

# THE JOURNEY TOWARDS BEING A SUCCESSFUL BOARD MEMBER

By:

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# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION



- Introducing a great self-leader
- Identify board relations
- Turning traits to skills
- Engaging with Diverse perspectives
- Navigating Board Dynamics and Politics
- The value of CSR

# INTRODUCING A GREAT SELF LEADER



A successful board member is a great self-leader:

- knows who they are, what they can do, and where they are going.
- pursues excellence at all times.
- achieves high levels of self-direction and self-motivation.
- Self-navigation is key
- great at learning new things
- The bulb came on at some point

# CAPABILITY TO INFLUENCE & MANAGE BOARD RELATIONS



Developing your capability to influence and manage board relations:

- What comes to your mind when you think of board relations?
- Write at least 10 words which say what you understand **board relations** to be about:

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# CAPABILITY TO INFLUENCE & MANAGE BOARD RELATIONS



## Some Positive Relational Characteristics/Skills

## Negative

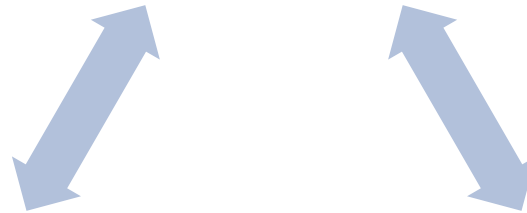
Respect; trust; usefulness/helpfulness/serving others; giving/contribution; pursuit of excellence/results; pulling together; admiration; listening; speaking; seeing; supporting; encouraging; living out values/integrity; etiquette and decorum in language behavior, dress; orderliness; fun/enjoyment; co-working

Disrespect, undermining, selfish, corrupt, careless, etc.

# RELATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS/TRAITS



Chair to  
Members



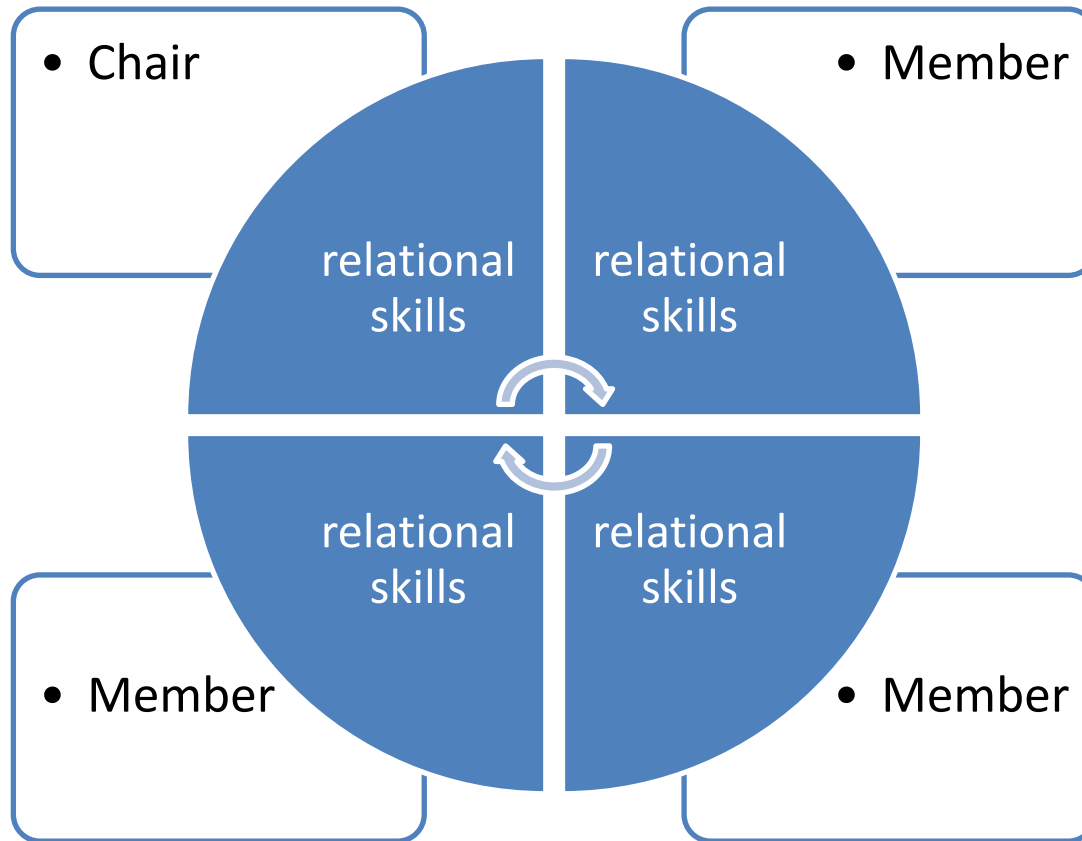
Member to  
member



Member to  
Chair

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# RELATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS/TRAITS



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# TURN TRAITS TO SKILLS



## Four Key things to do in order to turn your traits to skills:

- Be Intentional:
- Build self-awareness:
- Have self-confidence:
- Have self-efficacy:

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# ENGAGING WITH DIVERSE STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES



1. Embracing Divergence and Difference:
  - Age differences
  - Cultural differences
  - religious differences
2. Think Global, act local ---Glocalization:
3. People in financial leadership often work across many disciplines

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# ENGAGING WITH DIVERSE STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES



- Learn all there is to learn
- Let them speak for themselves
- Accept difference and let it be

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# SKILLS TO NAVIGATE BOARD DYNAMICS AND POLITICS



Developing skills to navigate through Board dynamics and Board Politics

Board dynamics/politics: interests, factions, undermining, divisions, threats to/loss of focus, personal power; inspiration; showing resilience, fighting intimidation/fear.

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# SKILLS TO NAVIGATE BOARD DYNAMICS AND POLITICS



- **Big Question:** Is there a difference between board politics and the genuine need to engage negative matters in an organization, say corruption, with an aim to cleaning up the institution?
- How would you navigate such a situation?

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# SKILLS TO NAVIGATE BOARD DYNAMICS AND POLITICS



- What is the best action for a great self-leader?
- Is missing crucial meetings an appropriate way to navigate politics?

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# SKILLS TO NAVIGATE BOARD DYNAMICS AND POLITICS



- Listen, listen, listen. Be a good listener and a great observer and enquirer.
- 
- A leader with high emotional intelligence can handle a great range of board politics.
- 
- How do you develop them?

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# SKILLS TO NAVIGATE BOARD DYNAMICS AND POLITICS



- Four Key things to do in order to turn your traits to skills:
- Be Intentional:
- Build self-awareness:
- Have self-confidence:
- Have self-efficacy:

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# THE VALUE OF CORPORATE, SOCIAL & COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY



CSR: being relevant to society, looking outward. It has a lot of merit. It is imperative.

Most Boards leave such to Management/  
How much is corporate social responsibility  
part of the oversight role of a Board?

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# THE VALUE OF CORPORATE, SOCIAL & COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY



What value/role is CSR to your board:

- To make a difference in the lives of others? Really caring?
- Visibility and improvement of brand?
- To fulfill a requirement?
- Helping to control costs?
- Helping to attract top-quality talent and facilitate long-term financial success.
- Are there policies which then guide Management on how they arrive at and account for the CSR done each year. Is it in line with the mission of the organization?

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# CONCLUSION



A successful board member is a great self-leader:

- knows who you are, what you can do, and where you are going; pursue excellence at all times;
- Evaluate the level of your self-direction and self-motivation; Self-navigation; learning propensity;
- How long has your bulb been on? How far have you developed your board relations in that time?
- What is your inspiration?