

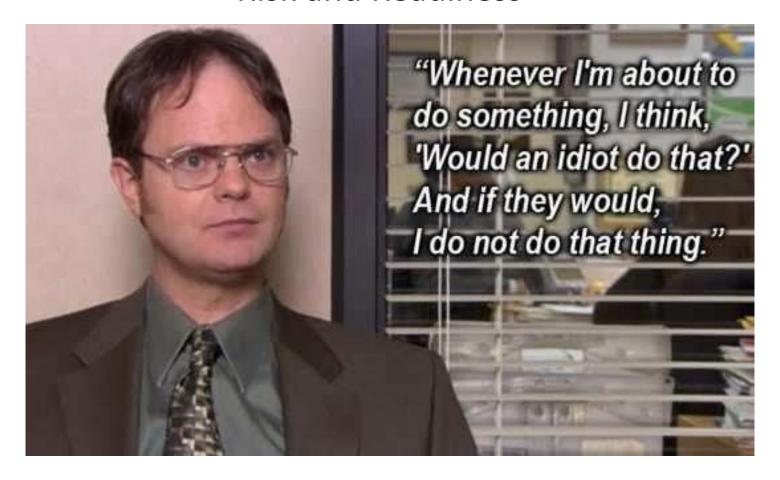
# Risk, Reasonableness, and Readiness

Presented by: Nathan Billings, Esq. & Chris Farris, Esq. September 22, 2018 What are the top 3 RISKS your Association faces?

• How can you make your Association READY to address those risk?



#### Risk and Readiness





#### FINANCIAL RISK

## **RISK**

Embezzlement/Fraud

- Two check signers
- Separation of auditing and operation (Person reconciling check book does not have check writing authority/Person who has credit card does not receive statements)
- Regular third party compilation/review/audit



#### FINANCIAL RISK

# **RISK**

Insufficient Funds

- Engage in yearly budgeting process
- Raise dues if necessary
- Maintain adequate "rainy day" day fund
- If you own significant real property, reserve study and reserve contributions



# FINANCIAL RISK - Collections

# **RISK**

 Lack of Dues Paying Culture

#### Bankruptcy

#### **READINESS**

- Develop written collection policy and enforce
- Persistence

Stop Collections



# FINANCIAL RISK - Insurance

# **RISK**

- Significant Financial
   Casualty Insurance Liability

  - General Liability
  - Directors and Officers



# REGULATORY/LEGAL RISK

# **RISK**

# **READINESS**

ADA Compliance

- Public Accommodations
- Fair Housing Act (FHA)
   Compliance
- Reasonably Accommodate

Bankruptcy

Stop Collections



#### Administrative Risk - Poor Recordkeeping

#### **RISK**

- Incomplete/incorrect Financial Records
- No record of Board action at meetings
- No record of Member action at annual meetings
- No record of changes to policies, enforcement, etc.

- Treasurer should have experience or hire third party
- Minutes Record Action (not a transcript)
- Tabulate, document, and record all Member voting
- Document everything and appoint an Officer to ensure retention

#### **GOVERNANCE RISK**

#### **RISK**

Poor Board Relations

Lack of Productivity

- Strong Leadership
- Majority Rules
- Upside Down Agenda
- Control Member Participation
- Assign action items, tasks, and accountability



#### **ENFORCEMENT RISKS**

#### **RISK**

Waiver

Overstep Authority

Selective Enforcement



- Change the Character of the Neighborhood
- Understand your Governing Documents
- Adopt Written
   Enforcement Policy and
   Communicate
- Document Violations

#### **LEASING RISKS**

#### **RISK**

Don't violation your own Restrictions

- Renters don't honor restrictions/regulations/policies
- Don't know who the renters are
- Leasing owners are absentees
- Difficult to Enforce

#### Readiness

- Cannot Ban Renters unless Restrictions Allow
- May Regulate Adopt Leasing Policy
- Require leases to incorporate restrictions
- Require landlords to identify lessors
- Copy lessors and tenants on all enforcement issues
- Landlords are business people and respond to fines



#### YOUR RISKS

**RISK** 





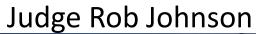
"I think the seller will accept your offer, but the Homeowners Association will never approve that shirt."

