

Lend a Hand

The Strand

The Newsletter of PRLS

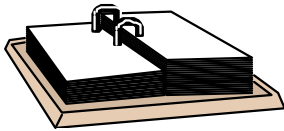
Volume 6 Issue 2

October 1, 2003

PRLS Calendar

October 4: (5230) Basic PRLS, Salinas

October 24 (Friday) Basic PRLS Embassy Suites, San Luis Obispo (before District Conference)



December 6 Basic PRLS Nelson Room, CLU, Thousand Oaks

December 13 MPRLS 3 Nelson Room, CLU, Thousand Oaks



From the Sidelines

Even though the PRLS instructors are the very first to admit that we don't change anyone's basic character and we don't represent a totality of leadership learning, the fact is that we get all kinds of unsolicited testimonials to the efficacy of the program. The following is one of them.

It came from **Kimberly Skinner**, Past President of San Luis Obispo Daybreak, Past PRLS Registrar, 2003 District Conference Co-Chair, etc.

"I was looking at the courses in the program where I

worked on my doctorate, and saw that they had a class called 'Professionalism: Leadership and Service.' The course content had to do with the organizational structure of our professional organizations and community service as part of being a professional. I also noticed the course instructor was 'TBD,' so I e-mailed the director and told her I had an interest in this area. To make a long story short, I am now teaching this class!!

"I can trace it all back to Rotary! (Other than the fact that I do happen to be an audiologist with an Au.D. Otherwise, I wouldn't be able to teach in this particular program!) I am also a board member of our state audiology organization, and I only agreed to do that (I think) because of my experience learned in Rotary!

"My experience with our professional organization plus Rotary experience qualified me to teach the class. It's great! I'm now teaching an 800-level class!!! Who knew I'd have all these opportunities because someone one day said to me "You should go to that PRLS class!"



From the website—

www.PRLS.org/

Well, What Do We Expect? (Part 1)

By reading about business leadership traits in the various periodicals available to all of us, you come across some decent lists of qualities possessed by those whom we consider "successful." Here's the first of five in the newest list I've read. The rest will follow in order.

Leaders know what they want to do and set out to achieve their goals with single-mindedness of purpose.

The best presidents I have known set their Rotary goals early, drew around them the people they thought were most likely to complete jobs, and then together headed toward acknowledged and accepted objectives. Where does anyone start to develop Rotary goals? How does a "goal" develop? Here's a logical sequence:

1. Start with the goals set by the Rotary International President. Some years, they're specific and detailed, as the membership goals were under RI President Rick King. Some

years they're indeterminate, left up to lower echelons, as they were under RI President Bhichai Rattakul. There are, stated or unstated, though, always goals regarding membership and contribution levels to The Rotary Foundation.

2. Next, go to whatever goals the District Governor has set. Nine years ago, there were no specific, defined goals to be accomplished by clubs or by people *in* clubs. There were no designations like "Best in the District" applied to Vocational Service, Membership, individual projects, etc. In the past three or four years, that lack of definition of goals has moved forward until, under DG Brenda Cressey, last year, the process was defined as far as it's ever likely to be.

3. Then see what the history of your club has been. Are you a very, very strong Community Service Club, for example, with a multitude of rewarding local projects? Are you the greatest Vocational Service Club in the history of the world, seeing the value of morals and ethics as the core of Rotary beliefs? Do you see "International" stamped on our Rotary pins and concentrate on that element of service?

4. What is it about Rotary that gets *you* excited. It's *your* year of leadership, so you get to have some say in what's done under your direction and guidance.

5. Put these four levels into writing, gather your Kitchen

Cabinet around you, and start to define ways to do what is important to your and to your club.

Will that make you "Best in the District?" Maybe not the first time out. Will completing what you set out to do make you "successful?" Darned tootin' it will! In anyone's eyes!



Backstopping

Think about this person as a leader of your club: no administrative talent at all, a high voice, not much of an effective formal education, shy personally.

That describes one of the greatest tailbacks in the history of the NFL. He played for the Chicago Bears until retiring to become the Athletic Director at the University of Kansas: Gale Sayers.

What did Kansas do to make up for his administrative and educational lacks? They surrounded him with people who didn't mind being anonymous and who would make up for Sayers' admitted deficiencies, while leaving Sayers to do what he did best – attract young athletes to the University and then motivate them to excel.

We all have shortcomings. It's the job of real leaders to make up for them by finding people who care more for Rotary's spirit and public image than they do for their own. Call them a Kitchen Cabinet, or just

call them friends willing to help. Whatever you call them, it's backstopping, and it works.

Want to be an in-print author? Send your "Strand" contributions by e-mail to rhm717@adelphia.net.

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