

Application: 9883

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Started at: 1/25/2024 11:40 AM - Finalized at: 2/9/2024 02:48 PM

**Page: Entry Information**

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**Chapter**

SEVA-CAI

**Chapter Size**

Large (511-760)

**Category**

Out of the Box

**Program Name**

Site Safety: Active Shooter Training

**Each question is worth 20 points and will be scored using the following rubric:**

**(1-5) Poor** Didn't effectively answer the question

**(6-1) Fair** Answered the question

**(11-15) Good** Answered the question with more detail

**(16-20) Excellent** Went above and beyond with proven results and visible data

**Describe the program and why it fits the category. (20pts)**

The number of "active shooter" incidents across the United States is on the rise. Community Associations are not immune from this trend. Because of this, the Southeastern Virginia Chapter of the Community Association Institute (SEVA-CAI) designed a new program for members attending their Annual Trade Show & Education Expo (CA Day), which, each year, hosts nearly 1,000 community leaders and professionals representing more than 475,000 residences in the Hampton Roads area. The goal of CA Day is to provide community association board members, homeowners, association managers and real estate professionals information and education designed specifically for the special needs and interests of community association living.

The course, titled "Site Safety," was hosted by Jeffrey A. Hunn, an attorney and member of the SEVA-CAI Board of Directors, and taught by Sergeant Ryan Velazquez of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Velazquez was a twelve-year veteran of law enforcement who was assigned to the Law Enforcement Training Academy and served as the Squad Leader for the Sheriff's Office Emergency Response Team. Sergeant Velazquez was certified by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) as a Defensive Tactics instructor and Firearms Instructor, as well as a Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) certified Basic Tactical Medic Instructor.

The course was not held in the standard teacher and student lecture style. Instead, it was interactive. At first, attendees were shown a live "active shooter" movie depicting a typical "active shooter" situation. The film was first used to highlight how one could recognize potential threats before it is too late because the sooner one understands the dangerous situation, the better chance they have to survive. Next, through rewinding the movie and going over the situation as it occurred, attendees were taught steps they could take to try to survive by learning a system of escalating responses to the situation: Avoid, Deny, and Defend. Attendees were then asked to engage in breakout sessions for "Avoid," "Deny" and "Defend." The "Avoid" team was asked to meet and discuss various escape options. The "Deny" team was asked to debate hiding places and how they could fortify them. The "Defend" team was asked to consider items available to them in order to defend themselves and to formulate defense options. Finally, Sergeant Velazquez, using Mr. Hunn as a bleeding victim (no lawyer jokes please) demonstrated basic bleeding control techniques in conjunction with the Stop-the-Bleed national awareness campaign, a campaign led by the American College of Surgeons to educate people on bleeding control techniques that can save a life. This included training on the importance of having basic first aid kits available and how to apply bandages and a tourniquet in severe bleeding situations.

**How did this program meet the mission and vision of the chapter and CAI as a whole? (20pts)**

CA Day usually provides education that is centered around how to conduct board meetings, the roles and responsibilities of boards and managers, budgeting, insurance, maintenance, and reserves studies. The typical topics community association leaders need to be successful. Last year was different. The SEVA-CAI Board of Directors, recognizing the disturbing trend of shootings in the workplace, partnered with the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office and designed an interactive class intended to help common interest community association volunteer leaders, managers and owners understand the threats posed by "active shooters." They thought outside the box to create something different, exciting, and new!

**What was the impact on the chapter and its members after completing the program? (Growth of membership, financially, public awareness, membership value, better chapter/member relationship, chapter operations, etc.) (20 pts)**

The SEVA-CAI Board of Directors believes that this program had a major impact on the chapter and its membership. The program has improved the chapter/membership relationship because it has created excitement. The membership is excited to see what new and improved programs will be offered in the future. The program also, undoubtedly, increased public awareness, including specifically the SEVA-CAI membership, of the growing trend behind "active shooters." Managers had not previously been thinking about making sure there is an exit door near where the Board sits during a meeting. They are now. Board members never considered having a first aid kit, including a possible tourniquet, at Board meetings. They are now. We could go on and on about the benefits of this program, but, suffice it to say, because of this program, community association board members, homeowners, association managers and real estate professionals now understand how to make good survival decisions should an attack occur.

**Please provide quantifiable data supporting the rationale for success. (20pts)**

There was a risk in providing such a new and controversial program that was not the norm. After all, at the beginning of the program all attendees were warned that the program contained violent images and mature themes that may not be suitable for all attendees. The risk paid off. The program was attended by 175 members. Every seat in the auditorium was full. It was clear that the membership was craving something new and different. In the post-program evaluations, the attendees gave the new program rave reviews. One member who attended, stated "I've been attending CA Day for more than ten years and I've never seen anything like this before. I feel better prepared for this type of situation now." Another wrote, "Wow. This is the best class I have ever seen." Of the 175 attendees, every single one gave the program a "5" out of "5".

**How can you improve this program going forward? (20 pts)**

While no one wants to see an active shooter situation at an annual meeting or a board meeting, we would be foolish not to prepare for such a scenario. Those who attended the "Sight Safety" program offered by the Southeastern Virginia Chapter are undoubtedly more prepared for such a scenario. The SEVA-CAI Board of Directors is already working on improving this program for future CA Days. This year, they are working with and including the local police department in another class geared toward active shooter situations. Given the attendance, they are considering the use of a larger space so that more of the membership can attend. They hope the program will be bigger and better for 2024.

Supporting documents including flyers, postcards, pictures, videos etc. can be uploaded below. While they aren't required for your submission we certainly encourage it.

**Would you like to upload additional documents?**

**fileUpload1**

Download File (<https://caiawards.secure-platform.com/file/16536/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWVpYUlkIjoxNjUzNiwiYWxsbn3dOb3RTaWduZWVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSIImInbm9y;JuP-ggZH0pw?CA%20DAY%202023%20Print%20Materials.docx>)

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**Would you like to share a link?**

**Thank you for your submission! We encourage you to submit another program in a different category.**