



## Sustainable Leadership

By Taylor Shupert

The young leaders of today will have many bridges to build and cross as they begin to take their places as leaders. The consequences of the generations before, whether positive or negative, are reflected in the foundation that has been laid for future leaders. There are many qualities that are critical to the success of young leaders, such as inclusiveness, listening and leading, as well as responsibility and perseverance. These traits combined together will help young leaders to accomplish the goals they set out to reach, but only if they are united and fortified with a good and sustainable energy. This energy should be directed specifically on an outward focus, as the primary aim of up and coming leaders should be outreach to their immediate and extended communities.

One key trait of a good leader is inclusiveness. A common trend among young people is to struggle through problems and situations without seeking advice or veteran knowledge. When young leaders look to those with experience for guidance however, the results can be much more productive. Another way in which young leaders should endeavor to be inclusive is in the goals and projects they strive to accomplish. When one focuses his attention on self-serving goals, the benefits often remain exclusive to that one person. This selfish attitude fosters further exclusiveness and limits the perimeter of success. Yet when a leader is inclusive, the perimeter is widened and the person is able to accomplish more by sharing the benefits of his achievement. A true leader expends energy to be inclusive in seeking advice and guidance, as well as in the goals and aims he hopes to achieve.

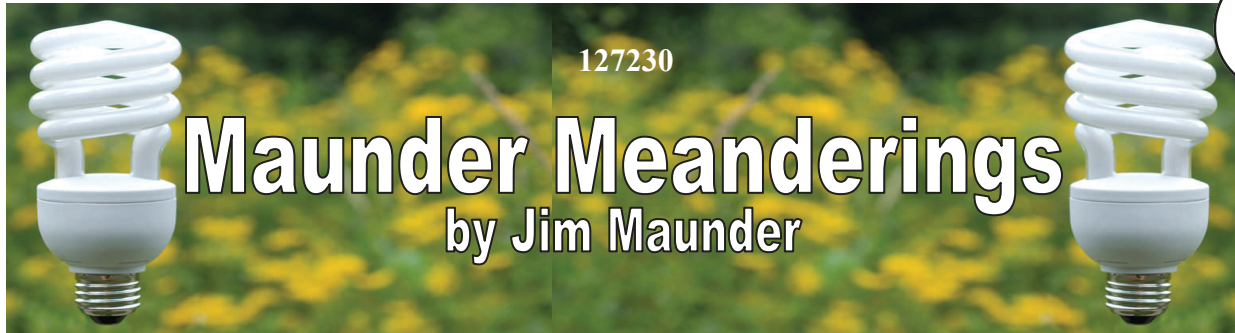
Knowing when to listen and when to lead is a valuable skill, and very few people are accomplished at both. There is a fine balance between the two, and a young leader needs to be able to receive and complete instructions as well as give them to others. This skill pertains to an outward focus in that young leaders may not always be the head man and boss of an operation.



Leaders need to be able to listen and follow each others' leads and to respectfully submit to directions so that communities can work together to complete a common goal. When people direct their focus towards asserting themselves as the head of an operation, valuable energy is lost and wasted. Team work is crucial to energy efficiency and conservation.

I have never met anyone who enjoys failing. As a leader of any age, one must take risks, and sometimes the end goal is not met and failure occurs. Upon defeat a shocking number of leaders pursue a "blame game", as everyone shirks responsibility for the negative consequences and piles the guilt onto others. This is not acceptable. A leader must take responsibility for his actions and those under his charge whether good or bad. He must leave his neck out to be chopped and his head to be crowned. Yet a good leader sees beyond failure and success. He perseveres through the consequences and continues with sustained energy towards his aim. Letting defeat dictate one's mindset leads to a negative attitude and self-pity, which in turn detracts from an outward focus.

An outward focus is concentrated on improving the lives and well-being of others. Many young leaders display excellent leadership qualities, but fail to use them to benefit those outside the immediate perimeter of their success. When nations and communities serve only themselves, relationships and prosperity crumble. A good leader exhibits inclusiveness, and considers the experienced opinion when making decisions. He also knows when to listen and to lead, following instructions and cooperating with others to achieve success. Even through failure a good leader exhibits the key traits of responsibility and perseverance. With these qualities, a true leader charges ahead with dependable and sustained energy towards his outward focus.



