I Can’t Do It Alone

As the business owner and/or company leader, you’re responsible for all aspects of the business operations. Being an active part of the business environment one thing is always occurring, that is change. This certainty of change is what directs and motivates business owners to improve procedures and processes. It is imperative that business owners and leaders have the ability to recognize and relate to these ongoing changes, constantly (both physically and mentally) monitor employees, expenditures, performance, production, sales and overall health of the business. In this article we wish to discuss several matters that as a business owner/leader you need to realize, “I Can’t Do It Alone.”

In real life many people who become or are placed in a position of authority suddenly feel like they must do everything. Folks that just isn’t realistic, remember the quote, “It takes a village”, in business it’s similar, you need to accept the following realization, “I can’t do it all” and “I can’t do it alone”.

Since we know we can’t do it all or can’t do it alone whether working as an employee or as a leader, let’s define what a leader should be. A person who is a leader commands, directs or motivates those around him/her to perform as a valuable member of the business in our situation. The more duties that our employees can perform will allow you as a leader to actually focus more on meeting the mission and goals of the business (which by the way is your primary responsibilities) in lieu of trying to do it all.

Like most endeavors we as individuals are confronted with, being a leader foremost means we need to know ourselves because having the right intel means we’ve already won half the battle. Further, as a leader if we fail to command, direct and develop the workforce in our business and try to perform too much of the work ourselves, we will continue to inhibit the growth and success of our business based solely on what we individually can do. Being a leader means we must learn to delegate by identifying specific responsibilities that need to be assigned to others. One of the best ways of learning to delegate responsibilities is to know your employees and their capabilities, which will enable you to determine the type of duties’ that would be best suited for each employee. This requires a solid understanding of the abilities, knowledge and skills of your employees. Continuing with this thought, whether you’re a seasoned leader or new leader you should be aware that the most successful leaders are those who understand their staff and know how to motivate them through trust and personal development. The more you delegate by providing individuals duties you know they will like, the more enthusiastic about performing those duties they will become and also this will enhance their willingness for accepting additional responsibilities.

As a leader your responsibilities do not end after the successful delegation of assigning the project to someone. Now in lieu of performing the specific project yourself, you will need to occasionally follow-up on the individual's progress to determine if they need additional assistance. Let them know you care, show your appreciation and upon completion thank them for a job well done. This procedure is just as important as matching the right individual with the right project.

Continuing to reduce the leadership frustration of the, “I Can’t Do It All”, and “I Can’t Do It Alone”, you can see it is critical to allow our employees to job shadow and learn about other roles within the business. Instead of trying to do everything ourselves it is essential that as the leader we need to look for avenues for employees to take on more projects or to perform additional assignments to ensure all operational aspects of the business are accomplished.
Developing the abilities and skills of our employee’s is an important requirement needed to ensure your success as a leader. By performing these leadership tasks you now have expanded your business from a one person environment trying to do everything into a team environment. Teamwork grows out of a culture of acceptance, encouragement, respect and trust between leaders and employees. When employees feel and believe they are part of a team they tend to invest more time and energy into performing responsibilities.

As discussed in the previous paragraphs trying to individually do everything alone simply means you will not be able to complete everything. The previous paragraphs show you that your role as a leader is to inspire, lead and support your employees to achieve their highest levels of performance. If you lead the employees’ in a manner so that they know what their duties are and what your expectations are, the better chance your business success will be realized.

In accordance with what has been discussed concerning if you want to eliminate the, “I Can’t Do It All”, and the, “I Can’t Do It Alone” attitude, then as a leader you must learn that an employee’s efficiency, whether as an individual or as part of a team, is best developed by giving them responsibility. Along with a clear understanding of what is expected, (i.e., delegated assignments) more is better at this time.

This is a brief overview of what a leader should be in order to enhance the chances for the business to be successful. This article will not to make you a leader; however it is to provide some insight to developing your employees to fully take part in the performance of the businesses duties.

APAC encourages everyone who reads this article to take and use it to assist them in operating their business by learning to become a leader and to delegate duties to increase the chances for their business to be successful.

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