



Leadership is Essential for Long-Term Membership Growth

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Anyone can be, or become, a passionate leader in their organization.

The passionate leader strives to grow their leadership skills for they know the organization can't be better than the leadership. They endeavor to build an ever-expanding team to grow the group. They realize they will never quit growing if the group is to succeed.



Leadership Tip of the Month

The Gavel

Every leader who facilitates a meeting should view the gavel as an essential tool to aid them in keeping the meeting under control and moving forward. The gavel can keep the meeting moving as a period or as a reminder to the members that courtesy and civility are the rule. A few tips on using the gavel in a meeting.

First, be familiar with your gavel. Is it heavy or light, as that will make a difference in how loud it is. Are you using it on a hollow podium or a solid surface? If you have a chance to practice for a moment, tap it and listen to what it sounds like. The goal is for it to make a clean sharp sound when you strike it on the surface. How hard you strike the gavel will be determined by the sound.

Second, decide to use the gavel. Depending upon the organization, certain raps may have instructions to the group, such as calling all to stand. Don't be afraid to use the gavel, with your practice the gavel becomes one more tool for you.

Third, Run the meeting. Start with a single rap. Then use the gavel to punctuate the end of any business or agenda item. Let your group get used to the flow of the meeting by using your gavel regularly.

Fourth, keep control. On that rare occasion where a member gets out of line, a single harder rap of the gavel will often get everyone's attention and get the meeting back on track.

The gavel is an important tool to successfully facilitating a meeting.

Membership Tip of the Month

Influencers

One strategy in growing the membership of your organization is to find the influencers in your community. Influencers are those that influence others in your community in some positive way.

There are those that have an ever-growing circle of acquaintances and friends. They are respected, and their advice and recommendations are valued. They are viewed as intelligent and well informed by most.

Then there are those that hold positions of authority and are looked up to by many. Elected officials, ministers and business leaders are in this group. These are the people who when they speak, others listen.

The new influencers have a large following on social media. Podcasters, video streamers, Instagram and Facebook posters are just a few of the influencers in social media. Many of these influencers have hundreds of followers and some have millions.

If you spend your time sharing the activities and benefits of your group with influencers you may

be setting the stage for membership growth. If they become excited about your group, if they develop a passion for the values of your organization, they will become a conduit to their audience.

To be successful, you need to be sincere in sharing your organization with the influences in your community. If they become enthused by your group, the rest will follow without your guidance.

Extra

Johnston County Clay

A fence I must start on a cold rainy day
Slick and sticky is that awful nasty clay
The clamshell makes water and soil splatter
Every thrust into the water shows it doesn't matter
For sunny days I most fervently start to pray

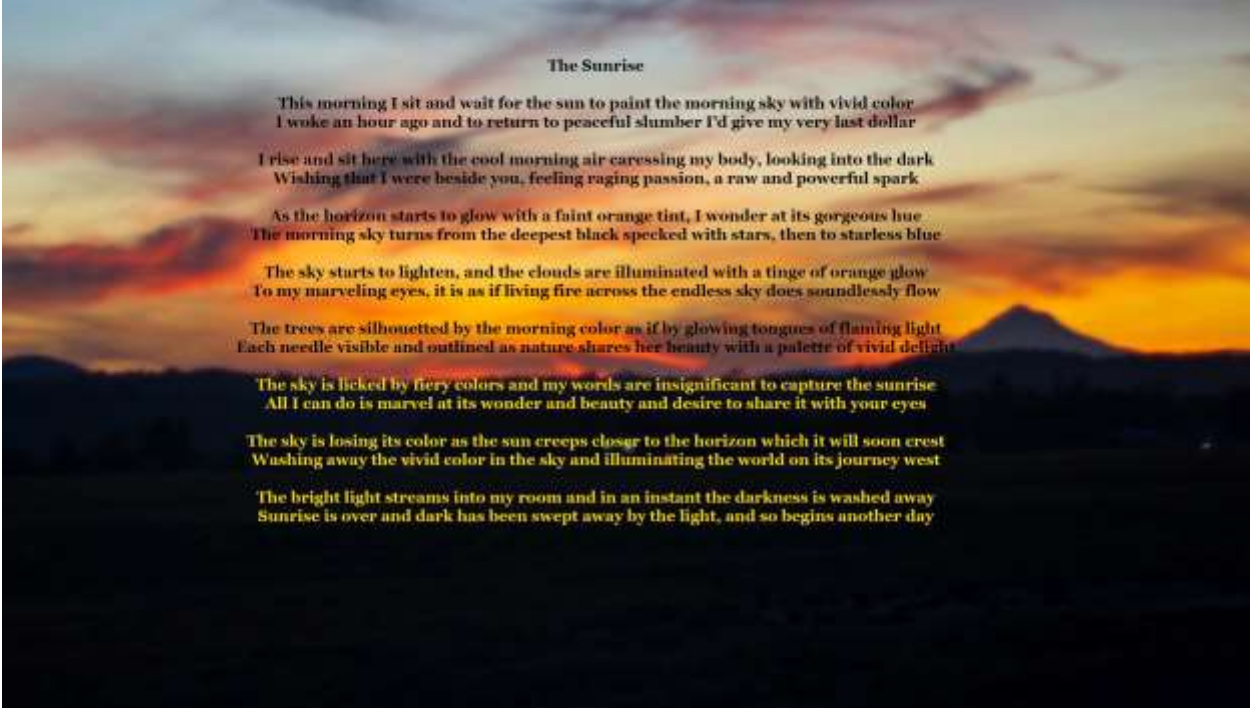
When the heavy gray clouds finally part
Digging postholes must I once again start
As the muck dries, into concrete it turns
The sweat falls like rain as the sun burns
Quarter of an inch deeper at a time takes heart

A new sturdy fence I stand back and admire
The shoulders ache, and the elbow is on fire
My digger is dull, and my fingers are curled in pain
Pride flickers, then the body reminds me of the strain
The next fence to be installed I shall simply hire

Consulting and Assistance

Ed offers Leadership and Membership consulting and training.

Workshops, presentations, and speeches to suit your needs.



The Sunrise

This morning I sit and wait for the sun to paint the morning sky with vivid color
I woke an hour ago and to return to peaceful slumber I'd give my very last dollar

I rise and sit here with the cool morning air caressing my body, looking into the dark
Wishing that I were beside you, feeling raging passion, a raw and powerful spark

As the horizon starts to glow with a faint orange tint, I wonder at its gorgeous hue
The morning sky turns from the deepest black specked with stars, then to starless blue

The sky starts to lighten, and the clouds are illuminated with a tinge of orange glow
To my marveling eyes, it is as if living fire across the endless sky does soundlessly flow

The trees are silhouetted by the morning color as if by glowing tongues of flaming light
Each needle visible and outlined as nature shares her beauty with a palette of vivid delight

The sky is licked by fiery colors and my words are insignificant to capture the sunrise
All I can do is marvel at its wonder and beauty and desire to share it with your eyes

The sky is losing its color as the sun creeps closer to the horizon which it will soon crest
Washing away the vivid color in the sky and illuminating the world on its journey west

The bright light streams into my room and in an instant the darkness is washed away
Sunrise is over and dark has been swept away by the light, and so begins another day

Books Available on Amazon

Farm Grown Leadership, A Journey West, and Searching for God Are available on Amazon.
Order yours today as their prices is going up due to Amazon price increases.

Photographs with poetry are available upon request.