

Organization and Functions of Board of Directors

By Don Fair

It has long been a known fact that successful ventures of all kinds are based upon sound and specific organization. We hear the call from far and wide—We need better leadership. This is not to say we do not have willing hands, for there are many who wish to help. The specific problem seems to be lost time and effort because we do not know what to do or how to do it.

The Need

Most of our Christian Camps are overseen by a group of elected men we please to call a ‘Board of Directors’. These Boards are groups of great men. They have been selected to shoulder the responsibility of over-all camp policy. They are men who see the great resource of youth and wish to help channel it into productive service for the Lord. Usually these men are as busy or busier than any man in the communities where they live. They give of their time and often sacrifice to support the camp. Their sincerity and devotion to the task given them is above question. But, sad as it may seem, this is not enough. The great need is an organized, functioning unit.

Procedure

Many “Board” meetings are long, laborious ordeals, out of which comes very little productivity. We hear many boring personal anecdotes, irrelevant deeds of bygone years, detailed oral reports (which are immediately forgotten). Our time is soon consumed and as we leave we wonder what was accomplished. Most generally some good was done but it was such a struggle. It is high time we recognize the simple rules of meeting procedure. Our meetings can be most productive only when we conduct them in a business like manner. This is step number one in organization. This necessitates each member being prepared to play his part before the meeting begins.

Delegation of Authority

The “board” must be divided into working groups. It is not enough to select a chairman, vice-chairman, etc. Every member should have a specific role, a duty of responsibility. If we continue with the idea of one or two working and the rest attending the meetings for the purpose of voting to let them do it, we will reap a continued harvest of shortcomings. There are many phases of camp work. Each member should be directly connected with some phase of the project. It may be wished for several of the “Board” to make up a committee or it may be desired for “Bored Members” to serve as heads of committees and select others for their help. Whatever the method or area of service, this member can then keep in touch with the “Board” as to accomplishment, problems faced, demanding needs, etc. . . . With every “Board” member thus working the general meeting of the “Board of Directors” will be to hear reports from each and make final decisions on further actions.

Selection of Personnel

The problem of recruiting spiritually qualified personnel is an area in itself. It is not intended for discussion here. However, when selection has been made, their sphere of work should be outlined and enough bow room given for them to carry it out. The “Board” should not feel that every decision made should be reviewed by them. No one can do their best work with someone breathing down their neck. Personnel should be selected for their ability to perform the task at hand. They should be made aware of the goals and policies of the directors and then commissioned to execute them. Personnel and directors, each, have a role to fill.

Recognition of Their Role

To serve the camps best interests the “Board” must be very much aware of its proper role. Some directors are not directly involved in camp operation, some of them are. In either case they should never mistake their personal wishes or dreams for what is best for the camp. Sometimes we get so caught up in “doing things” that we lose sight of the purpose of camping. The role of directors is to set and maintain clear cut policies for the overall operation of the camp. These policies must cover two main areas: property growth and spiritual principle. The greatest job of all is to keep our youth in mind as we consider both areas. The “Board of Directors” maturity and decisions give purpose and security to the entire endeavor.

Vision

“Don’t stand me still, but you must, we have to wait for our leader.” Have we been in this position? The “Board” must be men of vision. We cannot afford to wait. Our youth lie in the balance. One-half of the world’s population today is under 25 years of age. We, who have been selected to serve our youth in this manner must open our eyes. Let us see camping as it will be next year, in 5, 10, 25 years from now. Facilities, personnel, equipment, finances and spiritual guidance from above will be on hand and ready to go. if we have the vision we must have—TODAY.