



The United States Association of

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

"Let your face shine on your servant..." Psalm 31: 17

The purpose of CGSUSA is to assist the involvement of children and adults in a common religious experience in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant.

Our mission is to support catechists, parents, and others in the Church and beyond, as they grow in their understanding of the religious potential of children.

The role and responsibility of the Board of Trustees is two-fold: to ensure that CGSUSA remains faithful to its purpose and mission, and to ensure the national association has the necessary resources to facilitate this work.

Gifts we seek in potential board members

The last 40-plus years have been years of growth and transformation both within the work and in the communities in which we serve. It is not surprising then that the gifts we seek in our board members have also evolved.

1. Passion for the mission and the work of CGSUSA

Our board members have an awareness of the scope of this work and its essential spirit and are attentive to the needs of the regions, the national and international work.

2. Commitment

Board of Trustees members should be able to commit approximately five hours per week of time to the work of CGSUSA. This may take the form of conference calls, meetings, working on individual action items assigned by the board or the National Director, helping on committees, or fundraising. There are typically four board meetings a year – two held by teleconference and two held in person at our national office in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our phone meetings last 2-3 hours while our in-person meetings last 2-3 days as we delve into larger issues. The ability to travel is necessary. It is a policy of the board that travel and lodging expenses associated with a board

meeting held at the national office are reimbursed by CGSUSA; however, most board members offer their airfare as a donation to the association. Board members also serve on and often chair at least one committee. Committees from one to four times a year depending on which committee.

3. Willingness to Fundraise

Funding in support of CGSUSA flows from four general areas: Member dues, Publications and Shepherd's Closet Sales, Formation Events/Fees, and Donations. It is a primary responsibility of the CGSUSA Board of Trustees to safeguard the financial future of the work. To do this, we seek to expand our constituent base by creating opportunities to invite others into our work. We seek potential new board members who have a heart for the spiritual development of the child and the capacity to financially support our efforts. While all involved in this work – catechists, formation leaders, staff, and board members – are asked to cultivate relationships, it falls primarily to the National Director and the board to ask for financial donations. Board members are willing and able to seek financial donations to supplement CGSUSA's revenue.

4. Comfort with Use of Technology

While our work in the atrium as catechists is built on relationships and primarily makes use of handmade materials, our work as an association is increasingly dependent on the use of technology. We rely on our website, social media and electronic newsletters to communicate with members; and on-line meetings and emails to connect not only offices and staff located in Phoenix, Atlanta, and Des Moines, but also board committee members and catechists from all over the country. Board members use Office 365, including Outlook for email, Excel spreadsheets for financial reports and scholarship information, and SharePoint for sharing and commenting on documents.

5. Business experience

Board members routinely review and discuss income and expense reports, balance sheets, audit reports, and other documents required of non-profit organizations. In addition, board members, in collaboration with the National Director, staff and committees, formulate plans for publications, events and fundraising. In February 2020 the board and staff completed "2020 Clarity of Vision – A Purposeful Plan" that will serve as a roadmap for the next five years.

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