3 easy ways to improve your next board meeting

If your board's meetings are bogging down, try these quick fixes:

- 1. Come to meetings prepared by reading the agenda packet and contacting the CEO with any questions you have in advance of the meetings.
- 2. Agree as a board that any decisions that belong to the executive director will not appear on the meeting agenda or be taken up during the meeting.
- 3. Ask that the board chair move the meeting along when discussion heads off track. ■

Try this to 'be a better board member'

A field trip might be just what your board needs to boost enthusiasm about the organization's mission.

Stanford Business's *Insights* article "How to Be a Better Board Member" suggests site visits to engage more meaningfully with your organization.

"To be truly effective, members of a nonprofit board must engage directly and deeply, and this often includes traveling to the field," the website states. An example:

"Helen Keller International is somewhat unusual in that we required our board members to visit our programs in Africa and Asia at least once every three years," Kathy Spahn, CEO, explains. "They learn that dispensing a Vitamin A capsule is not as simple as it sounds!"

For more information, go to *http://goo.gl/PGtZWB*. ■

Fend off fraud at the organization

As stewards of the organization, the board should be sure that steps are taken to eliminate fraud.

In a leadership survey from Marks Paneth in late 2014, the firm reported that only 20% of nonprofit leaders say they have a "facilitated fraud risk assessment process."

"When pressed, nonprofit leaders suggest that

there are indeed significant issues when it comes to preventing and identifying instances of fraud," the Marks Paneth survey reports. "Many leaders — 43% — say the cost associated with facilitating a fraud risk assessment process is a top challenge to efforts to prevent and identify fraud."

For more information, go to http://goo.gl/ HWcxlP. ■

D&O is well worth the cost

Pamela E. Davis' *Nonprofit Quarterly* article "Directors and Officers Liability Insurance: Why It's Worth the Cost" suggests employment practices liability is the area in which nonprofits face significant exposure.

"With 94 percent of the claims dollars under a D&O policy emanating from employment practices allegations, that is the area that demands atten-

tion," Davis writes. "This is also an area where targeted risk management can have the most immediate impact. Specifically, it is critical for organizations to have clear and up-to-date employment handbooks with policies that are strictly followed in both letter and spirit."

For more information, go to *http://goo.gl/TpWvwH*. ■