

Chairman's Leadership Forum
Proposed April Agenda
The Inn at Fifth Ave, Naples, Florida,
Friday 24 – 26 April, 2009.

“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

Chair people serving in their state legislations across the country are faced with leadership challenges. These chairs must lead and work collaboratively across party lines in short periods of time. These Chairs, many bound by term limits, need to lead in ways that they may not be prepared for. In some cases their previous professions may have required very different skills than they now need to be effective and successful. This Leadership program was developed to address those skills. Several legislators from across the country, both Republicans and Democrats, identified the skills, competencies and issues that need to be addressed in a Leadership Development program to create successful leaders and chairs of committees.

Goals of the program:

- To understand and address the challenges and opportunities facing state legislators now and in the future, especially in regards to issues of health care and other areas of social responsibility.
- To provide the skills and competencies necessary for a committee chair to work across party lines and with diverse groups of people to move legislation forward
- To foster a network of state legislative leaders across the country who can connect for mutual advice and to share ideas and support.

The program will be conducted over a weekend from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. The activities will be interactive with the theme of a case study running through the day and a half that examines a current and relevant issue that these legislators face. Each program will consist of a balance between Democrats and Republicans from across the country. There will be time built in to the program for social networking and sharing of best practices.

The competencies addressed in the program come from the input of several legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, and include but are not limited to:

- Strategic Thinking
- Visioning
- Negotiating
- Influence
- Integrity/Ethics
- Commitment
- Trust
- Networking
- Communications
- Big Picture Thinking
- Conflict Management

The workshop will be interactive and draw on the expertise of the participants. To achieve this we will use the skill of dialogue. Dialogue turns out to be a highly specialized form of discussion. When dialogue is done skillfully, the results can be extraordinary.

For example:

Long standing stereotypes can be dissolved
Mistrust can be overcome
Mutual understanding might be achieved
Visions are shaped and grounded in shared purpose
People previously at odds with one another share aligned objectives and strategies
New common grounds are discovered
New perspectives and insights are gained
New levels of creativity are stimulated
Bonds of community are strengthened

PROPOSED AGENDA:

Friday Evening

Dinner
Introduction of participants
Review of Agenda
Social Networking Activity

Saturday AM

Introducing the day
-Goals
-Roles
-Operating principles
Case Study: Part one
(Taken from an actual legislative leadership effort)

Driving Change: Introduction of change model
Strategic Blueprint Exercise-

Visioning: Creating a leadership vision for your committee and moving change forward

Saturday PM:

Putting our visions into action:
Team Leadership: Interactive Team Exercise: Toxic Waste

Case Study: Part Two
Developing and Sustaining Trusting Relationships: The important role trust plays in all of our relationships
Difficult Conversations: How to have successful conversations across perceived boundaries and barriers

Communication and Media Skills
Role-play and practice
Communication strategy planner

Dinner local restaurant

Sunday AM

Action Planning: Application of skills learned to challenges back home
Managing change: Nashville Video
Core approaches to Leadership: Best practices

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