

Your Personal Advisory Board

Having a Personal Advisory Board can be very helpful for many persons. You are out of known territory and on the frontier so you need support and encouragement. One of the Personal Advisory Board's primary duties is to listen deeply to you and help you express what you want. They will ask you the kinds of questions that you need to ask and then they will help you keep moving toward what you want to be. Some board members may ask you what your passion is and whether you have a mission statement.

Another duty of the board is to help you explore more options you should consider before making decisions. People often do not consider enough options, especially options you may want to explore, refine, and tailor based upon your interests, skills, values, and passions.

The Personal Advisory Board is *personal* and *advisory*. I emphasize advisory because you will make the final decisions. The board should be composed of four to six members and should be a diverse group that can ask you the questions you need to be asked. One or two members can be from your same occupation, but the membership can also include sages, spiritual leaders, persons of the opposite gender, and those of different ages and cultures, visionaries, and planners. The board should not be composed only of friends, persons who knew each other before, or family members. Include some members who think mostly in terms of what you can be and are less interested in what you have done.

The meetings can be over dinner at your home or another dining place with a private room, or at other times of the day convenient for the board. Ask for a one-year commitment that can be renewed. If P.A.B members are too far away to have “across the
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table” meetings, another option is to have a “virtual” personal board that could use a video conference, as that becomes more affordable using the internet. Another option is using the phone with an electronic bridge. It’s helpful to periodically have a meeting where all members are across the table from each other. Start meeting monthly and stay in touch using email. Later as you and your P.A.B. have matured, you may or may not want to decrease the frequency of your meetings, but keep the contact with your members going.

You build the agenda for the meeting. After the first meeting, your P.A.B. can help you with the agenda. In sending out the meeting notice and agenda, you should detail what you have done since the last meeting, what you plan to do before the next meeting, and how the board may be able to help you. During your meeting allow time for discussion that may be the “frosting on the cake” as board members further trigger other board members’ suggestions and you harvest their creativity.

You may want to send your board members with a copy of a book or articles that you are reading that might also be of interest to them. Your board members may want to suggest books and resources for you. You may also want to prepare annual and quarterly reports on your life and career progress.

For some persons, it is difficult to open up a life that has been hidden behind a career persona, but your advisory board members must understand that confidentiality for everyone involved is one of the most important rules. Your board members can also benefit from this experience. It may encourage them to assess their own lives and careers, and many will enjoy being with other board members. They will grow along with you.

Remember, it is an honor to be asked to serve on your Personal Advisory Board. Your are deserving, step out, and launch!

Now start your planning for your Personal Advisory Board:

Members to be included and qualifications for each of the six board members (Review the suggested qualifications above on page 1.)

Proposed Board Members

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

List the points you will mention when you contact prospective members.

What might be a convenient meeting place and time?

Sketch out the agenda for your first meeting.

Will you have a special name for your board?

For more help, contact Dick Haid, (513) 868-1488 or dickhaid@adultmentor.com

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