

INTRODUCING

Nurses on Boards

Getting on Board

Start with your passion

- Are you interested in opportunities that offer professional development or personal growth?
- Where do you make your charitable contributions?
- What issues are important enough to miss a dinner with your family or friends?
- What do you think are the best non-profit organizations in your community?

Use your answers to focus your board search on causes and organizations for which you are truly passionate. Finding the right opportunity is the key to your success.

Assess your skills

You know that nurses have countless skills and areas of expertise, but have you thought about how your skills can fit into your board search? Use a skills assessment as a starting point.

- [Initial skills assessment](#)

Build skills with nursing leadership resources

Do you want to develop skills that will enhance your board service? Seek out opportunities to build skills at work or through formal and informal education. The following are resources from partner organizations.

- [American Nurses Foundation](#)
- [Nurses on Boards Coalition](#) – sign up for the NOBC database and register your interest in board service
- [Oregon Nurses on Boards](#)
- [Preparation & Education Resources](#)
- [Nurses on Board: Planning Your Path to the Boardroom](#)

Learn from the experience of other nurse leaders

The American Nurses Foundation has profiled eight nurse leaders capturing their unique perspectives on various aspects of board service. Each profile focuses on a different theme of the board journey and brings a wealth of personal experience.

- [Nurse Leader Spotlights](#)

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Activate your network– Did you know up to [87% of board seats](#) are filled by recommendations from current board members?

- Talk to your supervisor – include your goal of board service in your professional development plan.
- Where are you involved in the community? Most civic, religious, academic, clubs, and non-profit organizations have boards, and many are eager for committed volunteers.
- Talk to colleagues, friends, and neighbors and find out where they are involved.
- Create a networking strategy. Use these tips found in “[How Networking Can Help Women Secure Board Seats](#)” to make your plan.

Build your board resume

Is your resume a dozen pages long and full of “nursing speak”? An easy initial step on your board journey is to create a “board resume” which focuses on key expertise and experience that is more easily relatable to those in charge of selecting board members.

- [Building a Board-Ready Resume Webinar](#)

Search for opportunities

- LinkedIn – In addition to ensuring your LinkedIn profile is up to date, [LinkedIn for Nonprofits](#) has information on how organizations can find new board members.
- [BoardSource](#) has compiled a list of board posting and matching programs by region.
- [Volunteer Match](#) includes both volunteer and board opportunities in your area.
- [Idealist](#) allows you to search for opportunities across fields.

Use paid recruitment and preparation tools*

There are a number of paid services that advertise board opportunities and matching.

- [Board Prospects](#)
- [Women in the Boardroom](#)
- [ExecRank](#)

* The American Nurses Foundation does not endorse any of these services. You are encouraged to do your due diligence to ensure the service is right for you.

Meet recruiters and search firms

In addition to recruiting C-Suite professionals, recruiters often provide assistance in filling vacant board seats. Find out which firms your facility has used. They will already have some understanding of your organization’s structure and your role. Two examples of recruiters who have practices in healthcare recruiting are:

- [Spencer Stewart](#)
- [Witt/Keiffer](#)

Choose the right board for you

Selecting the right board for you is critical, not only for your personal experience, but also for the benefit of the board and its organization. This decision must be considered carefully, and while others cannot tell you whether a given organization is the right fit for *you*, here are several articles that can help you evaluate opportunities:

- [How to Choose a Board](#)
- [Questions to Ask Before Joining a Board](#)