

## Strategies of a successful PTA leader

The holding of a leadership position does not always dictate that the leader will be involved in all activities. Instead leadership often requires the surrender of one's own wishes as well as great amounts of patience.

### Consider the following suggestions:

- Always remember that whatever authority you have comes from the job and not from the person. You are the temporary holder of your position of responsibility.
- Remember that there probably isn't any single best way to do anything. The thought may jolt you a bit; progress will come only because, one day, a better way to do something than yours will be found.
- Surround yourself with people who are knowledgeable about the organization. The more everyone knows, the better your organization will function – and the less likely it is that you will make big mistakes.
- Listen. Make it easy for people to talk to you. Don't assume you know what the problem is. Ask them to tell you.
- Find out what your team members do best. Delegating authority is an extremely important aspect of leadership. Effective delegation can save time and energy, provide diversity in approaches, and promote efficient use of human resources.
- Load your team members with challenges and responsibilities. Do it as soon as possible.
- Give them ample credit for accomplishments. Let them have no doubt their work is appreciated.
- Expect that their competence will be discovered.
- Do whatever you can to support the efforts of other volunteers, wherever they may be in your organization. If you want people to help you, you must help them.
- Effective leaders must recognize that no one-leadership role will be appropriate at all times. Leadership roles must suit the situation as well as the needs and preferences of the team as well as the leader. Remember to remain flexible enough to switch roles if necessary.

