



National Council of Jewish Women

# BOARD ENGAGEMENT: SETTING YOUR YEAR UP FOR SUCCESS

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# GOALS OF THE SESSION:

- Imagine what board engagement could be for your Section and learn from best practices
- Start to craft a board engagement plan for your Section and identify your partners in that effort
- Reflect upon what matters most to you in your NCJW leadership and how to share that with others
- Share tools that already exist that you can easily adapt for your Section



**Board  
engagement is  
a year-round  
process:**

Touchpoints that demonstrate the culture of your Section - lots of intentionality and planning:

- Recruitment process
  - Welcoming process
  - Onboarding process/Orientation
  - Individual conversations – identifying passions
  - Committee placement
  - Personal goal setting
  - Mid-year check-ins
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# BREAK OUT ROOMS

3 PER ROOM



Practice a conversation you might have with a new board member



Share your own story of how you got involved

Remind me of how you got connected to NCJW work – who was your connection?

How does NCJW's missions and work motivate you?

What skills and talents do you bring as a board member?

Where would you like to invest your time?

We all know that a functioning board is essential to a nonprofit's success, yet many organizations struggle with how to engage their well-meaning group of volunteers.

## WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES THAT WE CAN TURN INTO OPPORTUNITIES?

### Time to Invest in Creating Relationships

- Mentor and connector roles-put systems in place
- Going on “dates”
- Relationship before action

### Board Social Interactions in the COVID Challenge

- Jewish learning steeped in social justice work
- Sukkot event
- Board socials – happy hours, cooking demos
- Board Retreat
- Book discussions
- Porch/stoop gatherings

Can't stress enough the importance of relationship building for board members.

# Sample Orientation Program

1. Introduction and time for socializing

2. Overview of the mission, vision, and goals of the Section

*The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.*

3. Cover the rich history of NCJW

4. Description of Programs and Services:

Who are your partnering organizations?

Key issues and areas of focus

Strategic plans

Consider having a community partner talk about their experience and impact

# Sample Orientation Program continued

## 5. Finances and Fundraising

Share the current financial reports and annual budget

Fundraising expectations

## 6. Board Culture

Logistics for meetings

How information gets disseminated

Expected responsiveness to email communication and requests

Full roster of board members

7. How to access information on the local and national level - you will receive other sample orientation programs that are available from NCJW

## **CLARITY OF ROLES-WHO DOES WHAT IN YOUR SECTION?**

- Board – Executive Committee/Officers
- Committees, task forces
- Expectations/Responsibilities of board members
- Time commitment – meeting schedules given out way in advance
- Financial commitment

## **HELP NEW BOARD MEMBER TO MAKE A PLAN TO:**

- Use their personal connections and affiliations to benefit NCJW
- Invite (and pay for) guests to attend events organized by NCJW
- Volunteer when their skill set would be a good match for the task at hand

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS WILL BE SENT TO YOU AS A FOLLOW-UP FROM TODAY



# Engage your board members by demonstrating the values that are important to you and your Section culture:

A culture of listening and learning...before doing

The power of “we”

Celebrate successes, pause, and evaluate

Share and promote understanding of the Jewish values that guide our work

Elevating all voices

We value curiosity, compassion, and respect for each other

We honor and respect all people and their identities, cultures, religions, perspectives, and diverse life experiences