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Nonprofits hope 'board university' will attract more leaders to serve

Wichita Business Journal - by [Josh Heck](#)

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Wichita boasts more than 150 nonprofit organizations, many of which have to rely heavily on volunteers to help them to run smoothly.

Attracting volunteers and board members, nonprofit executives say, can be challenging, largely because people don't know how to get involved — or which organizations need help.



JOSH HECK / WBJ

Jill Bosley, Wichita division director for the March of Dimes, says the Nonprofit Chamber of Service's expo will be a chance for nonprofits to attract volunteers.

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The Nonprofit Chamber of Service thinks it has a solution.

It is sponsoring a day-long board university training event Jan. 30 at the Wichita Marriott Hotel for those who are interested in serving on a board of directors.

"The program includes a wide array of great training opportunities for both nonprofit executives and board of directors members," says Perry Schuckman, executive director of

the Nonprofit Chamber.

Quality board leadership, nonprofit executives say, is especially important in tough economic times because of the challenges nonprofits face in obtaining funding.

A capable board will be instrumental in finding new ways to grow an organization and look toward the future, says Kevin Fish, executive director of **The Arc of Sedgwick County**.

"It's a huge challenge to be able to find good board members," he says. "A board university gives guidance for people looking to be a member of a board of directors."

The event, will feature several keynote speakers who understand how nonprofits work.

They include: Julia Fabris McBride, **Coach Julia Inc**; Dr. Tony Woodlief, **Market-Based Management Institute**; Kevin Arnel, **Foulston Siefkin LLP**; Betty Johnson, **Betty Johnson & Associates**; Jim Moore, who recently retired as the executive director of the **Wichita Community Foundation**; Dr. David Kamerer, **Wichita State University**; Shelly Hammond, **Allen, Gibbs & Houlik LC** and Sierra Scott, host of the TV show, "It's all Good."

In conjunction with the board university event, the Nonprofit Chamber also is sponsoring a volunteer expo, open to the public from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteer Expo

Representatives from more than 50 local nonprofits will be available to provide information about volunteer opportunities.

"If you want to be a volunteer in the community, it's a one-stop shop," Schuckman says.

The volunteer expo, he says, will give organizations a chance to attract talent they might not otherwise see.

Local nonprofit leaders say they welcome the opportunity to get the word out.

"It's a great opportunity because everyone who is there is looking to get involved," says Jill Bosley, Wichita division director for the **March of Dimes**.

The Details

What: Nonprofit Chamber of Service board university/volunteer expo.

When: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 30. (expo from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

Where: Wichita Marriott Hotel, 9100 Corporate Hills Drive.

To register for board university: Call (316) 440-6744 or visit www.NonprofitChamberKS.org.

Registration deadline: Jan. 27.

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