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The Ideal Member Benefits Package?

When It Comes to Member Benefits, How Do You Decide Which Ones Can Go?

For most members of voluntary organizations, writes Elizabeth Weaver Engel at [Spark Consulting](#), there are one to three benefits that likely prompt the decision to join or renew. The problem is, the mix may vary from one member to the next—which means that many associations are afraid to let anything go. How do you know which member benefits you can safely eliminate in order to focus your resources where they have the most impact? Engel offers six clues that a particular member benefit might not be pulling its weight.

North Carolina Supreme Court Approves Temporary State Bar Amendment for Pro Bono Hurricane Relief

Earlier this month, the North Carolina Supreme Court approved the North Carolina State Bar's temporary rule amendment allowing lawyers not licensed in North Carolina to provide pro bono legal services to indigent victims of Hurricane Florence. In its petition for the emergency rule, the bar noted that there was not enough time to follow the usual procedures for amending the administrative rules and still provide legal services now, "when they are desperately needed." At [ncbar.gov](#), learn more about the collaborative pro bono effort by the North Carolina Bar Association, FEMA, the ABA, and Legal Aid of North Carolina, and how lawyers in your state can volunteer to assist Hurricane Florence survivors through the NC Disaster Legal Services Program.

One Key for an Effective Board: The Power of Foresight

What is the most powerful question your board can ask? Often, says Veronica Meadows, it starts with "What if we ??" Questions like this mean that the board is prioritizing foresight and looking to the future, she explains at [associationsuccess.org](#). One way to build this in is by seeking board members who have different experiences, cultures, and backgrounds, who embrace healthy dissent, and who are curious and committed to learning. Meadows, the senior director of strategy for an organization pertaining to landscape architecture, shares how her board has made sure that foresight is always front and center.

Law School Mental Health Day Speaker Shares How to Talk to Someone Who May Have a Problem

How do you approach someone whom you think might have a mental health problem? Keep it simple and direct, advises Laurie Besden, executive director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania. Avoid making assumptions or giving examples of why you think they have a problem. Offer a possible solution or resource, and close by saying that you apologize if you're wrong—but that you wanted to say something because you care. Besden shared these tips in connection with Law School Mental Health Day. Organized by the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, Law Student Division, and Young Lawyers Division, this event was held October 10—a change from its previous March date, to focus on mental health closer to the start of the school year. [ABA Journal](#) has more information about the event and about recent research on mental health problems and substance abuse among law students.



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