**ENGAGING TRUSTEES**

Board members and staff often remark that “*our Board just doesn’t seem to be very engaged”.* And very often much less politic statements to that effect. While the reasons can be many, a possible solution can come from a more thoughtful structuring for the governing board’s renewal, assessment and vitality.

Specifically, establishing a committee on Trustees which expands on the traditional role of a nominating committee, and focuses time and attention in the following areas:

**Board Nominations**

♦ Maintaining a list of potential Trustee candidates whose leadership characteristics and capabilities meet the current leadership requirements of the Board.

♦ Contacting and cultivating the interest of potential Trustee candidates to determine their ability and willingness to serve on the Board if nominated and elected.

♦ Presenting for Board consideration recommended Trustee candidates along with a written "brief" of each candidate's leadership qualifications and expressed willingness to serve.

**Board Assessment**

Periodically assessing various aspects of the Board's organization and operations, including:

* Standing Committee structure and tasks
* Ad Hoc Committee designations and assignments
* Board meetings and attendance
* Trustee participation

**Board Vitalization**

Providing for the vitalization of Board members through such techniques as:

* Formal orientation sessions for new Trustees
* Board retreats and workshops
* Trustee evaluations and questionnaires