Commander First Steps – part 2: the club night and through the year

First Steps: especially for New Commanders, yet an ideal guide for any Commander

Reviewing your roles:

- As Commander your tasks fit under these five Commander “hats” or roles:
  - Advocate
  - Shepherd
  - Administrator
  - Leader
  - Communicator

- You’ve planned your year – now what?!
- Our focus is on your Club Night and during-the-year activities—even behind the scenes.

Club Night Segments Review

- Opening
- Small Group (handbook)
- Game Time
- Large Group Time (Council Time; lesson)
- Closing

What will we cover tonight?

- Prayer – personal and P&P meeting
- Patrol – management from the hallway
- Publicize – everything
- Program – keep it pure
- Promote – perpetually
- Participate – in events
- Prepare – your people
- Plug in – this is for you!
- Praise – pointers
- Persist – Gal. 6:9

As Advocate and Shepherd PRAYER is an essential first step and continual step all year!

…but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. *~ Philippians 4:6*

- Personal, private prayer time AND with your leaders at Prayer and Planning Meetings.

Be fully PRESENT & on PATROL

- Your job club night is to “patrol” (Management from the hallway)
- Don’t get tied up in one area.

- On club nights – use the AEIOU
  - A – assessing
  - E – encouraging
  - I – informing
  - O – overseeing
  - U – utilizing resources

Communicators PUBLICIZE

- You can't over publicize anything, ever!
- Push vs. Pull Communication
- Reasons to Communicate
  - To get the kids
  - To keep the kids
  - To get Leaders
  - To keep Leaders
  - To keep parents
  - To keep the congregation informed
- Resources: clip art on Awana.org, catalog has signs, brochures and other promotion tools.

Follow the PROGRAM –with purity

DO…

- Pass training steps listed in your role book
- Get leaders & kids in uniform – FAST
- Train the leaders
- Connect at Conference
- Involve parents
- Protect kids – background checks
- Have games to get them there and keep them coming
- Expect word perfect; Give no more than two helps
- Present the Gospel clearly
- Sing and smile
- Begin handbook time with prayer
- Be an example
- Call clubbers between club nights
- Have regular P&P meetings
- Plan out your year
- Make club nights exciting

DO NOT…

- Substitute crafts for games
- Dilute the program
- Waste energy reinventing the wheel – Awana works
- Skip Large Group time
- Sign sections if they need more than two helps
- Buy books and uniforms for kids
- Think your club is too new or too small to participate in statewide or Regional events

Advocates PROMOTE

- "Awana Sundays" – 5th Sunday
  - Kids participate
  - Parents invited
  - Congregation sees a bit of what you are doing
- Super Bowl Sunday halftime idea
- Newsletters – achievements shared
- Update key staff or elders/deacons as things happen in your club
- Promotion focuses on the Gospel, outreach and past success.

Leaders encourage PARTICIPATION

- Participate in area Events
- What – When –Where of events:
  - Bible Quiz
  - Sparks-a-rama and Awana Games
  - Consider Grand Prix too – a great way to involve parents. Info in Catalog
- Leader events are training and connection

Why be involved in Events?

- Why? **This year is critical!**
  - The Gospel & outreach – this may be your only year to share with some children.
  - If it is your first year, it is the year of evaluation.
  - If you've had Awana a long time, give your club the 'shot in the arm' of involvement.

Leaders PREPARE their people

The Awana ministry exists to serve you and your church. Be sure your Awana leaders and children's workers are getting on-going training and motivation in the importance of reaching children and youth now!

Awana Ministry Conferences

More Leader Prep

- Prayer and Planning meetings
- E-mails
- Orientation
- Commander Director meetings
- Calls and Webinars that apply to them.

- Again, you are not in this alone.
- We're here to help you!

Shepherds PRAISE

- 1 Thess. 5:11 and Hebrews 3:13
- Praise
  - Your leaders
  - The kids
  - The parents
- Tips about praise:
  - Make it genuine
  - Make it specific
  - Do it in front of someone else. (especially someone who matters to the person you are praising)

Be PERSISTANT

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

~ Galatians 6:9

Quitters never win and winners never quit, and leaders never quit on club night.

Consider the “I before the Lord” agreement