

What is the Role of the Board in Times of Crisis?

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Facilitator:

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Session Goals

- ▶ Understand how crisis is impacting all nonprofit organization, just differently
- ▶ Explore options for how a nonprofit board of directors can continue its important oversight role and other functions without meeting in person.
- ▶ Discuss items that specific board committees should be looking at given current circumstances (e.g., human resources, investments, fundraising, etc.).
- ▶ Review questions that you have about boards given current circumstances.

Mission Impact

Choose Option Best Describes Your Current Circumstance

- ▶ Increased Demand - provides an essential, urgent service and/or the need has increased because of the crisis.
- ▶ Neutral Demand - Approximately the same demand pre-COVID-19
- ▶ Reduced Demand - our services were dependent on people being able to come to our site (e.g., a museum, theatre)
- ▶ Reframe Service Delivery - need to reframe how work is accomplished (e.g., theatre as online performances)

Board Role in a Time of Crisis

The slide features a white background with a decorative graphic on the right side. This graphic consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent green shapes in various shades, ranging from light lime green to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily triangular and polygonal, creating a dynamic, layered effect. A thin, light gray line also runs diagonally across the lower right portion of the slide, intersecting the green shapes.

Board Meetings - What is Permissible?

- ▶ For California nonprofit organizations, it is permissible to conduct meetings telephonically and/or via video conference.
- ▶ Key factor is all board members must be able to hear each other (or in the case of individuals who are deaf have simultaneous translation).
- ▶ Motions via *unanimous* written consent are also valid.

Board of Directors - Key Questions

- ▶ What aspects of this situation could affect our organization?
- ▶ What are the organization's greatest vulnerabilities?
- ▶ What questions from the press would we least like to face?
- ▶ How can we prevent or mitigate worse-case scenarios from occurring?
- ▶ What issues have short term vs. long term implications?

Board Committees - Urgent Work

Board Committees - Fundraising

- ▶ Board member role in contacting individual donors?
- ▶ Converting a fundraising event to a virtual activity?
- ▶ Strategies for connecting with donors?
- ▶ Other?

Board Committees - Finance

- ▶ Understanding of revenue shortfalls and appropriate adjustments.
- ▶ Increased expenses to cover staff working at home (e.g., secure access to files, purchasing lap tops for organization for use by staff, etc.).
- ▶ Drawing down investment income.
- ▶ Other?

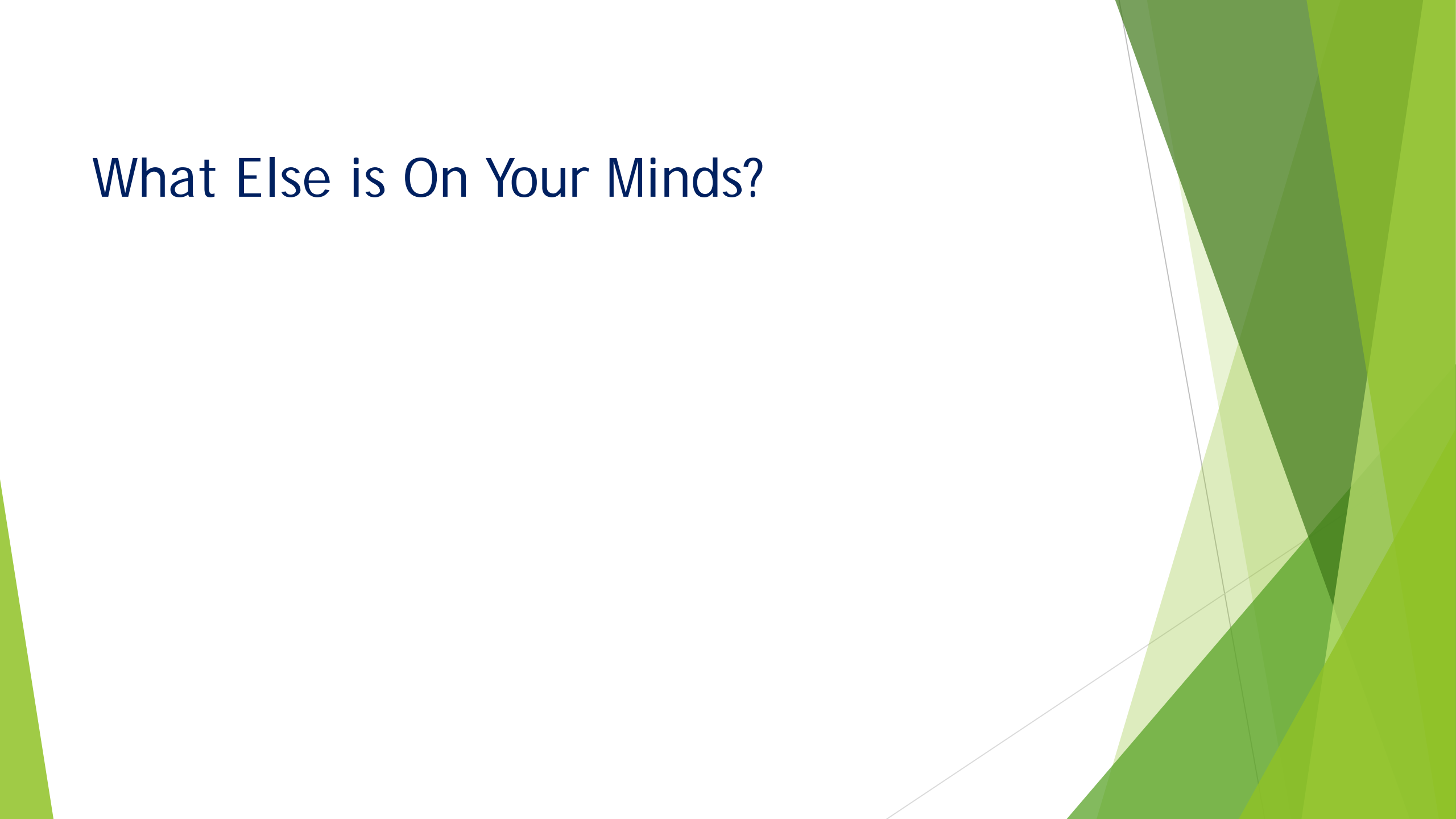
Board Committees - Operations/HR

- ▶ Is there a need for adjustments to the organization's Personnel or Human Resources policies (e.g., working from home)?
- ▶ Is there a need to adjust supervision?
- ▶ Other?

Board Committees - Communications

- ▶ Defining board role around communications and strategy.
- ▶ What information should organization share with the public?
- ▶ Other?

What Else is On Your Minds?



Thank you for participation. Stay Healthy

- ▶ Patty Oertel welcomes any follow-up questions or requests for resources. You can reach her at poertel@theoertelgroup.org.