

LEADERSHIP LESSONS

(LEARNED FROM BEING A DISTRICT OFFICER)

- ✓ **SELL A VISION:** It's not about completing tasks or goals but inspiring others to be better communicators and leaders.
- ✓ **ACKNOWLEDGE OTHERS:** It's all about building and nurturing relationships.
- ✓ **SAY "THANK YOU":** and leave it at that. Praise publicly, critique privately. Praise constantly and accept praise from others. Give credit where credit is due.
- ✓ **ASK FOR HELP:** you can do it all yourself but that does not develop leaders (or help you). People will do almost anything for you if you just ask.
- ✓ **TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN:** you may be surprised at what you may be missing if you don't stop to really listen to others.
- ✓ **KEEP YOUR TEAM INFORMED:** do not make decisions without their input and counsel.
- ✓ **SET YOUR TEAM UP FOR SUCCESS:** clearly outline expectations upfront, and aim high! Your team will only meet the expectations you set for them. Train your team constantly, not just once or twice a year.
- ✓ **STAY FOCUSED:** it is easy to be bombarded with tasks that are not important or necessary. Either delegate or dump an activity if it does not meet your critical success factors: For Districts: new clubs, new members, CTMs, ATMs. For clubs: the Distinguished Club Program.
- ✓ **DEAL WITH CONFLICT:** it will never go away on its own and will grow worse if left unattended. It is not always easy or comfortable, but you must address conflict on your team immediately. Sometimes that means asking a team member to step down. Always remember this: you must do what is best for the District or Club—not you personally.
- ✓ **LEAD WITH INTEGRITY:** never compromise your honesty, principles, or character. It may mean that you do not achieve your goals, but you and your team will always respect and admire you for staying steadfast.
- ✓ **YOUR ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING:** people are looking up to your example whether you realize it or not. Always be positive, helpful, and service oriented. It's ok to have a bad day—just keep it private.
- ✓ **HAVE FUN:** if you are not truly enjoying your leadership journey, it is not worth your time. If you are open to all possibilities, you will have tremendous leadership and personal growth. We all learn best in times of fun. Have fun and create fun in all that you do.