it mean to be a great board chair? How should your credit union determine the boundaries of the chair's responsibilities, and how they fit within the broader role of the board? What can you do to continue to excel in your position today, while keeping an eye firmly on the future? This seminar will feature up-to-date research, engaging case studies and vigorous conversations to equip you with new tools that will optimize your effectiveness as board chair.

The seminar will focus on the following questions:

1. To whom do you owe a duty as board chair?
2. Where does the chair's role begin and end?
3. What are the characteristics of an excellent board chair?
4. How can you build meeting agendas that focus on what really matters?
5. How can you build and maintain an effective relationship with the CEO?
6. What is the chair's role in managing the performance of the board?

Seminar Outline

1. EXERCISE: TO WHOM DO YOU OWE A DUTY?

You will work with your peers to explore the nuances of a board's duties, and the chair's role within the broader context of the board. This section will help you to build tools that ensure these duties are taken into account in all board decision making

2. WHAT EXACTLY IS A BOARD CHAIR'S JOB?

We often hear board chairs described as "orchestra conductors" or "first among equals". Are these accurate descriptions? Whether they are or not, what do they actually mean in practice? Learn from the instructor and your peers about the spectrum of roles that board chairs undertake, and head back into your boardroom with a clearer understanding of where your role begins and ends.

3. THE CHAIR'S ROLE IN DEFINING THE LINE BETWEEN BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

Many CEOs complain about their board getting "into the weeds," while many boards worry that they are not receiving the right information at the right time. What can the chair do to find and maintain an appropriate balance between the board and management? This section will use a combination of lecture, conversation and group exercises to build tools for you to optimize the contributions of both sides of the table.

4. RUNNING EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

A board's scarcest resource is time, and it's up to the board chair to make sure that time is spent carefully. What does an effective agenda look like? Once you've crafted the perfect agenda, how do you keep things on track while giving everyone in the room a chance to participate? This section will provide research driven insights into the structure and mechanics of excellent board meetings.

5. MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BOARD AND BOARD MEMBERS

No board is perfect, but the best boards acknowledge that fact and strive for ongoing improvement. These efforts can only be successful if they are driven and supported by an effective board chair. This section will explore effective approaches to board and director assessment and the tools a chair needs to get it done right.

6. PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

Every participant will leave the session with a specific set of next steps that they will bring back to their boardroom and implement over the near- and medium-term. This session is designed to have practical, applied value for all participants, and to have a positive impact on all participating credit unions.