

Awana Tell Ya



Southern Wisconsin website: www.awanaswi.org

November 2008

New Clubs

Praise the Lord for new clubs starting in the following cities:

Baraboo
Beloit
Brussels
Lake Mills
Milwaukee
Mukwonago
Sun Prairie
Stoughton



With 1.3 million children in Wisconsin who need to be reached with the gospel, there is always room for more Awana Clubs. **Pray** that these churches will have a successful first year of club, and that they will make a great impact in their community.



Commander College 101

**"You are valued!
You are appreciated!
What you do is important!"**

These are not words you as an Awana Commander are all that accustomed to hearing. Many commanders feel overwhelmed, understaffed and untrained. We can help. The leadership at Awana understands the vital role you play in your club's ministry. They also understand that few individuals feel they can excel without the tools, training and encouragement needed to fulfill the calling God has in their lives.

Commander College 101 is designed to give you the practical tools and tips you need to make you the commander God wants you to be. You will learn from experts and from one another methods to move your ministry beyond just survival mode, and to equip you to make an impact for eternity.

Here is what we will provide you with:

- Practical tools and tips from experienced missionaries and commanders.
- New ideas from children's ministry experts.
- Resources you can share with your leaders.
- Training to move your club towards excellence!
- Advice to be the best advocate, shepherd, administrator, and leader that you can be!

We pray that you will consider investing in Commander College 101 on **January 17-19** for a weekend that will likely change you and your ministry. If you are unable to attend yourself, consider sending one of your key directors in your stead.

For more information, visit the website: www.awanaswi.org.

Praise the Lord for many people who were able to attend training at Awana Ministry Conferences in October!

BEE:
A SERVANT
Deuteronomy 10:12



Congratulations to the following churches who were able to receive the **Approved Workman Award** for bringing 70% or more of their leadership:

First Lutheran – Janesville
Beloit Road Baptist – West Allis
Orchardview Alliance – Janesville

West Madison Bible – Verona
Victory Baptist – Pleasant Prairie
Roxbury Road – Janesville

Calvary Bible – West Allis
Friedens Evangelical – Port Washington
Wesleyan Bible – Pardeeville

If you enjoyed the conference, bring someone with you next year!

Event Calendar

For more information on the following events, visit the Southern Wisconsin Awana website: www.awanaswi.org.

If you need more information, contact us at timt@awana.org.



January	Event	City	Venue
9	Bucks Game	Milwaukee	
17-19	Commander College 101	Baraboo	Walnut Hill Bible Church
31	Bible Quiz	Milwaukee	Redeemer EFC
February			
6	Bible Quiz	Baraboo	Walnut Hill Bible Church
7	Bible Quiz	Madison	High Point Church
14	Bible Quiz	Racine	Calvary Memorial
28	AwanaGames	Sheboygan	Sheboygan Christian H.S.
March			
7	24-7 Expo	Fort Atkinson	Faith Community & Middle School
14	AwanaGames	Milwaukee	TBD <i>(help us find a venue for this event)</i>
21	AwanaGames	Baraboo	Baraboo Middle School
28	AwanaGames	Madison	Lake City Church
April			
4	AwanaGames	Union Grove	Union Grove Middle School
12	Easter		
16-19	Summit	North Carolina	
25	Bible Quiz	Fond du Lac	Lighthouse Christian Church (info at www.awanawi.org)

Prayer & Praise

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Ps. 107:1

Praise the Lord for the birth of our new grandson – Evan Hunter Soltis born on October 28. Proud parents are Wendy and Ryan Soltis and they live in Puyallup, Washington. We were able to see him when he was just 11 days old.

Pray for his health and that Wendy and Ryan will be good parents to him. You can also pray that we'll be able to see him again before he grows up too much! They have plans to come visit in the summer.

Praise the Lord that our son Stephen is up here in Wisconsin now – at Nicolet Bible Institute.

Pray that during his time at the school God will give him direction for the future. Also pray for his financial needs which are great, since he is not working off campus during this time.

Praise the Lord that Kyle is in school (Victory Christian in Neosho) for the first time in his life and learning many valuable skills. Sherry is teaching in the school which pays for his tuition.

Pray for challenges working presents in keeping up with Awana responsibilities. Pray that she will be able to balance home, work, and ministry.

What's in a Name?

Sometimes it is important to change a name to indicate a change in direction or a change of focus. God did this when He changed Abram's name, "High Father", to Abraham, "Father of Many".

Not long ago Awana changed the name of Council Time to Large Group. I have been saying, with tongue-in-cheek, that it was because too many churches were unable to spell it correctly (I still see churches having *Counsel* Time instead of Council Time). One should not read too much into this name change, it was done because over time the common meaning of words sometimes changes. Saying Large Group rather than Council Time makes it is easier for those unfamiliar with Awana to understand this segment of the club night.

Currently, there is a trend to make another change in terminology – changing Handbook Time to Small Group. But what is different about this change is that is being done intentionally. The term Handbook Time can cause leaders to focus on the handbooks and to believe that their main purpose during this time is to sign as many sections as humanly possible. But our purpose during this time is supposed to be to impress upon the clubbers both the meaning of the scripture they are learning and how it applies to their lives. So the change from Handbook Time to Small Group is to send a message that Awana is not about the game square; it is not about the uniforms and awards; it is not even about the handbooks; it is about the kids. As leaders, we should be able to say to them what the Apostle Paul said to the Corinthians "Follow me as I follow Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1, paraphrased). The only way we can do this is to build meaningful, life changing relationships with the children we minister to. Art Rorheim, co-founder of Awana said on the occasion of 90th birthday said, *"Here's one basic that's never changed: Kids respond to people who love them. The key to it is the leader personally taking an interest in that kid."* Does this mean that we want fewer sections said during Small Group? Not at all. What it means is that we must take our focus off the books and to put it back on the child, where it should have always been.



Commanders: Please be sure to copy this and distribute it to all of your Awana leaders, and post it where it can be seen.

(Available for download on the newsletter page on our website)

Tim & Sherry Thomas * 750 Summerset Drive * Johnson Creek, WI 53038 * 920 699 1977 * timt@awana.org * www.awanaswi.org