

Leadership Training 08/08-11/2022

As I was thinking about our starting this biennium together as the California Executive Board and our journey over the next 2 years, I was reminded of the excitement I had as child when the first day of school arrived. My family moved around a lot so there was a bit of trepidation on making new friends and fitting in, but that took a back seat to how I looked forward to the new school year of making friends and meeting my new teacher. School starting also meant shopping for new school clothes and supplies. I could hardly wait to wear my new outfits and use my specially bought school supplies. I was always so excited.

I am hoping that all of you have some of that same excitement carried over from your childhoods and classroom teaching experiences as we meet together as a state board.

I have placed a quote on the table from Henry Ford that I found that I thought was especially relevant and wanted to share it with you.

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success”

The coming together is the easy part of this quote. The rest can happen if we recognize and practice six important skills I read about on teamwork.

Trust is the most important skill for the Executive Board, to work as a team and to have good relationships to one another. We have to know that we can depend on each other to do the important work of the board.

Tolerance is also a very important skill as our board is made up of women of many different backgrounds and world experiences. It will be important for us all to learn from each other and to recognize the strength of each other.

Self-Awareness is the third skill that is important. Knowing how you are feeling and your emotions, at a particular time will affect those around you and your actions.

Empathy is very important to have as we also need to be aware of the feelings and emotions of others. We need to be willing communicate with each other and listen to differing viewpoints.

Transparency is a skill that is more than just being honest. It is being upfront with each other. It is important that members feel they can trust one another with no hidden agendas.

Active Listening is the last important skill that I am going to mention. This skill is especially important in times of disagreement. As listeners we need to move from listening to respond to listening to understand. We need to be able to summarize what is said and then be able to ask follow up questions.

It is important for us to remember the strength of the Executive Board is in each of us as individuals and the strength of each of us as individuals will be derived from our connection to each other on the board.