

Being a Board Member Can Help Build a Better Future



The Alliance is proud to be an initiative of the
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

Tavarus Wesley
Speak Up and Speak Out Summit
October 6, 2023

Tavarus Wesley

Advocacy Coordinator
Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

Arc of Illinois Self Advocate of the Year
Illinois Partners in Policymaking Graduate



My Board Accomplishments

- Current member, Arc of Illinois Board of Directors
- Past president, ROHSA/PossABILITY Partners
- Past board member, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Past president, Alliance Board of Directors





Why Did I Say “Yes” To Become a Board Member

Saying “yes” was something I had to do to

- Learn more about self-advocacy
- Give back

I like how I was given the opportunity to be the voice of the group. I was able to give some of my knowledge back to my peers and help them out the best I can.

Board Officer Positions

President or Chairperson

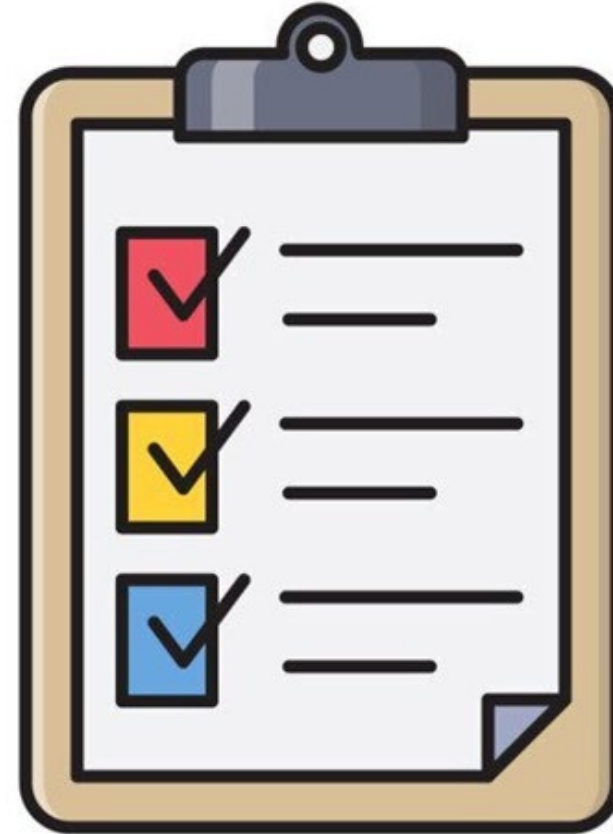
Vice President or Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

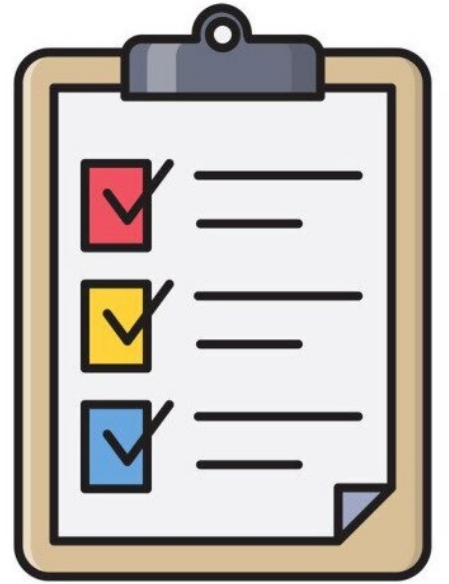
Sergeant at Arms

Tips for Before, During, and After Meetings



3 Tips Before a Meeting

- Relax, be energized, be rested
- Review meeting minutes and agenda, and any other materials
- Have support to get to and/or on meetings



Speak Up and Speak Out!

Bob has a board meeting at 9am tomorrow morning. He wants to go to a late baseball game tonight that starts 9.30pm. The game won't get over until 12.30am. By the time Bob gets home and to bed, it will be around 2am.

What do you think about Bob's idea to go to the game tonight?



Speak Up and Speak Out!

Sally has a board meeting today. As part of her responsibilities of being a board member, Sally must review the agenda and meeting minutes before the meeting starts. Sally didn't review the agenda and meeting minutes because she lost them 2 weeks ago.

How do you think Sally is handling her responsibilities as a board member?



Speak Up and Speak Out!

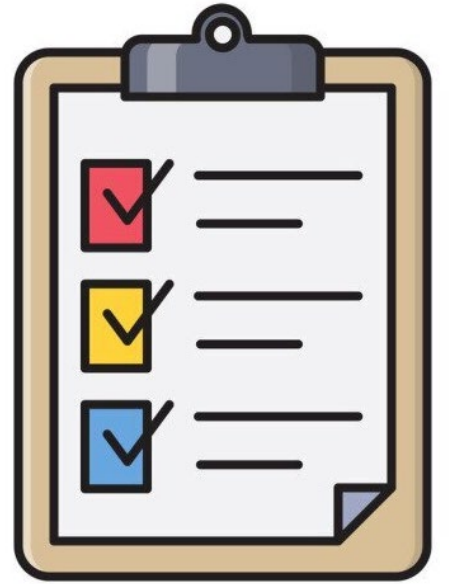
Lewis is new to a board. The board meetings are hybrid so Lewis could attend in person or on Zoom.

Lewis doesn't have a way to get the location to attend in person. Also, he doesn't have access to technology to get on the meeting on Zoom.

What advice would you give to Lewis?

