

HOW CORRUPT CAN A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION BE?

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When you join an organization, especially a non-profit one, you'd like to think that your money is going to benefit the reason that is the intent of your joining. Most organizations that are legally operating should be incorporated and have a written set of By-Laws that the Board of Directors and Members can equally use as the "laws" to run and work within an organization as governing documents. Do you think that as a Member you are protected from internal corruption? Absolutely not!

What happens when the By-Laws are not followed? Nothing may happen at first, and in many cases, the Membership of an organization may not realize that any violation has occurred depending on what type is involved, but when a key Board of Director position is affecting the Treasury or violating Public Law which directly violates the organization's By-Laws, then the overall integrity of the organization begins to dwindle and a lack of trust takes root within the governing body. In addition, as those same key Board members allow continued violations or slippages in the By-Laws for some and not apply the rules across the board, credibility then wanes even more. But who sees this, probably only the Board of Directors who are trying to follow the rules and do the intent of the organization's charter.

Those Board Members who take advantage by manipulation of By-Laws or even Public Law, easily cover their tracks by telling the Membership all of the good things they've done. There's nothing to back it up. The Membership doesn't understand enough to know that they are not being told the truth because those key Board Members are in control of any and all reports that go in front of the Membership. Remember, those key members control the Organization's publications, so of course, they control the content. In addition, they control key votes on the Board of Directors which control any and all actions that may attempt to take action against the violators, especially if the "violation" has control over the majority of the Board positions.

This, my friends, is politics in a nutshell. They aren't pretty and they aren't easily resolved. Many times, they are the dirty little secrets in the closet. You will find them everywhere. As you can see, depending on how a Board of Directors is constructed, it is very easy to have a corrupt organization operating right under your nose. What action can you take? Unless you have an unlimited pocketbook, basically none and you can expect every ramification imaginable to be thrown your way when you do speak up. What's interesting is how egotistical these people get as they get away with more.