



Mission: *Increasing the Number of Women in Executive Leadership and on Corporate Boards*
www.boarddirectorsnetwork.org

Board of Directors Network Executive Level Membership

This level of BDN membership is intended to provide “board ready” women information on positioning themselves for board candidacy, alerting them to educational opportunities and highlighting relevant community events. These combined initiatives will enhance their knowledge of current board issues and assist with introductions to people who influence the selection process for board members. Board experienced women from private boards or those who want to re-engage in public board service should also consider this membership level.

When individuals are “ready” (experientially, psychologically and financially) for corporate board service, they often find the greatest challenge is their visibility among the appropriate decision makers. This new, Executive Level membership of BDN is focused on opening another important avenue with a specific focus on visibility and strategic introductions.

About The Board of Directors Network

The Board of Directors Network (BDN) is an organization of women and men representing boards of directors, corporations, government agencies, academia, the legal and financial professions, not-for-profit organizations, and the media. The network’s focus is to influence public companies to further the advancement of women in the boardroom and executive suites. The Board of Directors Network advocates for more women in both executive leadership and on corporate boards in order to improve corporate governance through diversity. Established in 1993, BDN has grown to include approximately 1700 members and advocates, women and men representing corporate boards of directors, corporations, governmental agencies, academia, the professions and not-for-profit organizations.

BDN’s vision is focused on four key areas, to be:

- an advocate for more women in executive leadership and on corporate boards
- a source of referrals for companies seeking board members
- a part of an active coalition of like-minded organizations in the U.S.
- financially strong in order to effectively organize and complete the work of the organization aimed at accomplishing the mission.

BDN has established three strategies to advocate for increasing women’s representation in the C-suites and boardrooms: communicate the value women bring to corporations as leaders and as board members; recognize women in leadership and on corporate boards; and develop advocates for female leadership placement.

Criteria for Membership:

- **Background:** Consideration of membership is open to women who are active, or retired, senior corporate officers of public or private companies, senior-level members of professional services organizations (i.e. law firms, audit firms, consulting firms) generally including equity partners,

principals or other holding the most senior titles in the organization, and senior public sector executives. Applicants who have significant experience in high-level persuasive decision-making, productive risk-taking and participatory managerial responsibilities demonstrate appropriate background for membership. Regular exposure and meaningful interactions with respective company's/firm's board members, or clients' boards and senior executives, through presentations and meetings are very important. Understanding of investment decisions by "Wall Street", private equity, hedge funds, angel investors, bankers and/or other types of investors and shareholders is an added experience regarding the candidate's board-ready credentials.

• **Education:** Candidates will have undergraduate degrees. Advanced degrees, such as MBAs, JD/LLMs, MEds, Ph.Ds., or CPAs (inactive status is acceptable) are highly expected due to the nature of the candidate's successful career.

• **Civic or Professional Organizations:** Active participation in board and committee positions with not-for-profits organizations will be highly recognized as added leadership skills. These high impact contributions also reflect the candidate's commitment to contributing to their respective fields of interest. Active membership in other related organizations (i.e. NACD, Georgia Bar Association, other professional organizations) that adds to the individuals continuing education and aspirations are highly respected.

Benefits of Membership

- Personal networking and educational opportunities through BDN's network of sponsors and advocates who provide such opportunities.
- Invitation to up to two "introduction" mixers, each year, where the member can meet some of those useful contacts and influencers in the nomination process.
- Inclusion in board opportunities communications (email) as BDN receives requests for board candidates either directly from companies or through other women's organizations who participate in board searches such as ION of which BDN is a founding member.
- Invitations to relevant local events (NACD, Terry School, AWF, law firms' free seminars, etc.)
- Guidance in creating an executive bio to highlight the member's qualifications.
- Preferential consideration for scholarships to the Directors College sponsored by the University of Georgia Terry College of Business or other educational opportunities for which BDN may grant scholarships.
- Plus all the benefits of a General BDN membership

Annual Dues: \$375. (*Dues cover the two introduction mixers but not other events if a fee is required.*)

Application for membership

Membership at this level requires application and then review by BDN for acceptance. Applications are solicited yearly from January 1st through March 31st. (For 2007, applications will be solicited from February 20th through May 1st). Applications are accepted and processed at other times of the year but dues are not prorated. A PDF and Word document copy of this application can be found on the BDN website at (www.boarddirectorsnetwork.org).

Completed applications can to be mailed Board of Directors Network, PO Box 550627, Atlanta, GA 30355. Fax to: 770-726-4635 or email to: ELMembership@boarddirectorsnetwork.org Applications will be reviewed by a committee and invitations to join will be based on this committee's assessment of the applicant's background, relevant to the criteria, and approved by BDNs Board of Directors. Membership will be limited to 80 background diverse members.

Executive Level Membership Application

Process

1. Please review the attached membership criteria before completing the application in order to describe your experience and skills as thoroughly as possible.
2. In addition to the application, a resume and an organizational chart are required.
3. Mail the application to: Board of Directors Network, PO Box 550627, Atlanta, GA 30355. Or fax to: 770-726-4635 or email to: ELMembership@boarddirectorsnetwork.org
4. The application will be reviewed against the criteria and you will be contacted if more information or even an interview is necessary to give full consideration.
5. You will be contacted with the results of the committee review. Dues are payable within 10 business days upon notification of acceptance.

Application

Please complete in black ink or type.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Corporation/Organization:

Type of Organization (please check one):

- Large Corporation/Partnership Closely-Held Businesses Professional Services
 Executive Volunteer-Philanthropist Not-For-Profit Government/Political Office
 Individual Consultants

Business Address:

Business Phone: _____ Business Fax: _____

Preferred Phone number for contact: _____ Home__ Office__ Cell__

Preferred Email for contact:

1. Briefly describe your company and your direct reporting organization including size.
2. Describe your current position and responsibilities as they relate to the Executive Level Membership Criteria.

3. Describe past experience that is relevant to preparing you for board service.
4. Describe how you measure the dimensions of your responsibilities within the organization. Possible metrics might include: Number of full time employees you manage, your annual budget, billing rate, gross revenue or client base. Please include the number of year's experience.
5. Describe any special skills that you would bring to board service including financial expertise.
6. List your educational credentials.
7. List memberships and leadership positions which have prepared you for board service. This may include: Corporate boards of directors, non-profit boards of directors, community activities, and professional associations. Include the full name of the organization, office held, and dates.
8. Describe relevant awards and honors you have received, by whom awarded and dates.
9. Please provide any other information which you believe makes you board ready.

Disclaimer: By signing below, you acknowledge that BDN is an advocacy organization and, while BDN may from time to time provide referrals of board ready candidates, BDN does not offer a board placement service and BDN does not promise Board placement through membership in BDN.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____