



Stephanie Sonnabend

Former CEO and President
Sonesta International Hotels Corporation
Co-Founder and Chair
2020 Women on Boards

Stephanie Sonnabend is an inspirational speaker to groups of all sizes and ages. Topics such as living your passions, strategizing about your career and getting on a board resonate with audiences, especially women.

Ms. Sonnabend recently retired from Sonesta International Hotels Corporation after a thirty-five year career in the hospitality industry. She led the publicly held (NASDAQ) family controlled business through numerous business cycles, with Sonesta branded hotels, resorts, suites and Nile cruises located in the United States, Egypt, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, The Netherlands, Italy and throughout the Caribbean and Bermuda.

In January 2012 Ms. Sonnabend successfully completed a sale of the company, which involved taking the management company private and selling off the hotel assets to an affiliated REIT. She remained with the new company for a year and a half, and spearheaded the rebranding of 21 hotels in six months. Her recent accomplishments included launching a new extended stay brand and developing the renovation scope and design focus for all Sonesta Hotels.

In 2010, Ms. Sonnabend co-founded 2020 Women on Boards, a national campaign to increase the percentage of women on U.S. company boards to 20 percent or greater by the year 2020. Today the campaign is rapidly spreading throughout the United States providing education and advocacy strategies designed to encourage change.

Ms. Sonnabend currently serves on the Board of Directors of Century Bank and Trust and Century Bancorp, where she is a member of the Audit Committee and chairs the Asset Liability Committee. Professional memberships include World Presidents Organization, Women Corporate Directors, MA Women's Forum, and The Boston Club.

A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University, Stephanie Sonnabend received her master's degree from M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Management. Ms. Sonnabend resides in Brookline, MA. She is married with two adult children.