



Time Commitment for SPE Directors

Being an SPE Director will require commitment, probably 10-15% of your time, or maybe more depending on your level of involvement. However, virtually every former Director agrees that the benefits to both you and your employer far outweigh the time and costs involved with being a Director. In the course of your 3 years on the Board, you will meet many people from around the world who will provide you with many business and professional contacts, and perhaps business opportunities that you would not have had otherwise. For most Directors, there are also benefits in one's professional development that are difficult to quantify.

The SPE Board meets 3 times per year. It is very important that each director commit to attending all three (3) meetings. One Board meeting is held in conjunction with the Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition, usually held in September or October. The other two meetings are held in locations around the world chosen for strategic reasons by the SPE President. One will be held in late February or early March and another in June.

Each Board meeting lasts three to four days, usually on Thursday-Sunday. Travel on a Wednesday and Monday will likely be required, depending on the location. Many of our Directors try to line up other business when they travel for a Board meeting.

Each Board member serves on one of three Board Committees: (1) Member Programs - MP, (2) Communications and Knowledge Sharing - CKS, (3) Training, Programs and Meetings - TPM. Four Board members also serve on the Audit Committee, in addition to their other Committee assignment.

The Board Committees may hold occasional conference calls between the three regularly scheduled Board meetings. Some Board members may serve on special task forces that might also require occasional conference calls. In addition, the Board uses email and a web portal by BoardEffect® to discuss issues, vote on mail ballots, access board documents, and conduct routine business between regular Board meetings.

A very significant responsibility of Regional Directors is that they travel to visit Sections in their regions periodically. The larger sections should be visited once each year; the smaller sections should be visited every other year.

In addition, Regional Directors should communicate regularly by email or teleconference to ensure dissemination of information between section officers and the Board. This effective communication between the Board and members is important to the success of SPE.

An SPE Board Member Travel Reimbursement Policy is in place to enable Directors to participate in Board meetings and effectively serve their regions or technical specialty constituencies without financial hardship. The reimbursement policy applies to eligible expenses that neither the Director nor his/her company is in a position to pay. The need for financial support should ideally be declared at the time of acceptance of the nomination to serve as Director of SPE.

In summary, including travel, Board meetings amount to about fifteen (15) days, of which six would normally be over Saturdays and Sundays. Regional Directors will also typically spend at least five (5) to ten (10) days per year visiting occasional teleconferences with section officers. Finally, there will be some time answering emails and going to the Board portal site to review documents in preparation for the Board meetings or conference calls. A total commitment of between 25-35 days per year will be required, with the higher end of this range being desirable.

Technical Directors work closely with SPE staff to nurture their technical specialties. The Technical Directors will need to look at programs, publications, and committees to be certain their specialty is adequately represented in SPE's global activities. In some cases, new programs will be needed to increase or extend coverage of certain technical disciplines.

At-Large Directors will be asked to periodically support Regional and Technical Directors with travel to visit members.