3 Tips During a Meeting

- Be on time
- Take notes
- Ask questions



Speak Up and Speak Out!

Rick is an officer on a board. He is the Sergeant At Arms. As Sargent At Arms, Rick is responsible for making sure the meeting runs smoothly and only one person speaks at a time.

Rick doesn't come to the meeting on time. He is always 15 minutes late. How do you think Rick is handling his responsibilities as a Sergeant At Arms?



Speak Up and Speak Out!

Sandy is part of a self-advocacy group. At the meetings, members have to take notes about the meeting. Sandy doesn't take notes because she is not a good speller.

What advice would you give Sandy?

Speak Up and Speak Out!

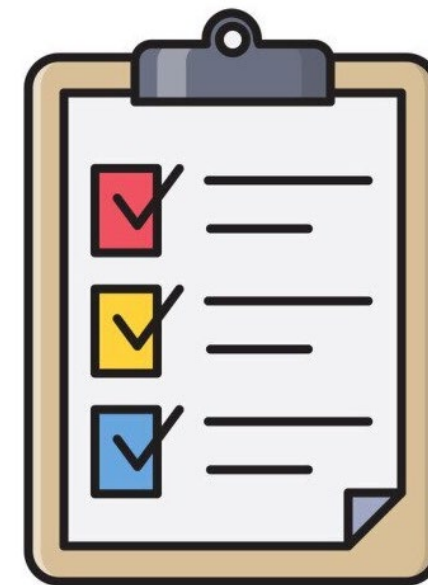
Jack is in an important board meeting. He doesn't understand some of the information. Jack raises his hand often to ask questions. Another board member complains that Jack is taking up too much time with all his questions.

The board president thanks Jack for asking questions because other board members may not know the information either. How do you think Jack is handling his responsibilities as a board member?



3 Tips After a Meeting

- Review information said and shared at meeting
- Put next meeting on calendar
- Keep information in a safe/private location
- Reach out if you have any questions
 - Board president
 - Other board members



Speak Up and Speak Out!

Bob has important meeting papers. He needs to keep them safe because there is private information in them.

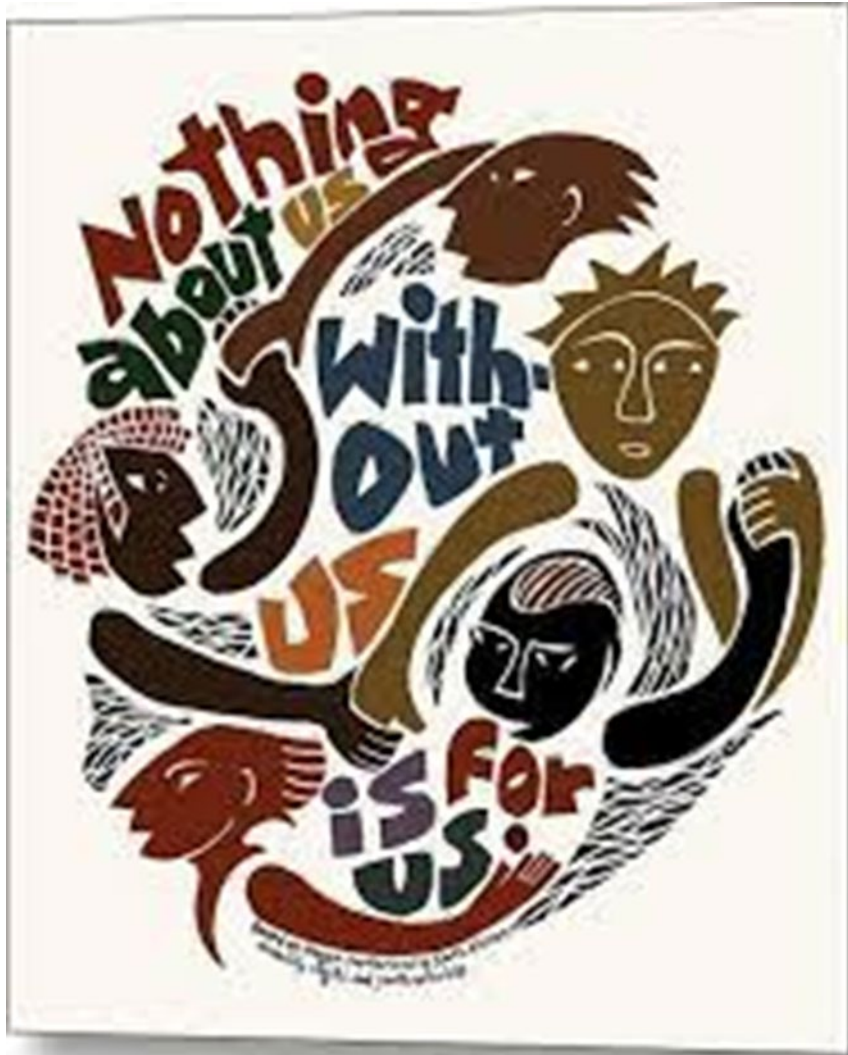
What advice would you give to Rick to help keep the important papers safe?

Speak Up and Speak Out!

It is one week after the meeting, and Raymond is reviewing the information that was shared. There is a handout that Raymond doesn't really understand. There is also a date and time of an upcoming meeting that Raymond needs to put on his calendar.

Raymond decides not to do anything about the information. How do you think Raymond is handling his responsibilities as a board member?





Questions Comments Considerations

Email

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Website

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