

Understanding the Roles of a Local Board Volunteer within the Boys & Girls Club Movement

The importance of Boys & Girls Club leadership cannot be overstated. Across America, more than 30,000 volunteer leaders represent the strength and diversity of local Club boards. They are a reflection of the communities in which they live and work. Their depth of understanding about Clubs is crucial to their power as advocates and to preserving young lives.

Local Boys & Girls Club Organization

The board of directors of a local Boys & Girls Club serves four primary roles: *Trusteeship, Planning, Policy and Evaluation, and Resource Development and Oversight.*

Trusteeship: The board is the active governing body of the local Boys & Girls Club. Above all else, it is solely responsible for all Club action, from protecting the mission to ensuring public accountability. It serves as the public face and persona of the Club.

Planning: Working in partnership with the chief professional officer as the leadership of the Club, the board must carefully set direction and plan for the future.

Policy and Evaluation: The board is responsible for establishing policies that will govern the Club's daily operations and ongoing activities, from programs to human resources.

Resource Development and Oversight: The board must not only exercise fiduciary oversight to protect the Club's resources, it must also assist in raising money for the Club.

Area Council

Area Councils provide the chief medium for securing and maintaining the interest and active participation of board volunteers in national and regional Boys & Girls Club affairs. Every Boys & Girls Club organization should appoint an Area Council Liaison. The liaison is a key board member who recognizes the importance of helping the Boys & Girls Club keep abreast of the Movement and various activities of other Boys & Girls Clubs. The National Area Council Committee recommends that the liaison be the immediate past Chief Volunteer Officer of the organization due to their knowledge and experience leading a Boys & Girls Club organization. In addition to the liaison position, other board volunteers are encouraged to become active in the Area Council, as their involvement will be broadened by the education, exposure and experience the Area Council provides. The Area Council educates and motivates board volunteers; provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information; initiates recommendations of matters for National Council consideration; and promotes the development of the Boys & Girls Club Movement. Each Boys & Girls Club organization has a voice in the national governance of Boys & Girls Clubs of America through the National Council and has one vote in National Council decisions (see Relationship between Local Clubs and Boys & Girls Clubs of America).

National Area Council Committee

The National Area Council Committee is composed of representatives from each region who are involved with Area Council matters. The National Area Council Committee serves as a conduit from Area Councils to the National Board of Governors for considering matters to bring before the National Council. It promotes the growth, development, and effectiveness of all Area Councils.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

The board's relationship to Boys & Girls Clubs of America should be based on the understanding that Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a service organization that has three primary purposes: *Serves Boys & Girls Club Organizations; Starts Boys & Girls Clubs Sites, and Creates Value for Boys & Girls Club Organizations.* A close working relationship should be established between local boards and Boys & Girls Clubs of America staff in Regional Service Centers. Although boards should not hesitate to call on staff at Boys & Girls Clubs of America headquarters for service, they should rely on the Regional Service Director as the primary contact for guidance and assistance.

National Council

The National Council established the requirements and standards for membership in Boys & Girls Clubs of America; determines annual membership dues to be paid by member organizations; and acts on all matters which may properly come before it. Each member organization has one vote on matters submitted to a vote at meetings of the National Council.