



President's Message

Sometimes you have to slide down headfirst A proponent for change – for the world and ourselves

Navy SEAL candidates face numerous obstacles and obstacle courses during their training. One such obstacle is the slide for life between two towers. The slide for life consists of maneuvering a 200 foot length of rope between the two towers. The slide for life is a timed event. The record for the fastest slide stood for years until someone decided to challenge the status quo, take a risk, and face the obstacle in a completely different way. Yep, you guessed it (the title gave it away) - head first!

If you've been in leadership for any length of time, you've probably had multiple opportunities to face an obstacle or two. How did you maneuver those obstacles? Did you use the old traditional method? Sometimes those work. What if the obstacle was something you never faced before or you simply (I shouldn't use the word simply) wanted to change a practice, procedure, or even the whole department?

Leaders are always looking for ways to make things better – for people! I don't know anyone who tries to change things to make them worse. Generally speaking, in any group undergoing change you will find three subgroups: those who accept the change and help support it, those who are neutral and hang around to see how it all plays out, and those who oppose change and resist it.

Leadership is risky; whenever you are trying to change anything, you expose yourself to criticism, ridicule, and sometimes personal attack. You cannot be a leader without making an investment of yourself: your energy, your ideas, and your emotions. As a leader, you may not have to slide a rope to escape personal physical danger but there are dangers none-the-less. You

will have to slide the rope; the rope of leadership is woven with honesty, integrity, and character. If it isn't, it probably will not support you as you navigate the obstacles.

Imagine yourself as the first SEAL candidate to slide the rope headfirst! Can you imagine the questions the candidate was asking internally? What if I don't make it? What if I lose my balance and fall? What if I don't have the strength to hold on? What if I get yelled at (ok, that's probably a given)? Those are important questions to ask because we all need to accurately assess the changes we're trying to implement. But how many of us thought of these questions: How much better will things be when this is finished? What opportunities will others have they do not have today, as a result of this change? What impact will this have on the world?

In conclusion, if the assessment shows change is needed; grab ahold of the rope, pull yourself out onto the rope, and slide headfirst. The change you create will be worth the effort and risk you endured to make it all happen.

Respectfully,

Pat Borer
Leadership Link President

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Nominations Requested

**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS
2015-2016**

**The Leadership Link Nominating Committee is seeking nominations
for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer**

**Please send your nominations by Wednesday, May 6th
to the Nominating Committee**

bboggs@lincoln.ne.gov

**Barb Boggs, Chair
Lana Tolbert, Building & Safety
Brian Wood, Lincoln Fire & Rescue**

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2015 Administrative Professional Award

Pat Kant, Awards Committee Chair,
Members: Charlotte Burke & Kendall Warnock

2015 Outstanding Administrative Professional Award

On April 23, 2015, Leadership Link recognized four individuals who were nominated for the Administrative Professional Award.

The nominees were judged on qualities which include: accepting unique, unusual and challenging work activities, displaying excellent customer service, demonstrating cooperative working relationships with various work areas, working to support a common mission or goal of a work area and demonstrating good written and verbal communication skills.

The nominees were:

Shelli Buhr and Lori Cook, both Senior Office Assistants who work together in the Environmental Public Health, Air, Waste and Water Sections. They were nominated by John Chess, Nancy Clark, Harry Haefer, and Chris Schroeder. Because it was nearly impossible to distinguish a difference in their outstanding contributions to the division, they were nominated together for this award.

“Lori and Shelli are the first face or voice most people experience, and they receive thousands of phone calls a year; many contacts from the citizens, some who are upset. They treat each customer with respect and provide them correct information and referral to appropriate technical staff. They regularly hear from customers about how pleasantly they were treated or how they appreciated the help provided to them. “

Sherrie Meints - EMS Business Manager for Lincoln Fire and Rescue, was nominated by Roger Bonin. “Sherrie manages the patient care reporting system and works with the 911 dispatch center to ensure that dispatch data transfers from the CAD into Patient Care Reporting System. She is frequently called at home to remote into the system when the interfaces have quit working and she will help the EMS Supervisors restore the reporting system. She continues to ensure that LFR is compliant with the State of Nebraska mandatory reporting requirements. Sherrie is well respected by the command staff, the EMS supervisors and her co-workers and is always pleasant, hardworking and professional”.

Marissa James - a Police Records Technician with the Lincoln Police Department Narcotics Unit, a unit composed of employees from LPD, the Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office, and the

UNL Police Department. She was nominated by Captain Chris Peterson. “Marissa has taken complicated and outdated transcription processes, accounting, statistical records, records dissemination procedures and modified them with new and creative processes that make investigators and the unit more efficient and accountable. Police officers, supervisors and outside agencies, as well as the public are Marissa’s customers. The Narcotics Unit is a male dominated work place which employs many type-A personalities, plus collaboration with other criminal justice agencies. Keeping “cops” and attorneys satisfied, let alone impressed, is no small task. Marissa’s work ethic and creativity; her excellent customer service skills and her cooperative working relationships all support the goals and objectives of the Narcotics Unit. “

Receiving **Honorable Mention** recognition were **Lori Cook and Shelli Buhr** from Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and **Sherri Meints** from Lincoln Fire & Rescue



The **Winner was Marissa James** from the Lincoln Police Department Narcotics Unit.



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Board of Directors 2014-2015

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Veterans Services

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County Commissioners

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Brian Wood – Lincoln Fire & Rescue
Melodie Montiel – Human Resources

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NMA Code of Ethics

I will recognize that all individuals inherently desire to practice their occupations to the best of their ability.

I will assume that all individuals want to do their best.

I will maintain a broad and balanced outlook and will recognize value in the ideas and opinions of others.

I will be guided in all my activities by truth, accuracy, fair dealing and good taste.

I will keep informed on the latest developments in techniques, equipment, and processes.

I will recommend or initiate methods to increase productivity and efficiency.

I will support efforts to strengthen the management professional through training and education.

I will help my associates reach personal and professional fulfillment.

Contribute to the effectiveness of sponsoring organizations.

I will earn and carefully guard my reputation for good moral character and good citizenship.

I will promote the principles of our American Enterprise System to others, by highlighting its accomplishments and displaying confidence in its future.

I will recognize that leadership is a call to service.

NMA Statement of Principles

We believe in the highest standards of personal and organizational integrity and respect for the individual.

We believe in lifelong learning, continuous improvement and the development of a workforce capable of sustaining a competitive posture in the global economy.

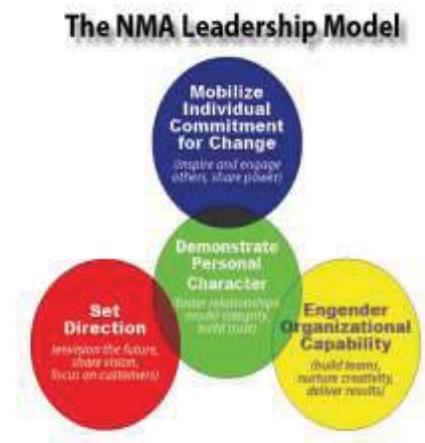
We believe management is a creative, dynamic, and essential process enabling people to achieve personal and organizational objectives.

We believe that managerial responsibility is shared among all individuals at all levels of the organization and that leadership is critical to management success.

We believe that individuals and organizations have a community and civic responsibility.

NMA Mission Statement

NMA offers leadership development products and creates opportunities that maximize the potential of our members, sponsoring organizations, and communities.



Derived from a similar model in Ronalds, *Basics of Leadership* by Ulrich, Zenger, & Stuetgen.