

# CHALLENGE

A Herff Jones IMPACT Resource For Students

February, 2005

## FEBRUARY CHALLENGE

### *The Role Of The President*

Many student activity groups hold officer elections in the spring. It is time to consider running for office and choosing an office for which to run. Obviously the most prestigious office is that of President, but there is much more than prestige involved in being President.

The honor of the Presidency carries the responsibilities of hard work, dedication, and determination. It will take both your time and your energy. Before running, one should know his/her abilities, strengths, and weaknesses. A President needs to be willing to learn from both success and failure. Listening and reading is important. Your goals must be those that will benefit the organization and the people that you serve.

Your challenge is caring enough to win victories for others by helping them to succeed. If your only reason for running is to receive glory for yourself or to have something to put on a college application, then **don't run.**

#### **The President:**

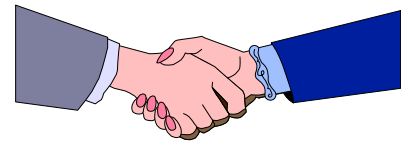
1. Leads or directs the group toward it's goals and objectives
2. Helps the group carry out its goals and objectives
3. Represents the group

The office of the President is one of responsibility.

The President has many responsibilities to the group's members. They include:

1. Provide positive leadership
2. Stimulate group spirit with awareness of consequences
3. Delegate responsibility and share authority
4. Know the talents and abilities of the group members and use them to the best advantage for the group
5. Stress individual roles and ideas with the group
6. Provide opportunities for member involvement
7. Make every meeting important
8. Stress consensus in decisions

9. Plan the agendas with other officers and advisers
10. Provide agendas for the meeting and make sure that minutes are taken
11. Keep the discussion orderly by using Robert's Rules of Order



Another important job of the President is working with the administration. The success or failure of the student activity group depends on having a good working relationship with the administration.

The President, as the leader of the group, will be expected to:

1. Understand the impossible challenges, responsibilities, and problems of a school administrator's job
2. Understand that administrators work under many pressures and limitations
3. Realize that there can be a good working relationship with the administration for the good of the students

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4. Realize that the administration can establish lines of communication and understanding with the faculty and student organizations
5. Recognize that school administration can be the toughest job in the world
6. It is in your organization's best interest to be friendly with the administration because they are the people in charge
7. Don't forget to say "thank you" to your administration

Your adviser is another overworked person who is giving their time and energy because they believe in students. The President needs to have a good and respectful working relationship with the adviser. Seek your adviser's opinion on all matters of importance.

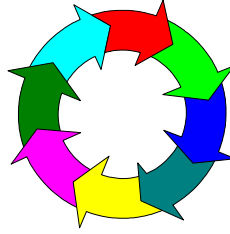
The President will also work closely with the other officers. ***At all times, refer to the officers as the Officer Team.*** Teamwork will make the organization run smoothly. Hold officer meetings before each regular meeting to discuss agenda items, deal with correspondence, etc.

The job of the President is very important, so be sure to consider all aspects of the job before deciding to run.

**Vice President**

The Vice President (the President's closest assistant and official replacement if he/she cannot attend a meeting or is

removed from office) also has major responsibilities. Consider the importance of this office before making a decision to run.



The Vice President must have the leadership skills necessary to serve as President, including knowledge of parliamentary procedure, problem solving, goal setting, group relations, communication skills, etc.

In many schools the Vice President is also the representative on the Inter-Club and many times chairs all committees. Look at the constitution of your organization to find out the duties of the Vice President and all officers.

Serving as an officer is a rewarding experience. Make a commitment to get involved and also to do your very best job while serving your organization and your school. The rewards are great for those who are willing to take the time to serve as an officer.

Most organizations also have regional, state, and national officers and are always looking for those outstanding student leaders.



***“The price of greatness is responsibility.”***

~ Winston Churchill

***“Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.”***

~ David Lloyd George

**Herff Jones, Inc.  
4625 W. 62<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46268**

