

Condo boot camp launched to educate board members

By FALLAN PATTERSON | Forum Publishing Group
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The reality for many condo and homeowners associations is that owners elected to serve on the board need no formal training at all, and some wonder whether that harms the overall community. Now the **Community Advocacy Network** is looking to change all that.

The Advocacy Network is offering a free board member boot camp for volunteers who serve on condo and homeowners boards to prepare them for potential issues that may arise in association living.

Donna Berger, executive director of CAN and a partner with the **Katzman Garfinkel** law firm, created the idea a year ago and said "the concept was to teach these volunteers best practices to make it more likely that they operate safely within the confines of the common interest ownership statutes and their governing documents."

The three-hour course offers advice on how to negotiate contracts with vendors, the correct way to conduct meetings, when documents and rules should be updated, and gages attendees' knowledge about Florida law.

"Most people who serve on boards are well-meaning volunteers who want to make their communities better places," Berger said. "What we wanted to do is provide people with a basic understanding of the best practices, but in a way that [is] fun and interactive."

A minimum of 75 people must register for the event to cover expenses, Berger said.

The first boot camp course on Nov. 14 in Sunrise brought in more than 100 members of the Broward Coalition, the condo and homeowners advocacy group that hosted the event.

For more information about the boot camp, visit www.canfl.com or call 954-315-0372 to schedule a session.