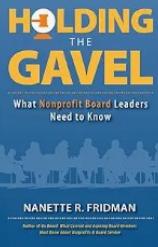


The Many Facets of Leadership

JULY 2025

Vicki Holden, CFWC Leadership Chair, Editor



Holding the Gavel lifts the veil on being the chair or president of a non-profit board of directors and provides best practices and real advice for nonprofit board leaders. Too often people are asked to lead a board without a guidebook or a mentor. Holding the Gavel, lays out the job, what is expected and how best to contribute. Even seasoned leaders can lack specific knowledge areas and skills to successfully lead, govern and champion their organization. Get the candid, inside scoop and learn about the following from experienced board chairs. With Holding the Gavel, current and prospective board leaders and the staff they work with finally have the real information needed to help their organizations thrive. .

The author, Nanette Fridman, has teamed with Kelly Segal, forming the company The Effect Collective, www.effect-collective.com , from which the blog The Effect comes. The following is from that blog

Summer Isn't a Slowdown—It's a Setup

Sure, school's out. Half your team is Out Of Office. And yes, it's hot enough to fry your strategic plan on the sidewalk. But here's the thing: if you're in development or manage a board, summer isn't the off-season—it's the secret weapon.

While others are hitting pause, you can be laying the groundwork for stronger fundraising, better planning, and deeper relationships. Summer doesn't have to be sleepy—it can be smart.

Whether you're a nonprofit leader, development pro, or board chair, here's how to make this season work for you in five key areas:

1. Clean Up and Catch Up

Summer is the season to clear the decks—literally and figuratively.

Tidy up systems: Review your donor database, digital files, and old spreadsheets. Update contact info, fix bounce-backs, clean up duplicated records.

Declutter your space: Reset your physical and virtual workspace for a more productive fall.

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2. Recharge and Reinvest

You can't pour from an empty cup. Use this season to invest in yourself and your team.

Set a personal goal: Whether it's a training, a podcast series, or just more walking meetings, choose something that nourishes you professionally.

Take real time off: Not the kind where you check Slack at the beach. Real rest fuels better work.

Support your staff's growth: Encourage team members to explore professional development or try new tools before fall's chaos returns.

3. Reconnect and Cultivate

Fewer meetings = more meaningful conversations.

Spend time with donors: Not to ask, just to connect. A walk, a backyard coffee, a thank-you call—small gestures that deepen relationships.

Engage your board: Even if they're traveling, a quick check-in or summer update helps them stay aligned and energized.

Map your fall strategy: Collaborate with key volunteers now to tee up fall campaigns, events, or stewardship touchpoints.

4. Plan Ahead (So You're Not Playing Catch-Up)

You'll thank yourself in September if you front-load the prep work now.

Review goals: Where are you against your strategic plan or development benchmarks? What needs to shift?

Assess your prospect pipeline: Who's rising, who's cooled off, and who's new to the list?

Get materials ready: Draft donor appeals, social posts, or board decks now—future you will be grateful.

5. Get Your Board Ready

Don't wait until September to get your board in gear—summer is your chance to set the table.

Plan meeting calendars: Map out board meeting dates 12–18 months out. Make sure they fit your key events and cycles—not just random slots.

Plan agenda topics: Don't wing it. Line up topics for each meeting—financials, strategy, governance refreshers—so everyone knows what's ahead.

Brainstorm your board retreat: Nail down the purpose—mission refresh, strategy tune-up, team alignment. Secure the date and facilitators now, not later.

Review committee charges: Make sure every committee's role is clear and up-to-date. No drifting. No overlap. Just focus.

Review board and committee orientations: Update and sharpen them—who you are, what's expected, how you do things. Summer's the perfect window to get new members (and old ones) on the same page.

