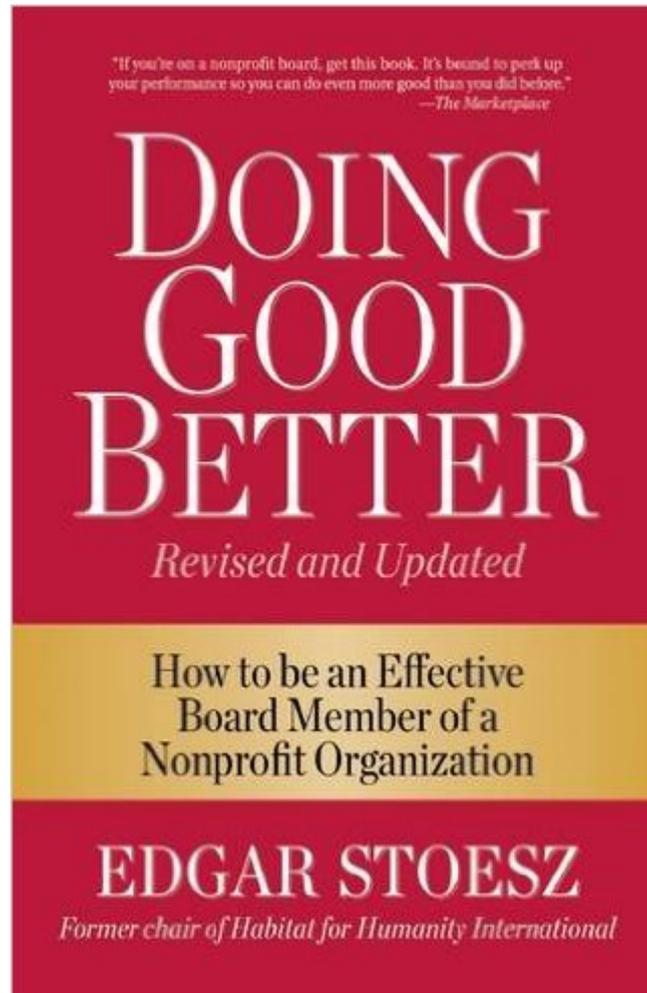


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# Doing Good Better: How To Be An Effective Board Member Of A Nonprofit Organization



## Synopsis

This trusted handbook for nonprofit board service is newly revised and includes new case studies and even more tips and ideas from the trenches of nonprofit board work. Doing Good Better is approachable wisdom. Edgar Stoesz has made Doing Good Better a guidebook for both board members of nonprofits, whether new to the task, or highly experienced. First, Stoesz identifies two failings common to many boards of nonprofit organizations that are often overlooked: 1. A board's governance role is very different from the role of management. Making this distinction requires a reorientation for most board member, because in their day jobs, they are managers or employees. 2. Boards often fail at two matters: a.) preparation of their members, and b.) regular evaluations of their own effectiveness and focus. In short, pointedly-written chapters, Stoesz covers: Helping Directors Understand Their Governance Role, A Plan to Fulfill the Purpose, Reporting Back to the Members, Planning Effective Meetings, Great Boards Have a Good Fight (occasionally), Working Your Way Through a Crisis, Great Boards Celebrate, Leaving Right. Stoesz deftly interweaves background philosophy, vision, and razor-sharp specific ideas. "Discussion/Action Questions" conclude many of the chapters. In addition, Stoesz offers a Board Evaluation Form, a Director's Self-Evaluation Form, and an outline for the Executive Director Annual Review.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This short book is a necessary resource for any new board member. I read it on first going on my

local Habitat for Humanity board, and have recommended it to every nonprofit board member I know. To a one, they come back and thank me for the recommendation. "Doing Good Better!" covers all of the essential information one needs to perform the nonprofit board member fiduciary responsibilities and obligations. And it does so succinctly and understandably. It is also written with an uplifting and positive tone -- it makes you feel good about what you're doing as a nonprofit supporter. I regularly refer back to this book both for support and encouragement, and to refresh my knowledge of my duties as a board member.

First I will point out that I am not on a board of a nonprofit. I am on the advisory board of a "for profit," but that's a different beast. Second, I will point out that the version I read is from 1997. The updated version no longer has Chester Raber credited as an author. I suspect there are other changes. So, take what I say with a grain of salt. There is some solid material in the book. I was surprised to find so many biblical quotes. The book is not overtly nor covertly religious. Having bits of scripture may unnecessarily turn off some of the readers. It didn't really bother me, though. The authors draw from experience on boards of Habitat For Humanity and the Mennonite Church a several times. I like the interspersal of real world with theory. Toward the end, the book is padded with several exhibits, such as job descriptions and checklists. These account for approximately 25% of the volume of the book. I suppose someone might find these useful; but I did not. Personally, I found the book "Managing the Nonprofit Organization" by Peter Drucker more aligned with my own interests in nonprofits. "Doing Good Better" would be good for someone recently elected to a board of directors for a nonprofit.

I have been a long-time fan of the original earlier version of "Doing Good Better." • Delighted by this revised edition -- the new and additional content are definitely worth the investment. I have spent my entire career in the nonprofit sector and know the importance of having an engaged board focused on effective governance. The author Edgar Stoesz does an excellent job combining best practices, practical suggestions, and real-world advice. The information includes both classic recommendations for board leadership and fresh approaches that will spark long-time board members into greater commitment. The book is the perfect length to use as an orientation tool for new nonprofit board members. I've had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Stoesz lead a training session. He is kind, generous, wise, and witty in person -- and his personality shines through in the writing as well.

I bought this in tandem with Robert's Rules and this is so easy to read and makes sense. It should be given to every new board member. Board members need to know their job description and this book spells it out in plain english.

This is an excellent resource for any non-profit board member! It is clearly and well written, and provides a wealth of information for both a new, and seasoned, member of a non-profit board. I provide training for new board and staff members of non-profits, and I recommend that they get at least 2 copies of this book, one for the Executive Director and one for the Board chair and that they use this as a resource for board development and education at their board meetings. I especially like the assessments that are provided in the back of the book. They are very useful to individual board members and to the board as a whole to assess their work and performance.

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