## Maunder Meanderings by Jim Maunder

### “Bright Lights, Energy Savings: That’s a No Brainer.”

Those are the words Lone Rock School Superintendent Dennis Kimzey used at the conclusion of a September 2009 meeting with Ravallo Electric Co-op (REC) Board President Stacy Bartlett and Member Services Manager Jim Maunder. Stacy and Jim were there to answer questions on a commercial lighting and energy audit report performed on the elementary school. The energy and lighting audit are part of a program offered by REC through their power supplier the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

The Commercial Lighting Retrofit program offers incentives for schools and commercial businesses to upgrade their existing light fixtures and lamps to new, more energy efficient ones. The program also looks at lighting controls such as occupancy sensors (pictured here) to turn lights off when rooms are not in use. The sensors also turn the lights on as you enter the halls, classrooms and gymnasium. Efficient lighting retrofits are one of the largest and most accessible effi-



ciency opportunity’s available to schools and commercial businesses.



Lone Rock School Superintendent Dennis Kimzey and Maintenance Man Jim Bowen receive the “Big Check” from REC’s Member Services Manager Jim Maunder and Board President Stacy Bartlett for their commercial lighting retrofit.

“The response at Lone Rock has been tremendous,” said Bartlett. “The school should save approximately 26,986 kilowatt hours (kWh) a year, that’s a reduction of about 39%. The lighting retrofit is projected to pay for itself in a little over 7 years. Just walk the hallways or into the gymnasium, the lights turn on automatically, then see how bright it is and remember the school is saving electricity and money.”

Jim Bowen, Lone Rock’s maintenance man, “saw the light” and actively participated in making the commer-

cial lighting retrofit a reality. He worked tirelessly during the lighting audit and when the

contractor started installing the energy efficient fixtures and occupancy sensors, Jim was right there to answer questions and provide assistance. He also verified all the fixtures and controls were installed as per the audit forms and accompanied Jim Maunder during the project completion walk through.

“Having a knowledgeable person like Jim Bowen on sight made all phases of the project run smooth and

be completed on time,” explained Maunder. “He made my job in verifying the different light fixtures and their location easy.”

In addition to the lighting retrofit, the elementary school installed some “network computer power management” software. The software allows their IT administrator easy access in controlling all network computer work stations to override user settings to wake them up or shut them down. The software also provides a report on the energy savings obtained since it was installed.

## Burning Season is Here

Spring time gets us thinking about cleaning up around our homes and surrounding areas. A lot of the time this involves burning the dead grass and weeds that have accumulated since last fall. So, Ravalli Electric Co-op would like to remind our members to be safe with fire this spring.

When burning close to power poles, we suggest raking the debris away from the base. Trim away any large stocks that may have grown close to the pole as this will lessen the chance of catching the pole on fire or damaging the pole grounds.

Members should also use caution when burning close to any of our underground equipment. Heat from a fire can melt the exterior cover as well as the elbows and ground wires inside the green electrical boxes.

Especially with the dry winter we've experienced this year, it only takes a second for a fire to get out of control. Remember, you are liable for damages if you set the fire that destroys REC property.

**Be sure to plan and prepare ahead before you light that fire!**

### Play up outdoor electrical safety to children



Warm, sunny days beckon the child in all of us to head outside and play. Safe Electricity recommends that families review and stress to children the following simple electrical safety rules for safe outdoor play:

- ♦ Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- ♦ Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your local electric cooperative for assistance.
- ♦ Never climb a utility pole or tower.
- ♦ Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.
- ♦ Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can be deadly. Never rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside. Call your local electric cooperative instead.

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### Find the Hidden Number



We will hide three account numbers this month in our "Watts Up?" pages. If you find your account number, call the office at 961-3001 by the 20th of the magazine month and you get a \$30 credit on your

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