



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

❖ ***How many Board members does the Partnership have?***

Our Bylaws allow for 7 to 21 Board members.

❖ ***How long is the Board term of office?***

Each Director may serve no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Board terms run October – September. Each Director must run for re-election in order to serve a second term.

❖ ***What is the difference between the different “types” of Board members?***

Our Bylaws indicate there shall be three (3) levels of Directors:

- Regional Directors (elected regionally, must be representative of a Level I Member)
- Member-elected At-large Directors (elected at Annual Membership Meeting, must be Member in good-standing)
- Board-appointed Directors

Once seated on the Board, all Directors share the same power and responsibilities (with the exception of Regional Directors who assume additional duties).

❖ ***What are the needed skills and desired qualifications to serve on the Partnership Board?***

The “Common Board Qualifications” Document provides a detailed description of desirable qualifications. Please refer to that document.

❖ ***What does the Board do? What is their scope of work?***

Our Board governs the Partnership by setting strategic direction, ensuring adequate resources to support the mission, monitoring impact and dutifully executing its’ fiduciary responsibilities. As leaders, Board members also support the organization by contributing their time, talent and wisdom as ambassadors who represent the organization in the community raising funds and our public profile.

❖ ***What doesn’t the Board do? What is beyond their scope of work?***

The Board is responsible for setting high-level strategic directions and monitoring progress toward outcomes, but our Board does not involve themselves with programmatic implementation nor operational functions. By way of example, here are programmatic and operational issues the Partnership Board does not manage:

- Positions on proposed legislation
- Social media posts
- Conference workshop selections
- Human resources management

❖ ***What is the Board culture?***

The Partnership’s Board is made up of a diverse group of leaders including those from within the domestic violence field, some from related social justice movements, as well as dedicated professionals from other

sectors. Individuals hail from the varied geographic regions across California, coming together in a shared commitment to address the broader needs of the State. As such, this hard-working group maintains a collegial tone supported by established group agreements. Overall the Board aims to find consensus on strategic issues, although respectful differences of opinions are healthy and welcomed.

❖ ***How does the Board function?***

The Board is led by four officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Committee Chairs are appointed to lead the work of each committee (i.e., Finance, Fundraising, Nominating, Governance, Audit, and Race, Power and Privilege (RPP)). Substantive work, discernment and development of proposals are handled in Committees. The Board and Committees utilize technology to support their work (i.e., web-based Board portal, shared online documents, conference calls, listserv and web-conferencing).

❖ ***What are the expectations regarding time commitments for Board members?***

This varies each month depending on the Board calendar, organizational events and fundraising responsibilities, as well as the number of and which committees each Board member serves on, but generally speaking Board members are expected to commit 6 to 12 hours per month to fulfill their job duties:

- One Board Meeting per month (4-6 hours)
- Participation in 2 or more Board committees (90-minute monthly calls plus prep and follow-up work)
- Attendance at Partnership-sponsored events (i.e., Annual Membership Meeting in September; Conference in February/March; Policy Advocacy Day in May)
- Board retreats, planning meetings and other training sessions (as scheduled)

❖ ***When and where does the Board meet?***

The Board is currently meeting only remotely by Zoom due to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, the annual Board calendar is usually set to address the essential governance responsibilities through monthly day-long meetings alternating between in-person and Zoom (generally held the 4th Monday of every month). The in-person meetings are usually held in Sacramento and travel expenses are reimbursed. Committees set their own schedules and generally meet for 90 minutes every other month.

❖ ***Will I receive compensation as a Board Member?***

Like other nonprofits, service on our Board is on a volunteer basis -- which means Board members do not receive any compensation from the organization except for administrative support, travel and accommodation costs in relation to Board duties. Such Board-related expenses are generally compensated on a reimbursement-basis (although payments may be adjusted on an as-needed basis).

❖ ***Are Board members expected to attend Partnership events? Are their registration & travel expenses covered by the Partnership?***

Board members are expected to make reasonable efforts to attend Partnership-sponsored events. The Board's role at our three major events is shaped by the Board Governance and Support Model factoring in: (a) The degree to which there is a significant Board business role/function at the event, and (b) Whether or not individuals receive personal benefit (which is considered a form of compensation by the IRS). Therefore, Board members generally receive travel and accommodation reimbursement for the Annual Membership Meeting and Policy Advocacy Day, but not for the Conference. However, Board Members can still apply for travel assistance the same as all members when offered to our Membership-at-large.

❖ ***Is the Executive Director a member of the Board?***

No, the Executive Director works closely with the Board leading it in fulfilling its' governance duties, but is not a voting member of the Board. The Board is responsible for selecting the Executive Director, supporting & evaluating this leader, and ensuring they have the moral & professional assistance they need to further the goals of the organization.

❖ ***What are the legal liabilities serving on this Board?***

As a Board Member, you will have a fiduciary responsibility to the Partnership. As required by the Board Governance, all Board members must adhere to a duty of care, duty of loyalty and duty of obedience. The Partnership periodically provides training to support Board members' adherence to best practices with regards to their governance and due diligence responsibilities. We employ Roberts Rules of Order to ensure sound, legal functioning. The Partnership also maintains D&O insurance, a type of liability insurance for Directors and Officers should legal action be brought against them for alleged wrongful acts while serving on a Board.**

*** Note, individuals concerned with understanding the full scope of nonprofit Board liability, including any potential personal liability, should consult independent sources of advice.*

*Additional questions? Contact the Partnership:
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