

What is Corporate Governance?

Australian Institute of Company Directors

Corporate governance is a broad-ranging term which, amongst other things, encompasses the rules, relationships, policies, systems and processes whereby authority within organisations is exercised and maintained.

The governance attributes of an organisation are shaped by a variety of factors, both "internal" (e.g. constitution, organisational policies) and "external" (e.g. laws, regulations, community expectations). A board of directors plays a pivotal role in influencing an organisation's governance environment.

A common goal for many organisations is to have the most **effective governance framework** in place that best meets their individual circumstances and needs – helping to **drive enhanced organisational performance** while at the same time **aiding conformance with various requirements** (e.g. the company's constitution, policies, controls and procedures as well as with applicable external regulations and laws).

An effective governance framework would have appropriate regard to the:

- contribution of individual directors;
- effectiveness of the board and board performance;
- way in which governance is applied throughout the organisation;
- Strength of the relationships the organisation fosters with its stakeholders.

Similarly, an effective board evaluation or board review would typically seek to incorporate reflection on an organisation's governance from each of these different perspectives.

Australian Institute of Company Directors Not-For-Profit Resources http://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/resources/not-for-profit-resources

Organisations

Organisations may be **Commercial, Voluntary** or **Hybrid** and it's important to recognise their different characteristics and drivers. For example commercial organisations tend to make decisions from the **top down** while voluntary organisations tend to have **bottom up** decision making.

In a commercial sense **efficiency** is generally highest when input is minimised and output is maximised. With voluntary organisations however it is also very important to **involve people**, both members and supporters. This involvement of people, which retains their interest and participation, should be seen as both an input and a product. While this may seem less efficient such involvement will usually be far more **effective** in maintaining the **interest** and **participation** of members of voluntary organisations.

Policy set by boards of management should not be confused with **administration**. Boards focus on essentials and policy, leaving administration to other parts of the organisation. This improves participation of the organisations members and keeps Board Meetings shorter and more effective.

Board Director Considerations

1. Responsibilities of Directors

- 1.1. Legal Implications
 - 1.1.1. Statutes
 - 1.1.2. Constitution
 - 1.1.3. Standing Resolutions
- 1.2. Ethics
- 1.3. Conflicts
- 1.4. Roles and Mandates
- 1.5. Reports
 - 1.5.1. Your Committees
 - 1.5.2. Board Reports
- 1.6. Attendance
- 1.7. Advisory to District Governor

2. <u>Board Composition</u>

- 2.1. DG's Present, Past & Future
 - 2.1.1 Office Bearers
 - 2.1.2 Associate Members
 - 2.1.3 AG's by invitation (non-voting)

3. Committees

- 3.1. Mandates
- 3.2. Special Interest or expertise
- 3.3. Autonomy within policy limits
- 3.4. Morale and Effectiveness
 - 3.4.1. Members like to be involved
 - 3.4.2. But not all members seek responsibility
 - 3.4.3. Maintain relevance and give support
 - 3.4.4. Show Leadership
 - 3.4.5. Communication and Feedback

4. Procedures

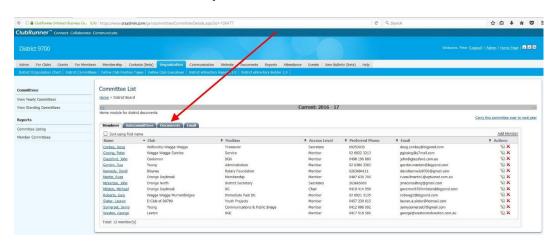
- 4.1. Meeting Procedures
 - 4.1.1. Equal right to be heard
 - 4.1.2. Equal Vote
 - 4.1.3. Expedite Meeting while protecting everyone's rights
- 4.2. Show Respect
- 4.3. Demonstrate Flexibility

Resources and References

District 9700 Constitution

 $\frac{https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050099/en-ca/files/sitepage/legal-officer/d9700-constitution/D9700-Constitution-2016--Final-.pdf}{}$

Board Documents, Mandates etc.



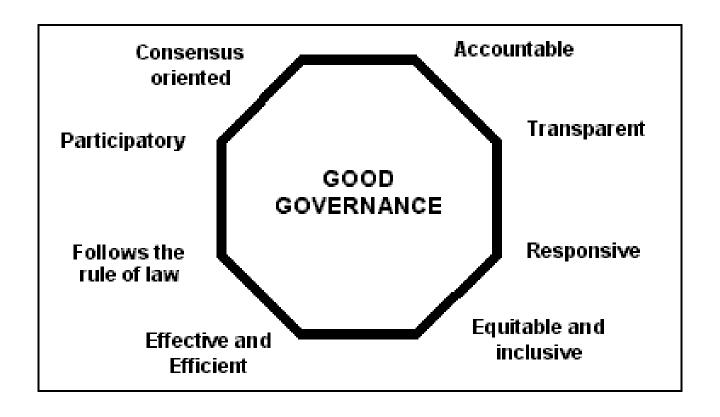
https://www.crsadmin.com/gen/committee/CommitteeDetails.aspx?id=106477

District 9700 Standing Resolutions

https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/0000050099/en-ca/files/sitepage/legal-officer/d9700-bylaws/D9700-Bylaws-2016--Final-.pdf



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vE7jfQt2ic4



Difficulties indeed sometimes arise; but common sense and honest intentions will generally steer through them.

Thomas Jefferson

Peter Gissing