Leadership Quote
"Be the change you want to see in the world."
~ Mahatma Gandhi

Leadership Lesson

Embracing Change
Routine can be comforting and familiar yet it can also become boring and feel rigid. The thought of change can be intimidating yet it can also elicit excitement and foster growth in your group or organization.

As you inch closer to the end of the first term, you might be anticipating some changes in the new calendar year.

Be open to these changes! Change can rejuvenate your members and entice others to join you. This will bring new energy and experiences into your group, which will expand your group’s knowledge base and its idea cache.

While it can be challenging to think of new and creative ideas and feel like it has all been done before, push yourself and see how creative you can be. Think of this as your opportunity to explore the undone and give yourself permission to think beyond the limits.

Here is a list of ways to stretch yourself and be innovative:

• **Retool the same old idea.** Think about how you can take the concept and reinterpret it in a new and different way.

• **Throw out the box.** Don’t limit yourself by trying to stay within certain guidelines. You can always go back and scale it down or modify the concept.

• **Be original.** Start with a whole new vision rather than relying on what has been done in the past.

• **Brainstorm and free associate.** Throw out all ideas without evaluating their feasibility. You never know when THE IDEA will hit, but if you stifle the creative process by nay saying ideas you may never get there. Once you have a great idea then mold it to meet your needs.

• **Secret dreams.** Have each member of your group write down something they think would be an amazing idea, no matter how crazy or wild, and turn it in. Then read through each idea and have the group expand on the concept or use it to foster new ideas and branch off from there.

• **Surf the web.** In this age of technology you have a vast resource at your fingertips. Check out what other groups like yours are doing and make it your own.

This week consider this reflection... (flip over)

PaperClip Communications
No one said change was easy. For some people change is hard because it is the realization of a lack of control. For others it is signifies that they are moving on, when they may not want to. And, for others it is facing the unknown of what comes next. Consider how you respond to change.

• Think of a time you resisted change – why did you resist and is there anything that would have made that change easier to accept?

• Think of a time you were thankful for change – why did you welcome it?

• When change does happen - what do you least look forward to and what do you most look forward to?

By reflecting on these questions you can identify what your fears are of change and celebrate what you most enjoy about change. Consider finding ways to change your fears into celebrations – because change is a constant!