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LEADERSHIP

Ann Landis, GFWC Leadership Chairman

Leadership is both an art and a science. The art lies in vision, inspiration, and the ability to connect with and motivate people. The science is in the strategies, structures, and principles that make leadership effective. Great leaders master both, balancing intuition with knowledge and creativity with discipline. When art and science come together, leaders emerge and leadership becomes more than just a role; it becomes an engaging force for change. Good leaders engage, motivate, educate and empower others as they seek to accomplish common goals.

The **science of leadership** is workshops, development sessions, and webinars. Time and energy are spent identifying leadership styles, learning the steps in exercising leadership, (usually a version of vision, plan, execute, and evaluate) establishing a mentor/mentee program, or any number of currently trending ideas. Without the **art of leadership**, rarely will that produce a leader who leads from influence rather than authority. Conversely, without the science of leadership, the art of leadership may flounder with little or no focus or impact. The art and science of leadership are a team that must work together.



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Advocacy—Good Leaders Advocate!

Why bother to advocate?

- Advocacy enables people to be heard. Advocacy allows individuals to have their voices heard in the public sphere, attracting attention from politicians, the media and high-profile individuals. By advocating for a cause, you can promote your perspective to the wider community and act as a catalyst for change.
- Advocacy influences laws and policies. Advocacy can directly influence decisions on public policy. As GFWC members advocate for a certain cause or issue, politicians and law makers alike will become increasingly aware of such issues and may consider including the perspectives of advocates into formal law or policy. This is crucial for change.
- Advocacy enables people to better understand each other. The community will be exposed to certain issues and topics, which is the first step to a better mutual understanding.
- Advocacy promotes problem solving and participation. All advocacy efforts require communities and groups to collectively work together and solve problems. Participation and participatory decision-making are crucial for advocacy work.
- Advocacy educates the greater community. Oftentimes, people are unaware of the injustices and grievances groups face and advocacy efforts can help shed light and educate the greater public on such issues.
- Advocacy fosters respect for a cause. Fostering respect and solidarity enables individuals, groups, and people in power alike to find common ground and solve problems in a civil manner.
- Advocacy makes people feel stronger. Individuals may feel a lack of motivation when trying to advocate for issues because they are alone. A strong support network can help people get back their drive and trigger momentum. Advocacy efforts thrive when implemented in a group context, as people are strengthened by the presence and will of other people.
- Advocacy can help nonprofit organizations survive. Non-profit organizations are often founded upon a central goal or mission that works to make the world a better place. Advocacy for certain causes will help non-profit organizations strive towards such goals and will garner greater attention from the public eye, which will help them to make a change in the world through their ambitions, hopes and dreams for the future. (Humansrightscareers.com)



"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart." - Helen Keller.

Collaboration—Good Leaders Collaborate

The definition of collaboration is the process of two or more individuals or organizations working together to achieve shared goals. Collaborative leadership is team centric rather than top down and encourages all stakeholders to work across sectors or boundaries rather than solo. Collaborative leaders often exhibit these skills and qualities:

Trust: Most collaborative leaders take active steps to establish trust with their team through open communication, providing autonomy and seeking input.

Motivation: Collaborative leaders motivate their team members to do their best work with positive reinforcement.

Delegation: The collaborative leaders encourage team members to contribute to their maximum ability by delegating specific, skill-based tasks to each.

Communication: In meetings, particularly when seeking input or feedback, the collaborative leader must know how to clearly state the parameters of the situation and effectively gather, analyze and implement the information the team provides.

Transparency: Collaborative leaders when actively seeking input and suggestions from their team members, have to give them the necessary information about the goals to make informed decisions.

Instead of avoiding conflict when it arises in meetings, collaborative leaders facilitate a healthy discussion that seeks to solve the issue at the center of the conflict and improve relationships within the group.

Consider these techniques and ideas and determine how you will use them in your next conflict resolution, teamwork or collaboration challenge.



WHY LEADS—Get on Board for a WILD RIDE! GFWC LEADS CLASS 2025



Do you believe **leadership** is something reserved for people with titles—presidents, chairmen supervisor, chiefs and CEOs?

Let **GFWC** encourage you to seek opportunities to participate in the **GFWC Leadership Education and Development Seminar (LEADS)** workshop. Ask your state leaders how you can be the representative from your state and participate at the GFWC level. You will realize that leadership isn't about having power; it's about stepping up, showing up, and making a difference right where you are.

Leadership workshops give you more than skills—they give you a voice. Join **GFWC LEADS** and learn how to lead with confidence, how to listen with purpose, and how to lift others in their rolls.

Seek opportunities with **GFWC LEADS** and connect with women who once questioned their worth in leadership roles. Grow together, empower each other, and gain tools that will ignite and change you your club and your community.

If you've ever thought, "*I'm not a leader*", then **GFWC LEADS** is exactly where you need to be. It's where self-doubt turns into courage, where your strengths become clear, and where you realize that leadership isn't a destination—it's a journey. And that journey starts with one brave step forward. Take it. You won't regret it.