

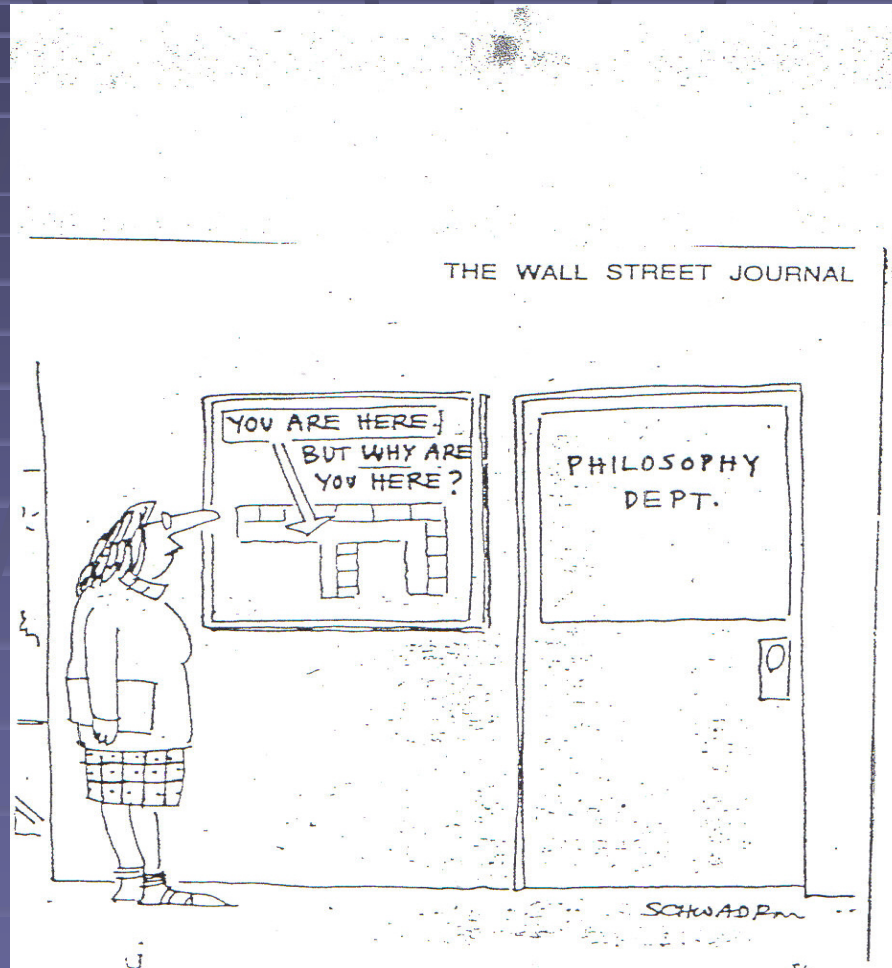
The Role of Board Presidents

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“You are here, but why are you here?”



The Value of the Board

- To support and strengthen the organization
- To allow for strategic thinking
- To work on the five areas of focus

