



## **Keys to Being an Effective WERCouncil Leader**

Here are a few things you can do as a new volunteer leader:

- ✓ Understand your role, including general responsibilities and specific duties.
- ✓ Be knowledgeable about the association, its history, its mission and its goals.
- ✓ Remember that you are responsible to the needs of association members.
- ✓ Communicate openly and honestly with other board members, volunteers, members and staff.
- ✓ Be committed to the job; be sure you have the time, support and funds to participate and contribute in a meaningful way.
- ✓ Keep association goals ahead of all others.
- ✓ Be enthusiastic about the association and your role in guiding it.
- ✓ Focus on long-term issues rather than administrative details. The details are better left to National.
- ✓ Bring creativity and vision to your role as a volunteer leader.
- ✓ Listen to and consider the opinions of others; be open minded.
- ✓ View your headquarters staff as valuable resources for suggestions and advice.
- ✓ Be realistic about the goals and accomplishments of your organization.
- ✓ Comment, criticize constructively and disagree. There are signs of a healthy, productive team.

And a few don'ts:

- ✓ Don't bring a hidden or personal agenda to your term as a board member.
- ✓ Don't personalize situations; focus on issues, not personalities.
- ✓ Don't pontificate.
- ✓ Don't bring your ego to board activities.