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## In Case You Were Wondering: Distinction Between Board Chair Role vs CEO Role in Nonprofit 501(c)(6) Business League Organizations

by: M. Louise Walters, PhDC, MSM, BS, IOM

The roles of the board chair and the CEO of nonprofit 501(c)(6) tax-exempt business league organizations are intended to be distinct yet complementary. The following list has been developed from my years of experience in the nonprofit sector.

Chairman/Chairwoman of the Board	Chief Executive Officer
Is the 'face' of the organization	Represents the board chair, the board of
Serves as 'ambassador' on behalf of the organization	directors, and the organization as needed
Chairs and oversees the work of the Executive Committee	Builds and is the leader of the organization's staff
Chairs and facilitates discussions and the work of the board of directors at meetings and events	Manages the daily operations of the organization
Ensures the annual performance evaluation of the CEO and provides on-going feedback as needed	Ensures the annual performance evaluation of the staff members and provides on-going direction as needed
Leads consensus development on organization-related issues	Guides staff and volunteers to advance organization-related issues
Is responsible for visioning/strategic planning	Works to advance the organization's mission and vision by carrying out the strategic plan and by helping develop organizational policies and procedures
Ensures adequate funding and other resources	Manages the resources of the organization
Monitors organization's performance	Works with stakeholders on common issues
Serves as advisor to the CEO, if requested	Functions as the 'corporate memory' of the organization and safeguards the organization's official documents