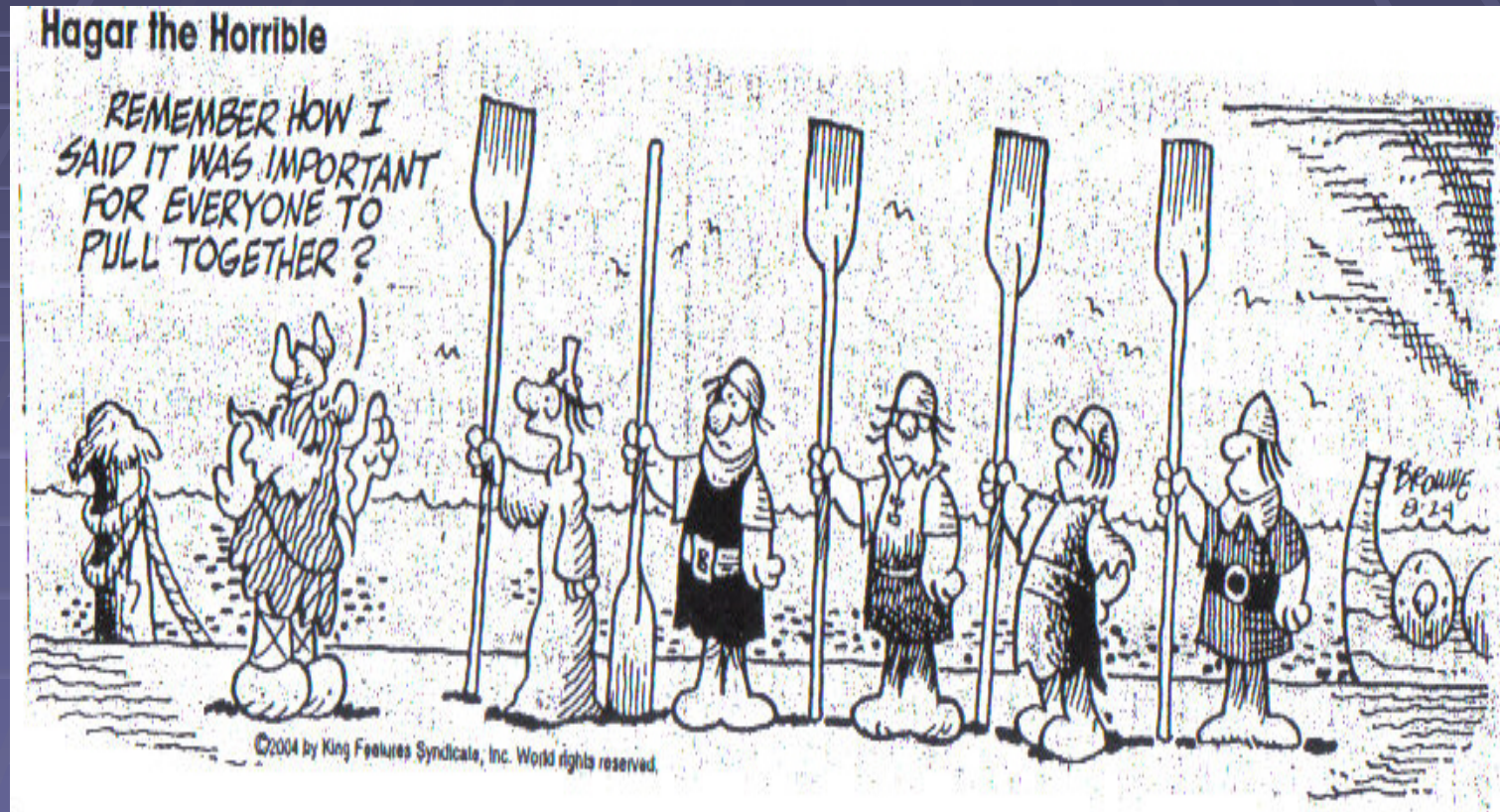
The five areas of focus

- Policy
- Guidance
- Governance
- Advocacy
- Fundraising

Role of the Board

- To be the face of leadership
- To provide a vision for the organization
- To help to support a healthy sustainable organization
- To be the entity for leadership to the stakeholders: patrons, staff, community leaders, elected officials

A board works together to provide value in its role:
“Remember how I said it was important for everyone to pull together?”



Role of the Board Members

- Identify an area for your contribution
- Serve on working committees to get things done
- Understand your responsibilities on being on the board
- Understand the vision, strategy and shared values of the board
- Have a working knowledge of the organization

Role of the Board President

- Execute the will of the board
- Provide leadership to the board
- Develop a vision for the board
- Be the communicator or spokesperson for the board
- Manage the effective use of meetings (regular and committee meetings)
- Provide a liaison with the system as needed

The Board President as a Board Member

- Their role as a board member does not change
- The aforementioned lists should be embraced even as the president
- Safeguard the board's trust

The Board President's Challenge

- Using the meeting times well
- Make timely organizational decisions
- Ensure the effective discharge of budgetary issues
- Provide timely guidance in the absence of policies
- Allow for board time to develop strategy
- Allow for board time for issues management

Key remembrances on the Board's Role

- Boards do not and should not manage the organization
- The Board should support the Executive Director in his or her management of the organization

