

TIPS for PRESIDENTS

Encouragement is the Key

Nothing you do as a Club President is more important than sharing your positive attitude, your personal connection and your caring with another member one-on-one.

Tip 1: Remember People Matter: When people feel they don't count and their contribution is insignificant, they frequently become discouraged, unmotivated and passive. Nothing is more destructive to a club's culture, cohesiveness or longevity than negativity. When we look for the best in people, we – more often than not – get their best.

Suggestions:

- *Help each other be right – not wrong.*
- *Look for new ways to make new ideas work – not for reasons they won't.*
- *If in doubt, check it out. Don't make negative assumptions about each other.*
- *Help each other win and take pride in each other's victories.*
- *Speak positively about each other and about your club at every opportunity.*
- *Maintain a positive mental attitude no matter what the circumstances.*
- *Act with initiative and courage.*
- *Do everything with enthusiasm – it's contagious.*
- *Share the glory; to get credit – give it away.*

Tip 2: Look for the Positive. Remember to look for the positive in every situation and get to know your members. Understanding your members' skills and what motivates them will increase participation. Clubs, like members, possess unique personalities – understanding it will help service efforts, recruitment, and retention. Recruitment is important to every club, but retention is the key to stability.

Tip 3: Use words of encouragement: Words are powerful – especially these two: **Thank you.** Sometimes a simple, hand-written thank-you note is one of the best ways to connect and build a relationship with someone. While email offers freedom to write quickly and informally, a handwritten note connotes time and attention extended to the other person. *As President, your acknowledgement sends a powerful message. Expressing gratitude personally has a magical way of returning positive benefits to you and your club.*

Tip 4: Highlight Your Successes: Celebrate and thank your members for each success and accomplishment. This not only sets a positive tone, but also minimizes differences and reduces conflicts.

Tip 5: Plan for Tune-Ups. Even thriving clubs can use a "tune-up" from time to time. Conduct activities through the year at meetings or plan a club retreat for your members to explore: Techniques to increase member satisfaction – why do your members join and stay in your club? - or do they? The secret to successful recruitment begins with one satisfied Quota member – perhaps you! Review your club's operating and service personalities to help your club operate more effectively.

Tip 6: Reflect on your talents, interests, personality, and skills. Define the leadership role that works best for you. Your comfort level will directly impact your effectiveness.