

## **The Role of the OPA Board of Directors**

Like all nonprofit organizations, OPA's Board of Directors performs a number of vital roles:

### **Oversee Programs**

Board members oversee all our summer programs! While OPA staff and volunteers carry out daily operations, board members exercise fiduciary oversight. They must protect OPA's funds and assets and monitor the effectiveness of the organization, making sure it is aligned with our ultimate cause and mission.

### **Legal and Ethical Integrity**

Board members have the added responsibility to ensure OPA follows the legal and ethical standards for business in general and those unique to our specific organization. Strong integrity and sound business practices enhance our public image and work to further our mission.

### **Strategic Planning and Choosing the Chief Executive**

The board creates and periodically updates a strategic plan to carry out OPA's goals. While the staff implements a plan based on these strategies, the board has the responsibility to craft what elements of the plan will work well for the organization and make adjustments when needed. Much of the implementation becomes the responsibility of the Executive Director who is chosen by the board and supported to morally and professionally achieve OPA's business and Chautauqua-based goals.

### **Fundraising**

Board members have the overall responsibility of ensuring that OPA is properly funded to accomplish its mission. Whether it is to take an active role in fundraising activities, or to use business and social connections to build interest in our organization, board members play a vital role in this important function.

### **Dedicated Involvement**

A seat on the OPA board requires true dedication and passion for what we do and a desire to work collegially with the Executive Director to continue what was first established in 1881 when OPA was founded.

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