

BOARD AUDIT COMMITTEE

It's a common scenario. Board members have the feeling that things are "just not going right" with their organization, but they lack either sufficient information or the necessary courage to raise sensitive issues. Consequently, a non-profit organization can go on for years operating under a cloud of uneasiness or with an absence of meaningful involvement from the governing Board.

Under these circumstances, when a Board audit is finally called for, there is a perception of deep dissatisfaction which raises considerable anxiety within the organization. However, when periodic Board audits are built into the framework of your organization, conducted in a scheduled and non-threatening manner, much good can result. The Board stays informed and involved; issues that might otherwise be neglected are acknowledged and addressed in a timely way; and there is a defined, consistent process in place for healthy organizational review.

Here's how it can be done:

Bylaw Article: **BOARD AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**. There shall be an audit and review of each of the following aspects of the organization, with each aspect examined at least once every five (5) years, with one aspect examined in depth each year.

1. The organization's services and programs
2. The organization's business and physical plant management
3. The organization's fundraising and financing
4. Activities and performance of the Chief Executive and senior staff

These audits and reviews shall be conducted by a Committee appointed by the Board Chairman, and shall report results to the full Board. The Chairperson of this Committee shall be a member of the governing Board.