13 resolutions to consider:

1. For Better or Worse: Renew Your Vows

Too many nonprofit client-insurance agent/broker relationships aren’t what they SHOULD or COULD be. Resolve to renew your "vows" with your broker by comparing your needs to the services and support you receive. To read about some of the "signs" that you may need a new insurance advisor, read our article on the topic featured here.

2. Go with a Group: Build a Risk Team

A risk management function resting on the shoulders of a single risk champion is at risk of a too-narrow perspective. Gain a wide-angle view in 2015 by forming a risk committee. Learn the “what” and “how” of risk committees here.

3. Banish Regret: Screen Smartly

Regretting one or more not-so-great hiring decisions in your nonprofit’s recent past? Stop beating yourself up and resolve to make better choices in 2015. Need a coach? Check out the brand-new Staff Screening Notebook, offering step-by-step guidance on street smart screening.

4. Climb Aboard: Take Your Board to the Risk Stratosphere

Now’s the time to give Strategic and Enterprise risks their due. It’s easy (but not a good idea) to get buried in operational risks and forget the risks that threaten the key strategies at your nonprofit. Resolve to engage your board in conversation about critical, high-level risk topics. What’s an “enterprise” risk? Learn more here.

5. Fortify Your Mission: Revisit Financial Reserves

Wondering if your nonprofit’s financial reserves are enough for a rainy day or worse, a typhoon? Get wise about operating reserves with priceless advice from the Nonprofits Assistance Fund, available here.

6. Protect and Serve

Many nonprofits serve vulnerable clients. Are you doing what you can (and arguably should) to protect those who can’t protect themselves? Resolve to revisit your policies and practices that increase the safety of those you serve. Learn about this important topic in the brand new edition of EXPOSED: A Legal Field Guide for Nonprofit Executives.
7. Get Ready for Your Close Up
Is your nonprofit ready for truly close-up scrutiny? If you’re worried you might not be ready for prime time, resolve to blow the dust off your crisis plan and get it ready. Need help? Join the Affiliate Member program for access to Risk Help and our Webinar Vault. The vault includes several helpful programs on crisis management and crisis communications.

8. Protect Personal Information
Worried that a data breach is a risk you’re unprepared for? Resolve to become cyber savvy and learn what you need to do to protect the personal information you collect. Start by reading “Data Privacy and Cyber Liability: What You Don’t Know Puts Your Mission at Risk.”

9. Classify Correctly
Although it is possible that changes are coming in the federal law that governs eligibility for overtime pay, savvy employers shouldn’t wait to review how they classify exempt and non-exempt workers. For a step-by-step approach that reflects current law, see the Center’s most popular article, “Classification Conundrum” available here.

10. Wise Up About Waivers
Learn how and when to use waivers when young participants are involved, by reading “Waivers and Young Participants.” Or learn about liability shields in general in the updated chapter on that topic in the new edition of EXPOSED: A Legal Field Guide for Nonprofit Executives.

11. Sync Action with Values
Do the activities and services your nonprofit provides match up with your mission and stated values? If it seems like your activities just don’t sync with your mission and stated values, you’re probably not the only one who is noticing. Resolve to live up to your mission in 2015. Read more about managing reputation in our article, “The Eye of the Beholder.”

12. Make a Plan, a Risk Plan
Plenty of risk but no plan? Not to worry. Resolve to create the first (but not last) Risk Management Plan using the Center’s innovative cloud application, My Risk Management Plan. Need something a bit more customized for a large association or national organization with hundreds of affiliates? Contact us today to learn how we can create a custom version of the app for your group.

13. Business or Pleasure: Managing Volunteers
Volunteers are an invaluable asset—but they can also expose your nonprofit to serious risks. How do you fire a volunteer? How much can you pay your volunteers? Do volunteers need to be screened like employees? To learn more, join the Center’s Affiliate Member program for exclusive access to the member-only webinar program, starting this month with a brand-new program on volunteers.

For more information about the Center and the services we provide check out our website, nonprofitrisk.org or give us a call at 703.777.3504.