

Tina M. Bennett – Leadership Statement

Leadership is a balance between services, delegating, exemplifying, and vision. Service to your organization is always in the forefront as a leader. Complete understanding of the mission or vision statement must be considered when making decisions. In large organizations such as ours, there is no way a single person can manage all of the components necessary to keep the association moving forward. This is when a true leader stands on the shoulders of the knowledgeable volunteers that step up to pitch in. Putting in the hours necessary, side by side with other members makes for a thriving organization.

When delegating, a true leader must listen, as much if not more, than talk. Seeing an issue from multiple angles is vital in order to lead an organization down a path that represents all members, not just the most vocal, or visible. Seeing the needs of ALL members is an absolute must.

Once you acquire the information, a true leader must then bring all the individuals together to look forward to see what may be possible. Thinking big, and outside the box is such an important characteristic for a leader. The value of a good idea is so important, but goes no where if those who are leading don't help to move it along. Change is not easy, especially for an organization that has been around a long time. A leader will have many individuals who will criticize new ideas, but giving grace to those who are frustrated is necessary. Once those frustrations are heard and evaluated for their merit, a leader must then be able to move on without letting those criticisms taint their association's visions, or the relationships with the members. A leader must also be able to give grace to themselves in stressful times.