

M⁴ Marilyn's Monday Morning Message

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IS IT TIME TO SHARPEN YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS?

In the past, when a vehicle experienced issues such as backfiring, slow acceleration, or difficulty starting, it was taken to a garage for a spark plug replacement or cleaning to restore optimal performance.

Just like a car, leaders also require periodic tuning. A leader may show signs of miscommunication, arrogance, over-reliance on outdated information, avoidance of accountability, resistance to change, lack of appreciation for teamwork, favoritism towards executives, and neglect of governance.

Improving your leadership skills begins with recognizing the need for adjustments. Seeking feedback from trusted individuals in your network can offer valuable perspectives. Reflecting on past decisions and actions, conducting a SWOT analysis on yourself, evaluating the alignment of your vision with your goals, and assessing how your lifestyle impacts your leadership qualities are all crucial steps in the enhancement process.

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Simplicity is a key to effective communication, a principle long embraced since my college days and throughout my leadership journey. In striving for clarity and conciseness, I am reminded of Albert Einstein's words that if one cannot explain a concept simply, then perhaps true understanding is lacking. Hence, I have adopted a practice of brevity in my interactions, opting for succinct responses that convey meaning efficiently.

For instance, when receiving compliments on my communication skills, appearance, or leadership abilities, a simple "THANK YOU" suffices. Similarly, in dealing with criticism or feedback, I refrain from engaging in prolonged or unnecessary explanations, having learned from past instances where such responses proved to be excessive or digressive. By adhering to the principle of simplicity, I aim to optimize communication efficiency and better convey my intended message.

Marilyn

A Few Credentials (Past & Present)

Greater Richmond Business Hall of Fame; Female Executive of the Year, Style Weekly; Board of Directors, Venture Richmond; Board of Trustees, Ferrum College; Board of Trustees, (First Female Rector (Board Chair) in History of Waynesburg University; Board Member, Go Virginia; YWCA Outstanding Women's Award; Board of Trustees, Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Former Chair); Board of Directors, Richmond Ambulance Authority (Secretary); Board of Directors, Virginia 21; Board of Directors, Venture Richmond; High School Hall of Fame; Chair, Health & Human Resources Agencies to Reinvent Virginia State Government; Chair to Reimagine the State Fair of Virginia