

Five Things Every Club President Should Know Before Taking Office

Think about your club. Can you remember some presidents who the job really well? What about the ones who didn't do it so well? Do you remember why he or she was ineffective?

Chances are, he or she didn't embrace one or more of the following five tips many Lions wish their club president knew.

Find Passion Points

Presidents who take the time to find out the individual passions and hobbies of members often have a much better chance for success. Every individual has a passion or desire. If you can determine what it is and channel it into your club, that member is more likely to follow your lead and make sure his or her project is successful. Be supportive and compassionate to the members in their personal endeavors and they will support you. Always remember that they are volunteers, too.

Become a Servant Leader

It's easy to get someone to follow you into a restaurant if you are going to buy him a steak. It's not easy to get someone to give up a holiday weekend to work at a Lions' project. To inspire others to serve, club presidents must lead by example. Members are watching how you conduct yourself, and taking cues from you.

Never Take Sides

Listen to controversy and try to resolve it. Remain openminded on all subjects, even if you do not agree.

Recognize Others

Everyone enjoys recognition. It does not have to be expensive or elaborate. Print a member's name in the bulletin for every one to see or give him or her a certificate for helping at a project. Those recognized will work harder and their success will help your success.

Prepare, Prepare, Prepare

The more preparation done before becoming president means more success during your presidency. The confidence attained climbing the ranks and leaving from others will slow as you lead the club through the year. Yes, YOUR year. The buck will stop with you. It's also a year of tremendous personal growth. Enjoy the ride.

From September 2011 Lion Magazine