



Leadership is Essential for Long-Term Membership Growth

Volume 1, Issue 4 - March 2023

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The passionate leader is humble for they represent the members. They are confident in their ability to meet any challenge. Their vision of the future is optimistic and visionary for the organization.



Leadership Tip of the Month

Facilitating a Meeting: Keeping control

One of the difficult aspects of being a leader is facilitating a meeting. It can be especially hard to keep control of a meeting.

By keeping control, I refer to ensuring that each member is given the opportunity to participate in the meeting. It can be difficult when everyone wants to give their opinion or when members change the subject in the middle of discussion.

The first aspect of keeping control is using parliamentary procedure. The one of the basics are that only one topic can be in front of the group at a time. A motion is necessary to debate an idea, otherwise, the group can waste a great deal of time and accomplish nothing. Once a motion is made and seconded, you have to finished dealing with that topic before moving on to the next topic.

An important part of the one topic at a time rule is that it applies to members speaking. If the leader allows member to interrupt debate, it discourages members participation. It also gives the rest of the members permission to ignore the courtesy of listening when they have a point that they wish to share.

It can be a challenge to keep a meeting full of your friends under control, but as long as you are civil and fair in keeping the meeting moving forward, you can meet the challenge.

Membership Tip of the Month

Advertising your passion

If you want to add members to your organization, you need to advertise. The best advertisement is when your members are the walking and talking billboards.

As a leader, it is up to you to set the example for your members. Do you wear apparel with your group's logo or name on it? Do you feel pride when you put on a shirt with the logo on it?

Imagine how many hats, t-shirts, coats, or polo shirts you own with a logo on it. Are you advertising a business or service, or are you promoting the organization that you are passionate about?

A few years ago, I came up with the idea of tweeting a different picture of me wearing an article of clothing that had a Grange logo in October. I was somewhat surprised that I ended up with a number of items that didn't get used by the end of the month. Do you have enough apparel to wear a different item each day this month?

The point of wearing clothing that highlights your group is to share your passion. It raises awareness of your organization and invites others to ask you about the group. It is simply some of the best advertising your group can have to share your passion.

Extra

Quiet and Serene

To take time to reflect upon the variations that compose our textured lives requires a few quiet and serene places. No need for cell phones or social media, just peace and a quiet that permeates you to the soul.

Even those of us who love the bustle and noise of life as we pass along the pathway. We who leave echoes of our passage through life occasionally need to retreat to a silent place to relax.

These are all beautiful places. Some created by the finger of God, made to offer wonder and hint at the majesty of what is possible.

Some are echoes of mankind's effort to consecrate some patch of soil with heroic acts. Others are but places where with nature we feel at one with her.

To find such a place is possible each day, they often exist briefly and then vanish as time marches on. To pause for a moment and to soak in that serene and quiet moment; is to recharge before your return to the noise of life.

Consulting and Assistance

Ed offers Leadership and Membership consulting and training.

Workshops, presentations, and speeches to suit your needs.



Leadership Book Available on Amazon

Farm Grown Leadership explores the necessary traits of a leader through stories drawn from the author's life on the farm, in 4-H, FFA, and Grange.

Also available in print: A Journey West (an exciting western) and Searching for God (Evidence, questions and observations about the existence of God)