



## Leadership is Essential for Long-Term Membership Growth

Volume 1, Issue 3 - February 2023  
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**The passionate leader knows they are the face of the organization and are always positive and smiles both internally and externally.**



### **Leadership Tip of the Month**

#### **Expand Your Comfort Zone**

As Leaders, we each have a “comfort zone”. While it is easy to stay within your comfort zone in most circumstances, personal growth is a result of expanding what you’re comfortable with.

Every leader has a circle of members who we trust and rely upon. These people are the ones we trust with critical tasks, they are the ones we confide our doubts and concerns in, and they are the sounding board for our ideas. Does your circle grow with time, or does it constrict?

We expand our comfort zone with both experiences and education. The importance of each cannot be over-emphasized. A good start is to regularly read an article, a book, or newsletter such as this one. You never know when a tidbit of information will come in handy or inspire a new idea.

It is essential that a growing leader gain new experiences. Putting theory to the test or trying something new are the way we grow. An additional benefit of regularly expanding your comfort zone is that you lose much of the fear associated with doing new things.

The real benefit of expanding your comfort zone is that your creativity grows and your problem-solving ability increases.

## Membership Tip of the Month

### **Welcoming New Members**

When your group takes in a new member, what do you do that celebrates their joining? There are three good reasons to have some ceremony to welcome them into membership.

First, what do you do to make them feel special? What do you do that makes them feel that they are wanted and valued as fellow members? There is real advantages to making new members feel they are special and wanted.

Second, what do you do to make them feel a part of your organization? It is important to share the pride of your group with each new member. Many organizations have formal ceremonies to initiate new members which creates common bonds and experiences between members. Whatever your group does to welcome a new member, it should be more than a receipt for paying dues.

Third, how do you share the written and unwritten rules of your group with each new member? Some form of orientation that explains how your group functions empowers the new member. Do you sit down in a formal manner, or in a relaxed setting to share information? Do you give new members reading material or just let them learn the ropes by the seat of their pants?

How you welcome and treat new members is more important than actually recruiting them into your group. Take the time to understand why and how you welcome new members and then explore how to improve that process. After all, you should want the new member to become a long-time member someday.

# Extra

## Observe

There is so much to see in this old world. From what I can tell, many see so little. I strive to keep my eyes open and to see the beauty of the world that I inhabit.

In the fall, I see the tiny drops of moisture beading up on the ripening apples suspended from the tree.

The robin bouncing in the lawn as he hunts bugs in the freshly mowed grass.

The droplets of water falling from his jowls as the dog lifts his head from his water bowl.

The beauty of legs in a perfect fitting pair of jeans.

The green leaves of a tall tree fluttering in a slight breeze.

The splash of coffee pouring into the cup as the steam rises from the falling brown liquid.

The joy and anticipation in a child's face as an ice cream cone is ordered.

A hand outstretched in friendship to take yours in greeting.

The bright moon playing peekaboo through the heavy clouds.

Every day offers some new magic that only lasts for an instant. Observe all that you can.

## Consulting and Assistance

Ed offers Leadership and Membership consulting and training.

Workshops, presentations, and speeches to suit your needs.

## "Searching for God" Available on Amazon

Evidence, questions and observations by the author about the existence of God.

Also available in print: Farm Grown Leadership (an exploration of the traits every leader should have) and A Journey West (A western that follows Jasper and Martha's search for a place to call home)

