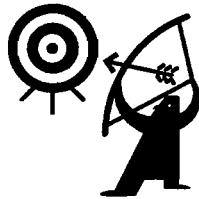


**A Blessing or a Curse? Working Effectively with Volunteer Boards  
American Camp Association New England Conference 2007**



**Introduction**

**Setting the Agenda**

**Prioritizing the Issues**

**Strategies for Effectiveness**

**Continuing Your Progress Back Home**

Bari S. Dworken, EdD  
University of Connecticut  
67 Stony Hill Road  
Bethel, CT 06468  
203-207-32-66  
bari.dworken@uconn.edu

## Setting Your Agenda

List five key issues that need to be addressed by your board in order to increase the effectiveness of the way they operate or that will enhance your camp.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Prioritize the above key issues.

What criteria are you using to prioritize?

## **Strategies for Effectiveness**

What's the issue or project?

Who is involved? What are their roles?

How might you proceed?

What are some alternatives?

What might keep this from being accomplished?

How can you reduce the probability that this might happen?

What is the timetable?

How will you know this has been accomplished?

## **Strategies for Effectiveness**

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## **Some questions to consider...**

*What is the role of your camp board?*

*How are new board members recruited and oriented and board performance assessed?*

*Are there guidelines for assuring that you have a rotation of members?*

*Do you have committees and are they functioning effectively?*

*Do you have bylaws that are up to date which you follow?*

*Does each board member understand his/her responsibilities?*

*Do you have a recent strategic plan to guide your board in making decisions?*

*How familiar are your board members with what goes on at camp?*

*Are there often challenging issues between board members and staff?*

*How do you provide for your board members to stay up to date on best practices and laws?*

*To what degree are your board members involved in ensuring adequate resources for camp?*

*How involved are board members in determining, monitoring, strengthening and evaluating your camp's programs?*

*Do board members have a role in enhancing the image of your camp and recruiting campers?*

*Are board members able to express the mission, purpose and focus of your camp?*

*In what ways do board members assure that legal and ethical behavior is maintained?*

*What is the board's role in hiring, supporting, and assessing the performance of your CEO/Camp Director/other employees?*

*Are meetings scheduled on a regularly basis with an agenda and supporting materials sent out prior to the meeting?*

*Are the meetings facilitated in a manner so that each member can participate fully and the work gets accomplished in the designated time?*

*Do volunteer board members feel that they are making a difference and enjoy their involvement?*