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Professional Trustees Must Demonstrate Leadership



Ed Boyatt

Professional development is a requirement for teacher recertification and an integral part of plans for ensuring quality Adventist education. The JOURNAL's editorial staff believe that school board members also need to be included in the professional development plans of unions, conferences, and schools. This special issue is the third one in the past nine years dedicated to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of K-12 and university boards. I commend the editor for both her vision for Adventist education and her commitment to improving our schools through educating board members about the solemn responsibility of being a "trustee."

The prior issues on Boardmanship (December 1999/January 2000 and Summer 2004) were received enthusiastically by administrators and school boards around the world. Many educational leaders continue to order additional copies of Boards I and II for their board members or to download the articles in PDF format from the JOURNAL's Website (<http://education.gc.adventist.org/jae>). We hope that Boards III will likewise be used by board members to enhance their role as *trustees*. Board members are *entrusted* with the mission and the delivery of Adventist education. They must be guardians, dreamers, salesmen, recruiters, encouragers, marketers, innovators, and Christian professionals. It is our hope that this issue will help them better understand and fulfill these roles.

Here is a brief preview of the articles that follow. The issue contains provocative articles for both K-12 and college/university board members:

- In my article, I encourage K-12 board members to understand that both management and leadership skills are essential in their roles as trustees.
- In "Memo to Trustees," a college professor requests trustees to take their responsibility as seriously as he takes his.
- Attorney Charles McKinstry explains why boards must employ due process in personnel matters, and points out that treating employees fairly is in everyone's best interest.
- Richard Osborn describes the role of ex officio board members and invitees and offers practical advice on how they can be more effective.
- Karl Kime, an academy board chair, challenges the church's large boards to reorganize themselves into smaller subcommittees that report on a quarterly basis to the full board.
- Recently retired union president and board chair Thomas Mostert gives suggestions on how to be successful and survive as a board chair. His conclusion: The greatest challenge is to keep our boards mission-centered and distinctively Adventist.
- After surveying the boards of four higher educational institutions in North America, Hamlet Canosa discovers that trustees want more training and wish to devote more board time to matters of strategic importance.
- Dave Lawrence's article summarizes the "what" and the "how" of financial communication, warning that accounting jargon must be translated into everyday language.

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Guest Editorial

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• Carlos Archbold speaks from a global perspective as he encourages trustees to ensure that the institutional image is a model of integrity. He also reminds boards that the education of trustees is mandatory.

The writers for this special issue on boardmanship hope that it will inspire and help trustees to be more professional and passionate in their leadership of Adventist K-16 educational institutions, as they seek to fulfill the educational mission of Jesus.

Dr. Ed Boyatt is Dean of the School of Education at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, and Coordinator for this special issue. The JOURNAL's editorial staff express their gratitude for his ongoing commitment to enhancing Adventist board service, and his assistance in preparing the Boards I, II, and III issues.

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