

STRONG PRESIDENTS DELEGATE

Strong presidents recognize that learning to successfully delegate achieves two important goals at once:

1. It frees them to focus on the more important parts of their job; and
2. It helps other board members develop their own leadership skills and abilities.

If you are having trouble deciding whether or not to delegate something, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I have sufficient time to complete the task properly? If the answer is no, delegate it.
- Does the task or assignment require my personal supervision or attention? If it doesn't, assign it to someone else.
- Are my personal skills and expertise required to complete the task? If not, hand it off.
- If I do not perform the task or fulfill the assignment personally, will my reputation – or the board's reputation – be hurt? Is the answer still no? Then delegate it.
- Is there a member of the board who would benefit from and learn new skills by performing the task or assignment? If the answer is yes, give him/her the opportunity.

Besides freeing you to focus on your own job, the art of successfully delegating offers other board members the gift of learning by doing, taking responsibilities not usually their own, and becoming comfortable with the outcomes of their work.