

## **The Board Member Pledge**

### 6 Principles of Successful Board Membership

*I am often asked what it takes for a Board member to be productive and for a Board, as a group, to succeed. Given that every nonprofit is different, it can be confusing. In my three decades of work, however, these six principles are the bedrock foundation of a successful Board and a productive Board member. If each and every board member recited these six principles and actually tried to live up to them, every nonprofit organization would be very successful! – **James P. Reber***

### **The Board Member Pledge:**

1. **Mission.** Everything begins with the Mission. I will know, understand, and believe in the mission and direct all of my actions to support it.
2. **Action.** I will act upon my belief in the mission. I will attend meetings, and I will actively participate in committees and all activities that are required of a board member.
3. **Leadership.** I will make a leadership donation to set an example for others and I will do everything in my power to make certain that 100% of the board members also give.
4. **Resources.** I will actively help develop resources, including soliciting financial contributions, in-kind donations, and selling tickets to special events. I will use my special skills and connections to the community to support the organization.
5. **Standards.** I will actively participate in establishing and maintaining the highest standards for the board. I will actively help the board to be self-governing, to be self-sustaining, and to periodically assess itself.
6. **Responsibilities.** I will take my role and the role of the board seriously in three key areas of board responsibility: hiring an Executive Director, determining general policies, and passing a budget annually.

**Copyright James P. Reber 2006**

*Please feel free to distribute this Pledge, but leave my name and information attached to it. I would really appreciate any feedback you may have on it's use and value to your organization.*

**James P. Reber / Fundraising Consultant and Event Planner & Producer**  
**P.O. Box 53706 / San Jose, CA 95153**  
**Email: james@jamesreber.com / Ph: 408.505.0438 / www.jamesreber.com**