

A SAMPLE OF TOPICS FROM PROMETHEUS LEADERSHIP RETREATS

The essence of Open Space retreats is that participants create the agenda by raising Big Questions that they would like to address with others who have the same concerns. The retreat is structured to provide six time slots for people to have meaningful conversations about what is important to them. Because Prometheus Retreats are only open to association CEO's and senior staff, the nature of the topic is naturally focused at the leadership level. Below are some of the questions that have been explored by "Prometheans" over the years:

- Change: What do we fear? How can we benefit from it? How can we carry change forward in our personal lives and profession?
- What is the future of association intellectual property?
- How do we help a board move from day-to-day management to strategic leadership?
- How do you deal with competing organizations that want to undermine you and take you over?
- How do we create an environment of collaboration where appropriate and necessary: How do we break down silos without damaging integrity of specialized areas?
- Given that the features of an increasing number of membership associations are becoming commoditized, what will 'real value' look like in the next 10 years?
- How do we develop staff directors and VPs to be leaders and not just managers?
- Given that trust is the foundation of a healthy and productive organization, how do we build that trust?
- How do we create a new "story" for the organization before the old one exhausts its usefulness?
- What is the new body of knowledge for association executives?
- What is the new value proposition associations need to examine?
- How does a Society reinvent itself: When? Why? What is the executive director's role?
- How do we develop and maintain a high-performing board?
- The Old Association Management Metrics Are Dead. Long Live the New Metrics: But What Are They?
- What can/should we do to communicate effectively with/appeal to the next generation - of members, of staff? What are the new competencies we need to develop as we incorporate a new generation?
- How do we deal with impermanence? How can we deal with change when members and leaders want stability?