

It's almost time for HOA board members to report for Boot Camp



Board Member boot camp trains Florida HOA, condo, and timeshare members how to be the best board members they can be!

If you're new to the world of homeowner's association boards, and want a crash course in what you need to know to be a successful board member, this is a great time of year. This column has recently run announcements from a wide variety of law firms, community groups, and other organizations who all claim to know the best way of informing both newly minted and veteran board members about the ins and outs of HOA management.

In this writer's opinion, however, there is no better way to get the message of how to be a successful board member drilled into your head than by attending boot camp, complete with a drill sergeant!

Put on by CAN Florida, in cooperation with the law firm of Katzman, Garfinkel, and Berger, the next [Board Member Boot Camp®](#) will be held on Saturday, February 25th from 10:00am to 3:00 pm at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum, 6600 Tico Road, Titusville, FL 32780-8009.

The experience includes a fun-filled day of education where our officers and drill sergeants will put you through your paces. Our highly "classified" educational materials are yours to keep and refer to throughout the year, and are a must have reference in today's ever changing HOA world. Board Member Boot Camp® has been certified by the State of Florida to meet your director certification requirements.

"Specifically, we will teach our "recruits" how to properly notice meetings (membership, board and emergency) and hold efficient meetings, how to hold their elections, what their responsibilities are in the face of a potential recall, how to prepare a budget, handle reserves, meet their financial reporting requirements, handle vendor negotiations (what should and should not be in the contracts they sign), how to handle insurance claims to maximize their recovery and return to normalcy, how to handle neighborhood disputes including mediation and arbitration tips, how to create a collection policy and intelligently handle foreclosures in today's trying times and how to prevent fraud and, if the worst happens, recover from it" stated General Donna Berger, who runs the camp.

This particular Boot Camp comes with an incredibly unique venue, the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum.

Real military personnel will be on hand and we will be raffling off tickets for lucky participants to ride in a WWII biplane. [Click here](#) for more information about this incredible facility, which lends itself perfectly to our Boot Camp experience!

"The challenges facing most Florida associations today require that directors be informed and prepared about their roles and responsibilities. Having the benefit of all the shared wisdom out there can also help tremendously when directors need to know what will work and what won't. At Board Member Boot Camp(R), both newcomers to the board as well as board veterans will walk away with practical advice and guidance to facilitate their community association administration and operations. Our classified materials will come in handy throughout the year as the material covered comes up in terms of real-life issues that are common across all types of communities and geographical areas" Ms. Berger continued.

"We make the experience fun and interactive because we've all been to far too many legal seminars where the "suits" stand behind podiums droning on about the nuances of a particular statutory sub-section while the audience members' eyes glaze over. Board Member Boot Camp(R) will put a spring back in your step and will remind you why you ran for the board in the first place," Ms. Berger concluded.

Space at our seminars fills up fast, so to "enlist" in this one-of-a-kind BOD member and CAM training seminar, [click here to register](#). Registrations at the facility runs from 9:00 to 9:45 so don't be late. You must stay for the entire course to receive your Certificate of Completion for director certification at the end.

K-rations will be served, and extra credit will be given for those of you who get your haircut, shine your boots, and get ready for your drill sergeants! If you have any questions, please contact Nichole Breighner at Nbreighner@qgblawfirm.com or by phone at 954-845-3978.

Be sure to [subscribe](#) to this column, and stay abreast of issues involving you, the homeowners of Palm Beach County! If you've had any issues with your HOA that you'd like me to try and delve into, and possibly write about later, [please let me know](#). Also, if you'd like to join the discussion on Twitter, you can find me at <http://twitter.com/#!/faborplumbs>.