Bacon and the Board Meeting

Relationship of Bacon to the Board of Directors

Board meetings are often held with breakfast be as efficient as possible. What is served at breakfast could influence meeting effectiveness.

Meeting planners are recognizing the importance of advising whether or not breakfast includes protein. The opposite might be an assortment of donuts or Danish pastries characterized as sugary white flour with a sweet filling or topping.

Mutiny on the Board

I have seen meetings come to a halt over a lack of protein at breakfast, especially crisp bacon.

At one meeting scheduled to start at 8:30 when directors saw no protein they postponed the meeting and asked the hotel to bring in a full breakfast – no matter the time nor cost. I sensed if they had not received the breakfast they would have headed to the dining room no matter how much time it took. A quorum would have been missing until bills were paid and tips left on the tables. It felt like a board mutiny – no leadership work until a protein based breakfast was available.

At another association the breakfast was simply cereal. Almost immediately a board member set out to remedy the problem. He picked up the meeting room phone, called room service and ordered 50 slices of crisp bacon. Soon the meeting room took on the smell of bacon as the plate was passed so every director took two slices. After the bacon-fiasco the board’s attention focused on governance and the outcomes were excellent.

Precautionary Lunch

A word about the perils of the board lunch. Create a menu that is not heavy with meats and pasta. Serving lasagna or the like may cause the board to go into a food-coma 45 minutes after lunch.

Bringing Home the Bacon

Providing sustenance is a fair deal for volunteer leaders contributing their time. It reminds me of the adage, “bringing home the bacon.” In the non-profit world there may be a correlation between bacon and leadership.

(Offered with tongue in cheek and a bacon, egg, cheese bagel in hand.)

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