

DATAW ACADEMY



How Our Island Works

Educating our members...one week at a time! (And driving Board service while we're at it!)

One of the largest challenges private clubs face is communicating with members as to why we do what we do, how we do it, when we do it, the challenges faced to do it ... and, the best way to go about expressing a concern or making a suggestion for improvement. Another major challenge is encouraging members to run for the Boards of Directors (we have two here.)

We developed **DATAW ACADEMY** to give members an intensive four-day course in how our Club and Owners Association operate. This education gets members excited to serve on Committees and motivated to run for the Boards. And, an educated member is a much happier member!

In these 16+ hours, members meet senior staff and line level staff; tour back-of-the-house operations in F&B, golf maintenance, landscape maintenance, and the marina; enjoy history presentations (from ancient Native American and plantation history to the 30-year history of our current development); learn about all of the sports amenities - including the back-end operations (like picking up balls and sanding the courts) and hands-on demos of how to play each; and, they also learn helpful tips from lectures, such as how to navigate some of the hidden features of the website and the difference between the LWC (Living With the Covenants) and the ARB (Architectural Review Board) and what each does, and why.

This is one of our most popular programs! With seating limited to 30-40 people per session, it sells out within 15 minutes of opening each time.

Members are required to commit to attend all four days, during which they are whisked all around the island to spend time in each department, with presentations given both by staff and members who participate in the amenity area and/or serve on the related committee. The recent past-presidents of the boards (Club and Owners Assoc.) serve as Chairs, with staff running logistics.

On the last day, members are given a "quiz" (in a fun, volunteer, group format) and then "graduate" with Certificates of Completion and a logo'd keepsake gift (branded lapel pin or ball marker).

This year, the Nominating Committee sought board candidates who are graduates from the **DATAW ACADEMY** program, and for the first time they found more people interested in running than ever before.



HELLO!
My name
is...

