

September 21, 2022

## ***Ever thought about the Board of Governors***

My name is Colonel Larry J. Ragland and I was requested to write a short article about the Governing body of Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the **Board of Governors (BOG)**. Many of our members know very little about this very important part of CAP. But the BOG affects so much of what you do know about CAP. The BOG sets strategic priorities, selects the Chief Operations Officer (COO) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), reviews and audits corporate finances, monitors the programs of the COO and CEO and insures they comply with the CAP Strategic Plan, and generally the BOG leads CAP as the lighthouse from which the CEO and COO look for guidance. The [CAP Constitution](#) requires the BOG to “govern, direct, and manage the affairs of the corporation.”. See Article VIII of the CAP constitution.

The BOG is made up of 11 members. Four of the members are selected by the Secretary of the Air Force and are usually retired Air Force Officers. Four are selected by the Commander’s Senior Advisory Group (CSAG) from the CAP membership. Three are selected jointly by the CAP National Commander (CEO) and the Secretary of the Air Force from interested candidates in the General Aviation Community. All of the members of the BOG are selected for three year terms, with the possibility of being extended for an additional three year term. All of the terms are staggered such that the BOG membership is not changed out in any dramatic fashion at any one point in time and so that some continuity of plans and purpose can be maintained. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the BOG are selected by the BOG members for two year terms, and the Chair and Vice-Chair rotate between the Air Force appointees and the CAP member appointees. See Article IX-A of the CAP Constitution for more details.

The BOG currently meets 3-4 times each calendar year and has four standing committees working on the affairs of the corporation. The committees meet anytime that is necessary for their fiduciary role and compliance with corporate risk management. Some parts of the meetings are open to the membership, and some parts are closed because of confidential legal matters before the BOG, personnel matters that must be secure, or confidential National level IG investigations in progress. The collective judgement of the very experienced BOG members is always applied in a deliberative and decisive manner to always do what is best for the corporation and the members. Since my appointment in November 2020, I have been very impressed with the quality of the BOG members serving. All have very diversified backgrounds and combined problem solving skills that seem to resolve even the toughest of issues. Thus far, this experience ranks up among the highest of my 46 year career in CAP.

If you would like to serve on the BOG someday, then you need to study the requirements in the CAP Constitution, understand how CAP is governed from top to bottom, and have some experience with Boards or Agencies that use a Board structure to govern their affairs. The service on the BOG must be from a corporate perspective. In my opinion, a member cannot have the attitude of some pet projects or policies that they want to accomplish from a BOG position. The day to day activities of CAP are handled by the CEO, COO, and the paid and volunteer National Headquarters Staff. Everything they do must comply with the Strategic Plan laid out by the BOG. Knowing and understanding the CAP Strategic Plan is absolutely essential for any BOG member. As a BOG member you will have the opportunity to debate very high level issues and make long term positive changes to the Civil Air Patrol we all love and cherish. It is the best example of servant leadership you will ever experience.

Semper Vigilans

Colonel Larry J. Ragland, CAP