**“Don’t Let Your Board Members Get Bored”**

**Presented by: Michelle Murray, 2012 NVCN conference**

**How to pick a Board of Directors**

* Any past board experience
* Interest/passion in and for the organization
* Interests or hobbies
* Available time to give to meetings, events and activities of the organization
* Commitments to other activities
* Current or past job experience
* Able to work with a number of other personalities

**Number of Board Members**

* Depending on the population/geographic service area covered by your organization
* Depending on the amount of activities done by your organization
* Make sure you have a number in mind when building your board (Example: no less than 9 and not more than 13)

**How to Replace Board Members**

* Asking departing Board Member for ideas of replacement
* Announce at an event that you are in search of board members
* Place an article in your newsletters
* Never be afraid to ask someone

**Examples of A Good Working Board of Directors**

* **President**--able to commit to running the board with the different personalities present
* **Vice President**--able to step in at the absence of the President
* **Secretary**--able to take minutes and present to board in a reasonable amount of time following the meeting so that others make look over for any corrections or any of those missing the meeting will feel like they were present due to the presentation of minutes
* **Financial Advisor**--experience in working with numbers, bank statements and being able to complete a financial report for board meetings
* **Members-at-large**--interested in serving on the board to enable the organization to further themselves in different areas and services
* **All of the above**—
* dedicated to the purpose and aims of the organization
* hobbies such as: love to bake (bake sales), love to do crafts (bake sales and silent auctions),
* past experience: someone to help put together newsletter articles, ads for events that you have coming up
* financial experience: someone who has the knowledge of how to work with the computer to give you a month to month report of your financial standings
* teachers/advisors: someone who works with school aged children that can volunteer a hand for an event or a service that your organization provides
* retired: someone who is looking to fill extra time that they are willing to help out when and where they are needed (office fill-in, fundraising activities, volunteering for one of the services provided)
* ideas: advise your board if they come up with new ideas for different fundraising events or volunteer training sessions that you want them to be included in on this-don’t bring ideas and not be willing to implement them

**Example of my Current Board of Directors**

**Connie ---Board President:**

Currently employed with IPAT (Interagency Program for Assistive Technology) keeps *Faith in Action* informed of all the current available programs/equipment for the elderly, frail and disabled

**Val—Board Vice President**

State Farm Insurance Agent with experience in the field of insurance and what types if any that we should or do carry for the safety, wellbeing of *Faith in Action*

**Barb---Secretary**

Currently is the Technology/Computer Teacher at Cavalier Public School and Advisor for the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Barb proofs all the newsletters prior to the sending out, she also involves her FBLA group with a couple of our fundraising events with the set up or the selling of concessions

**Betty---Retired School Teacher/Current CPA Receptionist/Crafter & Baker**

Betty is always showing up at our Bake Sales with many wonderful and creative baked items. Always going above and beyond with her crafty side as well bringing items to sell or auction off at our events.

**Kari---NDSU Extension Agent/Communications Major**

Kari brings to the board the expert knowledge of grant writing and creative writing for our newsletter articles. Kari also assists in tweaking the newsletter once put together.

**Bonnie---Nutritionist for Neche Public School**

Bonnie is the one we go to for the catering ideas. She caters herself but also shares different ideas of items to be served at our different functions.

**Janine---Retired Postmaster**

Janine enjoys helping out with the transportation end of our services. She also enjoys helping out at all the different fundraising events.

**Wendy---Pembina County Memorial Hospital Lab Manager**

Wendy is one that loves to be in amongst people and has some creative ideas on different fundraising events. (She came up with the Purse Auction idea!) Wendy is another board member who loves to make and decorate cakes so for any meeting or get together we get one of her creative cakes or cupcakes. She is also the one who like to take pictures.

**Becky—Cavalier Public Library**

Becky loves to be kept busy doing just about anything. She enjoys helping out with the fundraising and always hosting a table at our Tabletop “duJour” with many different theme ideas about the many different books in the library.

**Kathy---Pembina County Memorial Hospital Medical Records Manager**

Kathy is the one who likes things to be orderly. She is the one who pushes the board to keep a close eye on the implementation of policies and procedures that are important to *Faith in Action*. Kathy also enjoys working at the fundraising events. A recent widow at an early age *Faith in Action* keeps her occupied in times when she doesn’t like to be alone.

As you can see we have a very diverse board. But each of them brings their own talents to the board and they are willing to give of their time and talent to make it a very enjoyable board. Like any organization that has a board there will always be those who don’t always agree with some of the events, policies and procedures that are done. But they also understand that not everyone shares in their enthusiasm of their ideas either. As the only staff member I can go to anyone of these board members with different concerns and one way or another we get the problem resolved or we can put together another successful fundraiser or event.

As a paid staff member you must also expect your board to do an annual evaluation of your progress as a leader of the organization. Be willing to except any concerns, disciplinary actions and promotions that are brought forward by this evaluation. You need to respect your board in the same way they need to respect you. Please let them know of any concerns that you may have as a staff member. They cannot fix something if they don’t understand the problem. As a staff member you should be able to take any concerns of the program to them. They are your governing board use them as one. But also let them know that you do have a mind of your own and some of the decisions made by you are done for the good of the organization and there is not always time to get the opinion of the board.

Again we ask that if a Board Member comes up with an idea of a different sort of fundraiser/event we would like them to be willing to help do the leg work on this project as well as not just our Project Director. Already enough responsibility rests on the Project Director that if the board expects even more there may be a burnout time. We also need to watch for that in your Board Members as well. We must be willing to share the load. On an average Pembina County *Faith in Action* does at least 7 to 9 fundraisers a year with the great support of the board and/or volunteers. Last year was an exception as we completed 15 fundraising events.