

How To Start a Local Study Club By Judy Kay Mausolf

The **big** question that is always being asked at AADOM is “How do I start a local study club”? Heather Colicchio, president of AADOM asked me to share the story of how our study club came to be!

I met my friend and co-founder, Nannette Thorman, for the first time when I called on her dental practice to introduce my performance coaching services. We had an immediate connection and spent almost an hour getting to know each other. What transpired from our conversation was her desire to start a study club for office managers. My statement to her was “so why don’t you start one”? She said it was because she was unsure of how to get things rolling. How fortuitous that I had been a coordinator of a very successful local Seattle Study Club group for over 12 years. It was destiny! So began our quest to create a study club group for front office staff and managers. All it really took were two people filled with passion and ideas to start the study club!

The first step was to think of a name. It sometimes can be a little difficult if you are a left-brain person to slide over to your creative right side. After a little help from my right-sided connection (husband Steve) we came up with the name “Up Front Study Club”.

Our next step was to appoint officers. Nannette became the first president and treasurer and I became the first vice-president and secretary. We took this information along with our By-Laws to the bank and opened up a non-profit checking account.

Wow, we were almost ready to do business. Walla! Okay maybe not quite we needed a few small things like members, dues, meeting dates, location, and speakers.....

We created a top notch agenda based on the current hot buttons for office managers and front office staff. Our plan was to meet 3 times a year on the first Thursday of November, February and May. We were thrilled to be able to secure all three dates at a beautiful golf country club. Not only was the scenery beautiful the food was fabulous too.

Our yearly dues were based on our costs. Our goal was to make the tuition as affordable as possible while still being able to meet overhead costs.

How wonderful it was to find that most of the office managers we approached were very interested. The doctors showed their support by taking care of their team member's dues. .

The three meetings were well attended by our highly intelligent and refreshing members. The friendships grew and everyone was excited to see each other to catch up. The networking that happened before and after the meeting created as much value as the meetings themselves.

We have just completed an amazing second year! Because of the excitement and enthusiasm of our members talking to their colleagues we have reached our maximum membership capacity of 50 people and started a waiting list. Our members say they could not imagine missing the benefits and experience of belonging to such a knowledgeable, inspiring, and fun group of women!

Learn how to start or be a part of your own study club. Join Judy Kay Mausolf at the AADOM Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida on September 26, 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel, International Plaza.

She will teach you her S.T.A.R.T.S method that includes sample letters, templates, and step-by-step instructions. Are you ready to discover how to transform your passion and ideas into a thriving and successful study club!