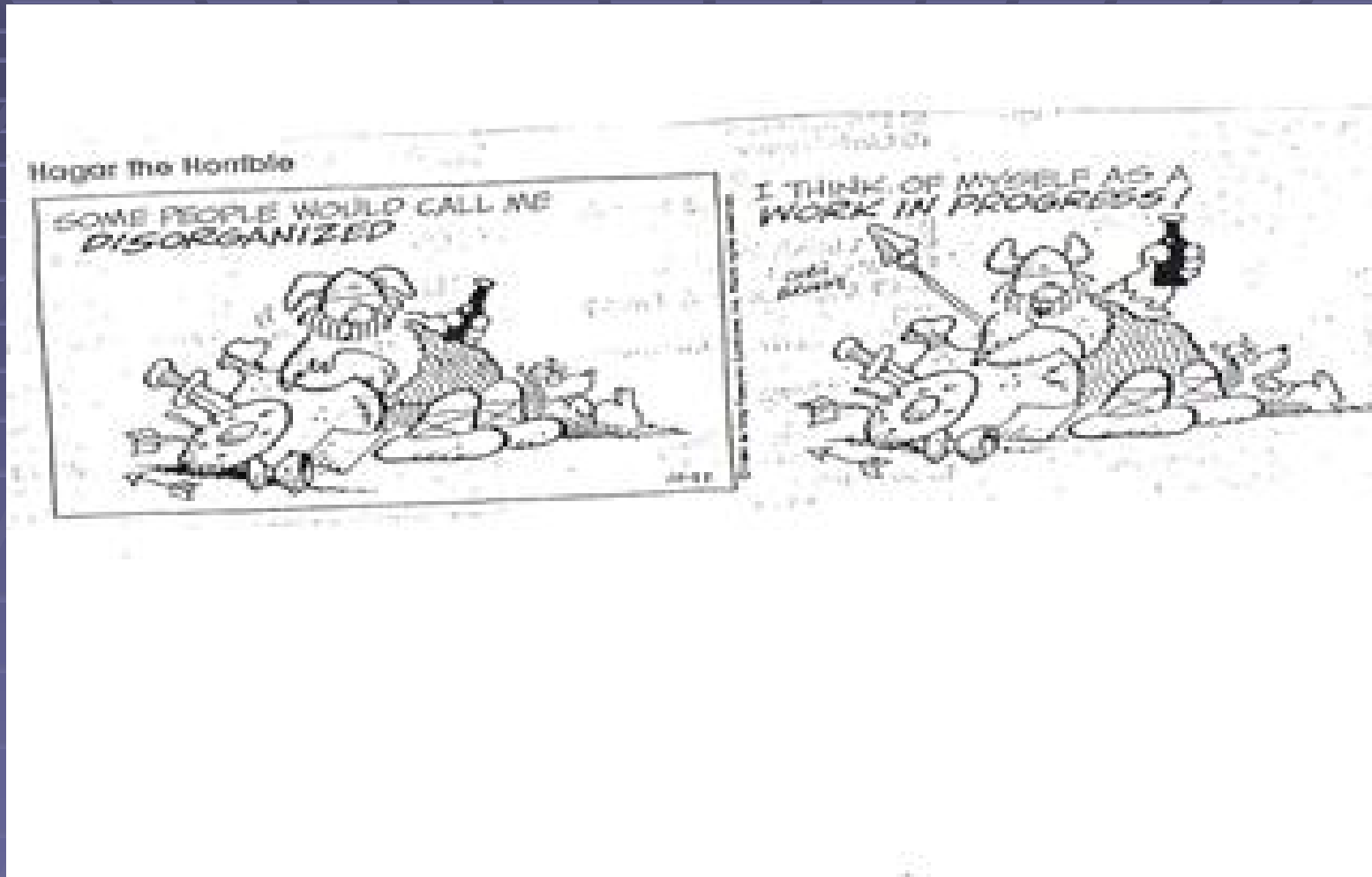
The Board President's Legacy

- A legacy is what you leave behind
- With our leadership we can choose what we leave behind
- We can leave behind, a thinking, a memory, a behavior or just value
- As a board president it's our choice

Passing Thoughts

- One of the most appreciated gift a board president can give to his or her board members is the care that he or she has shown to the respecting of their time
- Conduct focused and timely meetings
- In such meetings things will get done and the members will feel good about their contribution and their service

“Some people would call me disorganized....
I think of myself as a work in progress!”



Next Steps

- Our meetings are where we spend the most time; evaluate them and re-evaluate them
- Set targets that everyone understands; have a clear agenda
- Make sure everyone understands their responsibilities and what they are called to do
- Let the board members know the part that they play and the help that you need from them
- Leadership is a choice, choose to lead, and then, lead