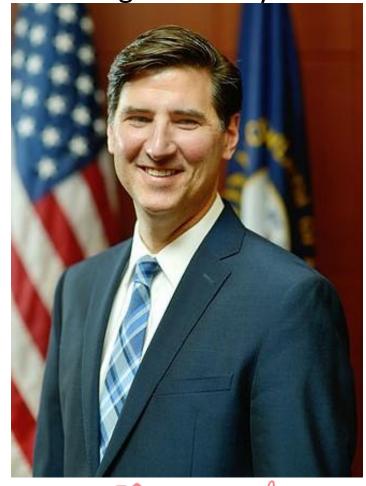


"Hey, don't blame me. I don't make the laws
—I just circumvent them."

#### Perspectives from the Bench

Judge John Reynolds







#### Updates to the Kentucky Nonprofit Corporation Act

#### Major Changes:

- Number and election or appointment of directors (KRS 273.211)
- Committees of the board Advisory committees (KRS 273.221)
- Books and records (KRS 273.233)



#### Number and election or appointment of directors (KRS 273.211)

#### OLD:

- "In the absence of a bylaw fixing the number of directors, the number shall be the same as that stated in the article of incorporation."
- Required amendment of Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws to change number of directors

#### NEW:

- Minimum number of directors: THREE (3) KRS 273.211(1)(a)
  - Number may be stated in Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws
- Variable range (minimum/maximum) for directorships allowed KRS 273.211(1)(b)
  - Number within the range may be "fixed or changed by the board of directors"
- Directors may be removed from office by the procedure provided in the Articles or Bylaws



#### Committees of the board – Advisory committees (KRS 273.221)

- Board can establish committees
  - Each committee shall have two (2) or more directors
  - Committee members who are not directors may serve, but may not vote on any matter that binds the corporation
- Committees can exercise powers of the Board as provided by the Articles or Bylaws, except committees cannot:
  - Authorize distributions
  - Fill Board vacancies
  - Adopt, amend, or repeal Bylaws
  - Elect, appoint, or remove officers
  - Establish its own committees or appointment procedures
  - Amend or restate the corporation's Articles
  - Adopt a merger or consolidation plan
  - Authorize the sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of all or substantially all of the corporations' property and assets
  - Authorize the voluntary dissolution of the corporation
  - Amend, alter, or repeal any resolution of the Board



#### Committees of the board – Advisory committees (KRS 273.221)

- Board may establish advisory committees
  - No directors required on an advisory committee
  - Advisory committee may not act on behalf of the corporation or bind the corporation
- Board's creation of and reliance on committees does not absolve directors of standards and duties
  - KRS 273.215: good faith; informed basis; best interests of the corporation; "prudent person" standard, etc.
- TAKEAWAY: If the Board uses a committee, develop a plan and stick to it
  - Before establishing a committee, make sure the Board and committee have proper authority
  - Use of advisory committees to make recommendations to the Board is easiest
  - Use of voting committees requires director participation, and non-directors may not vote



## Books and records (KRS 273.233)

- OLD: "the member's right of inspection may not be abolished or limited"
- NEW: "the member's right of inspection may be abolished or limited by the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws"
  - Corporation still has a duty to "keep correct and complete books and records"
  - Default rule: "All books and records...may be inspected and copied by any member"
  - Unstated requirement: any abolition/restriction of access should apply equally to all members; do not single out difficult members
  - Practical Consideration: will it look bad to your members if you restrict their access to records?



TEN MINUTES LEFT -LET'S DO THE STRATEGY









#### THANKS FOR COMING!

