



Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

74th Southwestern Regional Virtual

Planning Meeting

2020-2021

“Leadership Charge”

Founder, Soror Lola M. Parker



Southwestern Region Theme:

*“Affirming the Legacy, Bonding in Sisterhood,
Committing to Business and Developing Leaders”*

Soror Vahnita D. Loud
Southwestern Regional Director

National Theme:

*“BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN BUILDING THE FOUNDATION
FOR GENERATIONAL FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT”*

Saturday, September 26, 2020

“Upward and Onward in Efficient Service”



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COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Before you decide, I want to be President, Regional Director, a Regional Officer or Committee Chair, or based on your observations of others, you say to self, "I CAN DO THAT!", allow me to share some insightful information. Don't accept a position to have a title, recognition or any form of self-gratification. Words of wisdom from 35 years of experience.

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Leadership is not always only about being in **charge**. ... A great **leader** understands and embraces their weaknesses, and surrounds themselves with others who embody their areas of weakness.

Let me give you ONE DEFINITION of Leadership according to Merriam Webster. **Leadership is a process of social influence, which maximizes the efforts of others, towards the achievement of a goal.** In other words, Leadership stems from influence and not authority or power.

Being a good leader isn't easy. It often involves work behind the scenes that others are not even aware of. Late nights, early mornings, going above and beyond, putting self and personal opinions aside and embracing the will of the majority.

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While a leader's actions may be scrutinized when things are going bad, it is their leadership qualities that shine through the worst of times. It is these same qualities that others will look up to, respect, and work very hard for.

I am told there are 5 qualities that will make a leader successful. **Clarity, Decisiveness, Courage, Passion and Humility.** Let's look at each.

1. **Clarity**

They are clear and concise at all times--there is no question of their vision and what needs to be accomplished. This gives others the opportunity to digest their goals and decide whether or not they will support their cause. Generally, very few people know what they want, much less how to get there, so they will gravitate towards those who appear to have a clear picture in mind--good clarity leads to great achievement

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2. **Decisiveness**

Once they have made up their mind, they don't hesitate to commit--it's all hands on deck. They show great consistency with their decisions, rarely backing out or changing their minds unless it is absolutely necessary. Being decisive shows commitment, a quality very high in demand for a great leader.

3. **Courage**

Boldness is both something you can develop and something that is blessed as a virtue. Although some people are naturally more fearless than others, practicing how to be fearless--or at least project fearlessness--is a completely doable task, one many have achieved in order to fulfill their role as an amazing leader.

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4. **Passion**

There's nothing more inspirational than seeing someone who cares about what they do--the best leaders exhibit boundless energy and passion for what they do. Don't be shy about your passion for whatever it is you are leading. As long as you are passionate about what you know, or care about, it'll shine through and people will follow.

Last but certainly not least

5. **Humility**

While confidence is a very attractive trait in leaders, there's nothing like a humble character for creating a lovable persona. Great leaders admit when they are wrong and take criticism as an opportunity for growth. Show the world how grateful you are to be where you are. This, in turn, will demonstrate how much you deserve the leadership role.

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Before becoming a **LEADER**, I would encourage you to first learn what it means to **SERVE** and **FOLLOW**.

Being a **LEADER** means putting the interests of others above your own. In an organization, committee or team, its often called “majority rules”.

The word **SERVE** has best been defined as “to be of use, to provide assistance; to help, to contribute, but most assuredly to work toward a common goal with another or others, to volunteer support, give time, give assistance, and to share talents and gifts that God has blessed you to have.

The word **FOLLOW** means to accept as authority, to go the course of an example set before you and to obey.

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In both cases, Serving and Following provide opportunities of insight and opportunities to acquire knowledge regarding the path you have chosen or may be considering taking.

Whether the **Leadership** role you have is one of officer or committee chair, it will not matter if it is on a local, regional or national level, you as a leader, have a major responsibility on your shoulders and that is to practice the behavior you want others to follow, so **Lead by Example**

- Be committed (Don't task yourself in too many multiple areas) (Jack of all Trades, Master of none)
- Be effective
- Be open and transparent (Nothing in Iota belongs to you) (All Financial Sorors have rights)
- Communicate, Communicate and Communicate some more – email, text and phone calls, Zoom, WebEx, Google Meet) (Acknowledge receipt)

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- Be Professional (Documentation, appearance and Dress)(Situations dictate different levels of professionalism)
- Be Timely (Discuss meeting options as a group -Notify others of meetings and activities in advance – more than 1 or 2 days)(Respect deadlines)
- Be Inclusive (of everyone not just some) (Leave the personal agendas out of it)
- Be respectful of each other – learn to work with each other even if only to achieve a common goal (treat others as you wish to be treated)
- Be courteous (Agree to Disagree but know that majority rules)
- Be involved – Delegate but participate
- Know that as the leader or the chair, the responsibility of the outcome of any task, event, meeting, workshop, or activity is on YOU. (That means you don't get to pass the buck)

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- Know your National, Regional and Chapter Bylaws, Standing Rules, Public Relations Guidelines (There should be no conflicts with your local chapter rules)
- Know each other's abilities and skills (God has given each of us different gifts and talents. It's ok to utilize the expertise of another Soror) (Uplift one another)
- Know that there is no "I" in "Team". (Its spelled T.E.A.M. It is really true and absolute fact that TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE.)

And with that I will close with a quote, by Joanne Ciulla.

“Leadership is not a person or a position. It is a complex moral relationship between people based on trust, obligation, commitment, emotion, and a shared vision of the good.” -. And as I always say “Do it for the good of the organization”