Keys to Being an Effective WERCouncil Leader

Here are a few things you can do as a new volunteer leader:

✓ Understand your role, including general responsibilities and specific duties.
✓ Be knowledgeable about the association, its history, its mission and its goals.
✓ Remember that you are responsible to the needs of association members.
✓ Communicate openly and honestly with other board members, volunteers, members and staff.
✓ Be committed to the job; be sure you have the time, support and funds to participate and contribute in a meaningful way.
✓ Keep association goals ahead of all others.
✓ Be enthusiastic about the association and your role in guiding it.
✓ Focus on long-term issues rather than administrative details. The details are better left to National.
✓ Bring creativity and vision to your role as a volunteer leader.
✓ Listen to and consider the opinions of others; be open minded.
✓ View your headquarters staff as valuable resources for suggestions and advice.
✓ Be realistic about the goals and accomplishments of your organization.
✓ Comment, criticize constructively and disagree. There are signs of a healthy, productive team.

And a few don’ts:

✓ Don’t bring a hidden or personal agenda to your term as a board member.
✓ Don’t personalize situations; focus on issues, not personalities.
✓ Don’t pontificate.
✓ Don’t bring your ego to board activities.