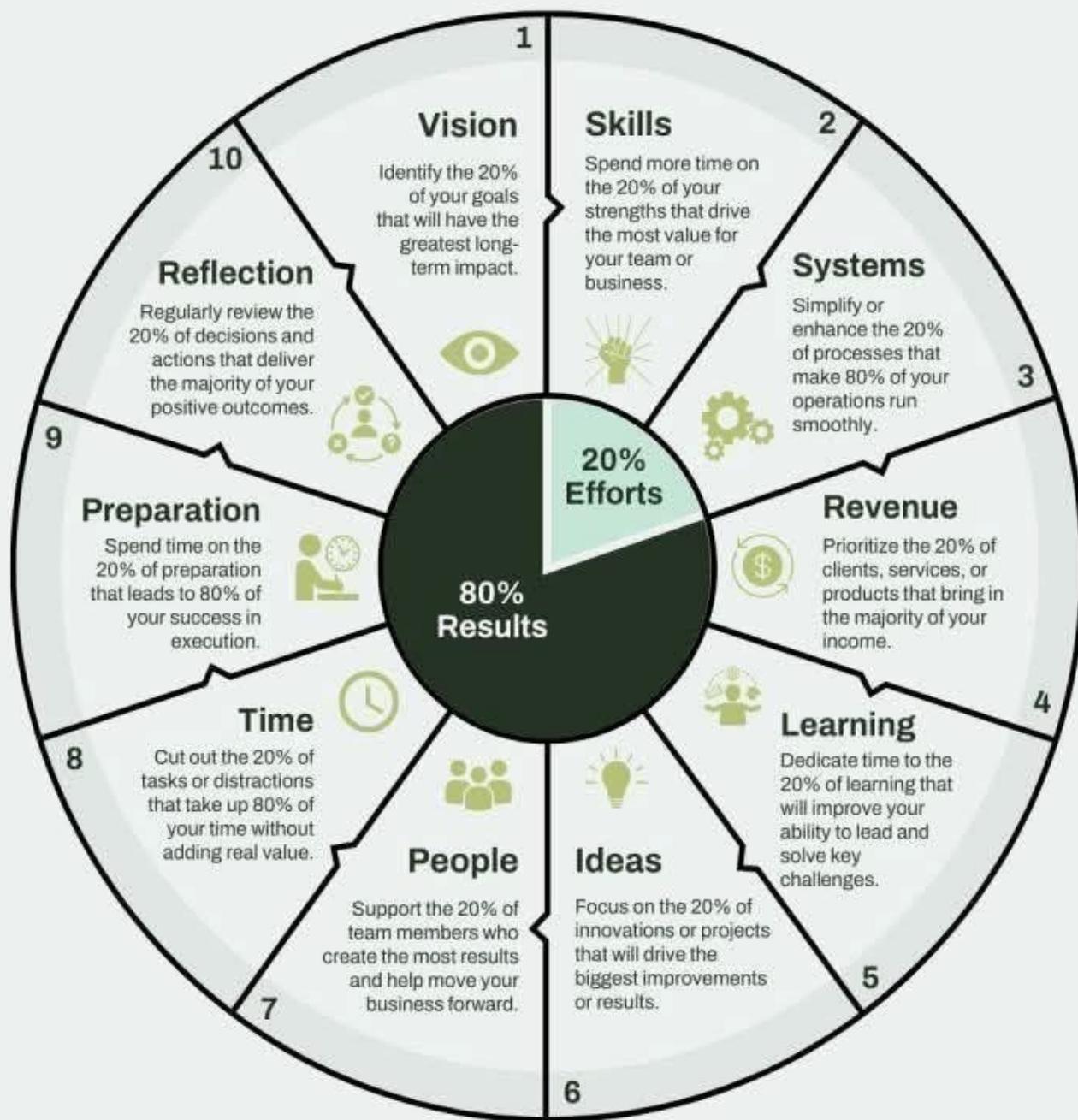
Final Thought: Don't Let Summer Idle—Put It in Drive

You can treat summer like a holding pattern—or you can use it to get ahead while everyone else is snoozing. A little strategic effort now pays off big when September rolls in and the calendar explodes. So grab an iced coffee, block some thinking time, and treat summer like the power move it is. Your future self (and your fall self) will thank you.

THE 80/20 RULE FOR LEADERS

By Amy Gibson

Most leaders don't need more to do. They need more focus. The 80/20 Rule helps you zero in on the 20% of actions that drive 80% of your results.



Follow Amy Gibson for actionable tips on leadership

linkedin.com/in/amy-l-g



Putting each piece together – Success!

Vision: Dream of what you want to become and stretch to achieve it!

Communication: Clear, concise, and regular communications keep members informed and moving forward!

Motivation: Create enthusiasm and passion that translates vision into action and action into realities!

Relationships: Developing strong relationships, both internal and external, will ensure greatness!

Example – Great leaders don't tell how to do something; they are engaged along side members showing how!

Empower – Equip members with skills and inspire them to take action!

....oooOooo....

*"It's surprising how much you can accomplish
if you don't care who gets the credit"*

Abraham Lincoln

....oooOooo....

Comments and suggestions for future topics may be sent to cfcleadership@gmail.com