Non-Profit Financial Leadership
By Kate Barr and Jeanne Bell

There is an important distinction between financial management and financial leadership. Financial management is the collecting of financial data, production of financial reports, and solution of near-term financial issues. Financial leadership, on the other hand, is guiding a non-profit organization to sustainability. This is the job of an executive director. He or she is responsible for developing and maintaining a business model that produces exceptional mission impact and sustained financial health.

For this to be successful, the executive director has to be ever-mindful of essential non-profit business concepts and realities. Read more.

Red Flags at the Board Table

Whenever new members join your board of directors, a certain amount of onboarding needs to be done.

Robert C. Harris, CAE, has spent more than 25 years in association management, and founded The Non-profit Center to promote and support the association management profession. Harris has seen 10 common red flags at the board table and offers remedies to keep boards in focus. Read more.
Capping Volunteer Hours
By Susan J. Ellis
Edited by Leah Morrigan

At our organization, our expectation for a minimum weekly commitment is four hours and an annual commitment of one year. We have a paid summer intern program and a college practicum for enrolled college students who can volunteer 8-24 hours per week, per semester.

Outside the parameters of an internship or college practicum, we believe that more than 16 volunteer hours per week begins to look like a job; a situation ripe for exploitation - or a labor grievance down the road. Read more.
2013 Spirit of Volunteerism Recognition

Each year, Distress Centres Ontario takes the time to recognize the significant contribution of volunteers to the provision of distress and crisis line services throughout the province.

The Spirit of Volunteerism (SOV) awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding volunteer contributions and acknowledge our often "unsung" heroes - exemplary front-line call-takers or those who contribute to the advancement of their distress centre, or both. The recipients are individuals whose commitments have contributed significantly to the support of Ontarians in distress, and to the ideals and vision of the distress line movement. Read more.