

Leadership Ideas

"Good leaders make people feel that they're at the very heart of things, not at the periphery. Everyone feels that he or she makes a difference to the success of the organization. When that happens people feel centered and that gives their work meaning." -Warren Bennis

Elements of Effective Leadership

1. Set the Right Example
2. Create a Vision
3. Plan a strategy
4. Provide Guidance
5. Offer Resources
6. Empower Others
7. Build Teamwork
8. Inspire Others

*Think Like a Leader - Act Like a Leader
Plan Your Work - Work Your Plan*

Tips on Effective Leadership

1. Celebrate success. Each chapter has successes. Identify the successes; analyze the reasons for the success; reward those who made each success happen.

2. Set realistic goals. Identify a few clearly defined goals that are achievable with consistent effort but not requiring a miracle. If goals are impossible to achieve, you will experience failure. If they are realistic, you will probably experience success.

3. Spread the work around. You can avoid burn-out by not asking too much of any one person, including yourself. Most members will participate enthusiastically if expectations are clearly defined and limited.

4. Don't make your members feel guilty. Guilt does not motivate chapter members to participate. It drives them away. Find out what level of participation each member is comfortable with and find a way to involve them at that level.



5. Change the structure if you need to. Sometimes chapters need to make structural changes in order to meet member needs and to function effectively. If the conventional structure isn't working for your chapter, work with other chapter leaders to make changes. This might mean changing meeting times and dates, or involving more or less members on your bylaws and budget committees.

6. Focus your efforts and resources. Recognize that no one chapter can participate in every facet of the work of DAR. Identify your chapter's priorities; focus on those priorities.

7. Involve new members. New members are eager to help but often short on experience. Put new members on committees right away in supporting roles and make wise use of their input and skills. However, don't give them too many responsibilities or they might back away!

8. Save effort. Analyze the work that is done in your chapter. Eliminate what isn't really necessary or effective. Use technology to your advantage, including the electronic data resources available through the members only website.

9. Have a positive attitude. Your chapter is part of a powerful and exciting organization with an important mission. Even the smallest chapter has the opportunity for success.

10. Relax. Enjoy DAR! The organization's greatest asset is its members. DAR members are diverse, stimulating, energetic, successful and supportive. Who could ask for better company?