

President's Corner

Do You Know When to Replant the Garden?



Like many, I do not have a green thumb but love plants and flowers. When purchasing plants or flowers from a nursery, there are generally instructions on how to take care of them and to ensure proper growth.

Where does leadership begin? Birth, grade school, high school, college, or once you have reached a certain age? There are numerous leadership books and seminars as well as leadership classes. The interest must be there. There are many types of leadership styles that you can read about, but looking at yourself in the mirror is key. Are you a leader?

Were you the teacher's pet and always wanting to help the teacher, or did you just sit back and observe the class, gather information that helped to develop your opinions, and speak only when asked? I was the teacher's pet. I always wanted to volunteer and be in the know about everything that was going on. So naturally, you know I was always busy and was even chosen as "most likely to succeed" in my senior class. I would say that I am a good leader trying to become great. There is always room for improvement. I have a passion for leading in the same way as watching my plants grow through nurturing, caring, and taking care of them.

Like plants, seeds must be planted, cultivated, and watered along the way to become a great leader. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 in the King James Version of the Bible states, "To everything, there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

A great leader is not born overnight. It takes years of developing your desire to lead. Educating yourself and surrounding yourself with others who aspire to become great leaders or those who are great leaders is a key factor. Pay special attention to those with whom you network. Position yourself in the space of great leaders. As planted seeds grow into their perspective plants, so does a great leader. Planted seeds of kindness, empathy, trustworthiness, honesty, ownership, and allowing others to be themselves and contribute their skills. Allowing others in your space works both ways. It is a chance for you to learn from each other; while others plant seeds for you, you are also planting seeds for others to grow.

Over time, many things have changed. The pandemic changed our world and the workforce. The country is at a crossroads and many positions in the workforce have changed and will continue to change. Change will be the catalyst for leaders to adapt to seen and unseen. Do you know when it is time to replant your garden? If you are in a leadership position and there is no one following you, it's time to replant.

Submitted by Theresa McShan
EWTG President, 2023-2024