

Having a hard time finding a treasurer or secretary?

by Bradley M. Pinsky

If your corporation is having a difficult time getting qualified members to fill the positions of treasurer or secretary, consider permitting non-members to serve in these positions.

An EMS corporation is permitted to have non-members serve on the board of directors. The bylaws may state that the treasurer and secretary may be members or non-members of the corporation. This will permit the corporation to recruit a volunteer accountant or other qualified person to serve as treasurer. Perhaps a retired community member is willing to serve as secretary or treasurer? Perhaps the spouse of a member is qualified and willing to serve in one of these positions.

If members are concerned that a non-member might not understand the issues of an EMS agency, then the bylaws can simply prohibit the treasurer and secretary to vote if non-members hold these positions.

Also consider permitting the board of directors to appoint and remove the treasurer and secretary. The board is in the best position to evaluate the quality of these officers' work product. If the treasurer or secretary are not fulfilling their duties, then the board can remove them without too much effort. After all, these positions should not be filled by a popularity vote, but by persons who are most qualified and willing to do the jobs properly.

There are many community members who would be willing to assist your corporation if you just give them the chance. While people do not have time to attend emergencies, they might be willing to attend meetings and perform the duties of treasurer and secretary. In our time, it is hard enough to get people to attend trainings and emergencies. Why not give the job of treasurer and secretary to people who have more time to spare?