FAQs for Interested GPA Board Nominees

What is the time commitment?

All Board members travel (and/or video conference, if necessary) to three in-person meetings each year, February, June, and November. The November meeting is held prior to the annual conference and board members are expected to attend the conference. Meetings are generally scheduled to last 8 hours the first day and 4 hours the second day. Many years, a fourth (late summer) meeting is held by conference call. Meeting preparation can take up to 10 hours during the week prior to the meetings. In addition, each Board member serves as liaison to at least one committee, which can take around 3 hrs./month per committee, depending on involvement and time of year. Board officers put in additional time as needed (approx. 3-15 hrs./month depending on office).

What are the financial costs?

Flights and accommodations to attend Board meetings and the annual conference are paid upfront by GPA, and most meals during the meetings are provided. Other expenses (ground transportation, airport parking, etc.) can be reimbursed, after submission of receipts and a reimbursement form. Annual conference registration is paid for all board members. All Board members are volunteers, so you will not be paid for time away from work. There is no donation requirement to serve on the GPA Board of Directors.

What involvement is expected, outside of direct board meetings and prep?

Assignments are given to Board members during the Conference, and Board ad hoc committees are formed as needed throughout the year, which may add additional tasks/responsibilities to achieve the GPA strategic goals. Other criteria regarding membership, involvement, ethics, etc., can be found on the GPA website under About/Leadership/GPA Board/Considerations for GPA Board. Members are also asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.

How do I know my skills are what the Board needs?

Each year, a skills assessment is completed by current Board members, which helps to identify the areas where more expertise is needed. This assessment is available for review by potential nominees on the GPA website under Considerations for GPA Board referenced above.

What training will I receive?

Each new member is given access to all key organizational documents. New board members participate in a brief welcome orientation conducted by the GPA President and GPA CEO prior to their term beginning. An annual conference call training (recorded and available) is held to outline the roles and responsibilities of committee liaisons and committee chairs. At the first meeting of each year, a 3-4 hour Board Orientation/Training, led by a professional consultant, is held to assure that all members are up to speed and questions can be answered.

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Can I nominate myself?
Yes. Watch for announcements in the GPA News Weekly concerning the call for nominations.

I’m not ready now, but how can I prepare to run for the Board in the future?
Volunteering to serve on one of the many GPA Committees and/or taking on a leadership role in your local chapter are great ways to prepare. Reviewing the most recent skills assessment evaluation of the current Board will help identify subject/skill areas you may want to strengthen.

Does GPA have liability insurance coverage?
Yes, GPA maintains both general liability insurance and directors’ and officers’ liability insurance coverage.

What are the benefits of serving on the GPA Board?
Reasons for board involvement are varied and personal, some of which include:

- developing leadership skills;
- playing a role to improve and elevate the grants profession;
- working closely with other Board members and committees on Strategic Plan tasks, with the mission to empower grant professionals and those they serve through: Advocacy, Community, and Professionalism
- learning from others in the industry – about the non-profit operations of GPA, other grant pros, and other areas of the country;
- getting additional opportunities for professional development;
- earning points toward the GPC Certification Maintenance Program; and
- representing my chapter/geographical area in an international organization.

Many of us believe that in GPA we ‘found our people’. By serving on the Board, we get to spend more time working with ‘our people’ to achieve shared goals and give back to the grants industry.