Desirable Characteristics & Skills for
NAFA Board Members

**Strategic Thinking:** The ability to come up with effective plans in line with an organization’s objectives within a particular situation.

**Leadership Skills:** The ability to inspire, communicate and delegate effectively, keeping in mind the organization’s mission and goals.

**Consensus Building (or Collaborative Problem Solving):** The ability to mediate a conflict that involves many parties, leading to a resolution that is acceptable to all parties involved.

**Critical Thinking:** The ability to conduct an objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgment.

**Industry Experience:** Relevant industry experience that will enable the person to offer opinions and guidance on topics of concern or inquiry.

**Flexibility:** The ability to demonstrate willingness to change or compromise for the good of the organization.

**Communication Skills:** The ability to convey information to people clearly and simply so the message is understood, while at the same time being able to understand the audience for which the message is intended.

**Time Commitment:** The ability to be involved in the organization with no barriers to such involvement.

**Organizational Support:** Having your employer’s support to devote the time and resources necessary to complete your work on the Board, including the ability to travel to 2- or 3-day Board meetings three times each year.

**Passionate:** Having a love of the industry and the organization to want to help move both forward and in a positive manner.

The National Council of Non-Profits says great board members have three things in common:

1. Holding the community in trust (being a good steward)
2. Being a servant-leader (serve first, lead second)
3. Working for the common good