

The LMSC in a Leadership Role

Leadership in an LMSC is key to providing services to members and potential members in that geographic area. An effective leader can have a significant impact on the health of an LMSC. The people attending this break out group feel that finding, developing, and training future leaders for our organization is very important, along with communication with volunteers and members, and providing support for activities in the LMSC.

Characteristics of an Effective Leader

- Willingness to work
- Encourages participation
- Team builder
- Energetic
- Bipartisan
- Reliable/responsible
- Good listener
- Able to delegate
- Capable of decision making
- Tactful
- Diplomatic
- Good communication/good follow up
- Organized
- Energetic
- Has the big picture/a vision for the organization

What skills does the leader of a group need?

- Ability to plan ahead
- Time management in meetings
- Have a meeting agenda
- Ability to make judgement calls/prioritize issues
- Clear focus/goals
- Good communication
- Include everyone
- Support/encourage committees and volunteers
- Praise and recognize volunteer efforts
- Willing to be assertive when necessary
- Manage meetings:
 - Keep on task and with agenda
 - Crisp movement from one topic to another
 - Interactive with group
 - Streamline topic with summary for long winded members

Responsibilities of an LMSC

- Communication with members
- Compliance with USMS Code (financial statement, annual meeting minutes, etc.)
- Registration of members
- Sanctions of events

- Encourage participation in meetings (food, drawing for free membership, etc.)
- Pull together a geographically diverse area
- Support clubs
- Promotion to non-members

Long Term Health of an LMSC

- Mix new volunteers with those that know the organization's history
- Determine what is needed to maintain/increase membership
- Involve clubs in re-registration
- Periodically change the location of meetings to get new people to attend
- Identify and groom new leaders for the organization
- Provide a support system for clubs and local events
- Provide recognition of volunteers from communities and government officials
- Have a variety of events to draw new members
- Support coaches

Working with a geographically challenged or sleepy/stalled LMSC

- Use all communication tools now available:
 - Email
 - Web site
 - Listserve
- Identify key people in various areas for dissemination of information
- Encourage and support events in all areas of the LMSC
- LSC/LMSC cooperation
- Provide financial support for events in outlying areas of LMSC
- Supply equipment and people to support events
- Provide mentors for events and clubs
- Use the zone chair and national office as resources for building LMSC