

16 WAYS TO DISRUPT YOUR BOARD MEETINGS

1. Develop a narrow area of expertise and then find a way to introduce it into every discussion.
2. Refuse to see what the issue is.
3. Make "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" your mantra.
4. Greet any suggestion for change by saying that we must not move too rapidly.
5. Explain and clarify again and again what you have already said.
6. Don't worry about people who don't have much to say; they had the same opportunity to contribute to the discussion that you did.
7. Ask where the money will come from at the beginning of any discussion about a new service or program and refuse to consider the new service until you know.
8. Find a scapegoat and ride him or her.
9. Make every issue personal; use phrases like "you always..." and "you never..."
10. Make it clear to newcomers that many members of the board have served for a long time and that, as a result, they are experts who should be deferred to.
11. Ignore the input of those members of the board who are not in the "in-crowd."
12. Always sit in the same seat next to same people.
13. Elect the same officers year after year; they have the experience to do the job.
14. Keep the meeting strictly focused on business; there is no need for social niceties that take time from the real work at hand.
15. Don't bother reading the agenda or minutes before the meeting. There will be plenty of time to look them over during the meeting.
16. Never offer to serve on a committee of the board; you are a volunteer and they should be grateful you are willing to come to board meetings without expecting extra time from you.