

The TEAM Leader

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Psalm 31:3

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Product Promotion *Impressions*



Did you know that the LWML has a newsletter designed especially for Young Woman? *Impressions* is also very beneficial for all women. You can read, or print a copy of *Impressions* by going to the LWML Web site (www.lwml.org) and go to the YWR link. In each issue, you will find articles, news and a devotion. Please encourage the women in your church to check out the LWML Web site for *Impressions*, and numerous other printable resources.

Leader Tips

- Leaders keep many documents—some permanently, others only briefly. With so much information in their care, record keeping is an opportunity to be effective and efficient.
- Is your committee listening to their co-workers?
- Train volunteers, make sure they are valued and equipped!
- Ask God to lead and guide you, when making plans.

Communication—the act or means of making something known; to have mutual access and exchange of information...an equal exchange between at least two people. Unfortunately, about eighty percent of poor leadership decisions result from misunderstandings that are a product of poor communication. Here are 10 ways you can make sure you are not miscommunicating:

1. Talk, don't be afraid to say what needs to be said. 2. Show your feelings. Feelings are a gift from God, not a curse. 3. Try to put the best construction on everything. 4. Remember, it is not about winning and/or being right. 5. Listen actively. Make eye contact and restate what others are saying. 6. Be open to new ideas and different points of view. 7. Have an opinion and don't make others guess what you want. 8. Look out for others. 9. Limit distractions... television, radio, computer...sometimes the communication becomes uncomfortable, but avoidance is not the best way to handle conflict. 10. Invite the Lord to your meeting in prayer. He is always with us and willing to help in every need. After all, He is The Team Leader.

Communication includes your attitude, listening skills, facial expression, tone, and gestures. When we as leaders use the methods listed here, we avoid an unequal exchange that might result in confusion, power struggles, or dissatisfaction. None of these are positive for leaders or their followers. Remember, it is not just what you say...it is also how you say it that gets your message across.

Written by Nikki Tyrrell

Greetings from the Leader Development Committee!

Please let us know if we can assist you in any way. We would also love for you to share ideas with us. E-mail our committee at lwml@lwml.org and put Leader Development in the subject box so the message can be forwarded to us. Districts, please make sure the zones and societies receive a copy of *The TEAM Leader* and *Impressions*, and spread the news about the Leader Development and YWR link on the LWML Web site.

Joyfully United in Spirit, a resource for YWR programming was sent via e-mail attachment to all districts recently. Please refer to the information in this resource to guide you through the process of choosing your YWRs that will be going to the LWML Convention in Sioux Falls. If you have any questions about the YWR Program, contact our committee using the e-mail address listed above.

Anne Hartman, Sandra Haugner, Nikki Tyrrell
Sharon Goertzen, Chairman
Marguerite Christman, Department Coordinator

Guidance for LWML Leaders—Follow Through!

Jesus gave His disciples a realistic picture of two workers, a shirker and a lurker (Matthew 21:28-31). Both the shirker and the lurker were asked by their father to do the same task. The shirker agreed to do the work but never followed through. The lurker initially refused his father, but hung around to see if the work would get done. Seeing the work wouldn't be finished, he reluctantly did it. The lurker was judged more worthy than the shirker.

The point of the parable is that work is judged not by our willingness to do it, but by the completion of it. Praise be to God, for He has completed the work of salvation for us and is working in us now to accomplish all good things! Follow through on the tasks you have been given, not a shirker or even as a lurker—but as a worker, remembering it is Christ who is at work in you.

Written by Pastor Carl Gnewuch,
LWML Pastoral Counselor



Gaining, Training, Maintaining LWML Members



The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman...in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

The Mission Statement of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League does not address gaining, training and maintaining members. So how do they come about?

We believe that when we reach out to each woman by;

1. Assisting her in **affirming her relationship with the Triune God** (getting her into the Word),
2. Praying that the Holy Spirit will work through the Word to inspire and **enable her to use her gifts**,
3. Inviting her to observe and experience the opportunities LWML offers.

It will become a natural, obvious vehicle or way for her to use her gifts **in ministry to the people of the world.**

WHAT ARE WAYS TO "ASSIST EACH WOMAN"?

1. Try to get all the women in your church involved in Bible study. Offer it at all times of the day to allow more women to fit their schedules around those times. Consider forming monthly circles which use the topics in the Quarterly. Encourage women to lead the studies after having reviewed them with the pastor. Bible study leads to Christian service.
2. Personally invite the new and inactive women to a meeting or a Bible study. Assign "big sisters" from your LWML society so that no one feels uncomfortable attending a meeting for the first time.
3. Assume every woman in the congregation wants to be involved in Christian service. Don't pre-judge interests or time available. Even working women or young mothers can be part of a prayer chain, make phone calls, and contribute mites although they may not be able to attend meetings.
4. Plan a meeting once or twice a year with a special theme and at a different time than usual. Try a Saturday brunch, a Lenten prayer service, an evening picnic with vespers in the summer, or invite a special speaker. Plan programs that meet a variety of interests.
5. Provide baby-sitting services for meetings, Bible studies, and special events to encourage young mothers to attend.
6. Plan frequent receptions to welcome women to your congregation. Informally share information about LWML and service opportunities. Leave time for visiting and use name tags to help newcomers become acquainted.
7. Be an example of service to the inactive women, just as Christ is our example. Offer meals, babysitting, and housecleaning to the hospitalized and new mothers.

Once the women in your congregation are interested in showing their faith through service, your society needs to help them identify their gifts and talents and put them to use. Hebrews 10:24 says: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

HOW DO WE OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO USE "HER GIFTS"?

1. Consult your congregational talent survey to learn of interests and talents of women in the congregation.
2. Don't assume that the women will automatically start to serve in the areas of interest they've indicated. Personally invite them to take part.
3. Help a newcomer learn a service by doing it with an experienced person. It's easier and more fun to learn by doing.

WHAT ARE REASONS WOMEN JOIN A SERVICE ORGANIZATION?

*To be needed *To help others *To make a difference (in society, in an organization) *To learn new skills or use skills already developed *To belong to a caring community *To feel accepted *To grow in faith *To share God-given talents *To support causes believed in - - - - -

Does your LWML society provide opportunities for fulfillment in these areas? So women will want to become part of it?

KEEP YOUR WOMEN FROM LOSING INTEREST BY:

1. Using members' time well. Busy work without a purpose is a waste of time and a sure way to lose members.
2. Spreading the workload rather than overburdening a few.
3. Recognizing a job well done. Don't take people for granted. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says we are to "encourage one another and build each other up..."

Women can be a powerful force in fulfilling the Great Commission. Your LWML society can be a catalyst in involving the many talented, dedicated women in your church.

(Gaining, Training, Maintaining LWML Members is available from the LWML Catalog Code# 7132)