

Hello Potential DSALA Board Member!

Do you want to make a difference and serve on a Board dedicated to helping children, teens, and adults with Down syndrome and their families?

The Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles (DSALA) offers a unique opportunity to help bridge the gap for families with special needs in our community who are in much need of resources, services, and support. The Board seeks individuals able to creatively advise the DSALA staff regarding organizational fundraising, services, programs, procedures and policies.

DSALA's Dedication

A small initiative started by a few parents of children with Down syndrome has made a significant impact on the lives of thousands of children and adults with Down syndrome, as well as their families. Back in 1975, parents of children with Down syndrome often received discouraging or pessimistic information about their children's future, leading to the common practice of placing them in institutions.

Fifteen dedicated parents came together to establish the DSALA with the aim of caring for their children at home. Their objective was to shift the narrative from focusing on the perceived limitations of individuals with Down syndrome to recognizing and nurturing their potential.

About Board Membership

- Our organization provides support from prenatal diagnosis through adulthood.
- The Board consists of members with expertise in developmental disabilities, encompassing legal, financial, managerial, public relations, funding, and marketing skills.
- Serving the greater Los Angeles area since 1975, the DSALA staff's diligent efforts are complemented by the diverse skills of the Board.
- Effective decision-making requires active participation and collaboration from all individuals sharing the organization's vision.
- The recent changes within DSALA highlight the increased significance of Board Members' roles in shaping and establishing the necessary infrastructure for new and existing programs.
- Board Members may be required to adhere to additional guidelines and principles as they contribute to this exciting new venture.

DSALA Board Qualifications

A Board Member must be able to:

- Demonstrate an active interest in, or knowledge of, developmental disabilities.
- Serve a minimum of a one-year term.
- Attend monthly Board meetings (typically held on the third Tuesday of each month) and special events throughout the year.
- Be punctual for all meetings and events.
- Commit to the vision and intent of DSALA.
- Review in-depth all policies, procedures, and documentation as implemented by DSALA.
- Understand and support the core competencies, as well as future vision, of the organization.
- Exhibit a deep understanding and compassion for the demographic we serve and the gaps our organization aims to fill.
- Possess personal qualities such as open-mindedness, objectivity, competence, and dedication.
- Remain fair and ethical, and show personal integrity at all times.
- Work hard and be proactive about solving community problems and reaching organizational and program objectives.
- Contribute new ideas in alignment with the values and directives of DSALA.
- Become knowledgeable about the purpose, programs, and needs of the Board for making sound policy judgments.
- Understand the fiscal responsibilities of a corporation and/or nonprofit.
- Fulfill the duties of a Board Member or Director in good faith with diligence, care, and prudence.
- Communicate and engage with fellow Board members in a courteous, respectful, and supportive manner.
- Commit to the by-laws and other written policies as established by the DSALA.

Board Member Selection Process

The first step in our selection process for Board Membership involves completing our **New Board Member Application**. After careful review, if it is decided that the candidate meets the criteria for membership, we will pursue a Meet & Greet with our staff and existing members to ensure proper fit, culminating with an invitation to attend an upcoming Board Meeting for a formal introduction to the committee. Once welcomed to our Board, we will request that you supply a current bio and picture for posting on our website.

Board Membership Readiness Self-Assessment

The DSALA deeply values the contributions of our passionate and talented Board members. As you consider your membership, please review the following guidelines to help assess your readiness to serve on our Board:

- Review the details of your personal involvement (including the above sections on membership, qualifications, and selection) to ensure you are in alignment with our goals and objectives for this membership.
- Be sure you have adequate time to fulfill the duties inherent to this position sufficiently.
- Assess your personal skills, talents, and experience so that you can offer to serve on committees in areas where your strengths can be of value to the Board.
- Be prompt for scheduled meetings. Regular attendance and attention will quickly increase your value to the Board.
- Members of the Board are not paid, nor does it require payment to serve.
- To give your best, please obtain the information necessary to fully understand the responsibilities of your position, as well as the mission of the organization.
- As a volunteer, you should become familiar with the staff and their areas of responsibility.
- Information imparted publicly should reflect the decisions of the Board, as opposed to individual opinions and views.
- All information shared with, for, and at the DSALA shall remain confidential.
- If you feel you are not in alignment with the values or objectives of DSALA, please consider declining the invitation to serve.



Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles

New Board Member Application

We appreciate your interest in joining our Board. Please complete this application and email it to sandra@dsala.org with the subject line: Board Membership.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZIP _____

Please let us know about your interest in the special needs community

Do you have a child or children with special needs?

No Yes Name(s) and age(s)

Optional: Are you a self-advocate? No Yes

Relevant experience, education, and employment (please attach a resume if relevant):

Why are you interested in the DSALA?

Area(s) of expertise/contribution you feel you can make:



Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles

How many hours per week can you make available for Board service? _____

Please detail other volunteer commitments you are currently undertaking:

How did you learn of this opportunity?

Do you have experience sitting on a governing board? No Yes

If so, please list any boards and committees that you serve on or have served on:

ORGANIZATION	ROLE/TITLE	DATES OF SERVICE
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Please share your skills, experience and areas of interest (mark all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration/Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning/Organizing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing/Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Advocacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |

List any groups, organizations or businesses that you could serve as liaison on behalf of DSALA:

Is there anything else you would like to share with the Board?

thank you!

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