Getting Involved

Phil Hossler, ATC
EATA President
ATSNJ & NATA Halls of Fame

1. **Seek opportunities**; do not wait for them. No one ever hit a home run from the bench, get up and get in the game. In this case, “**nothing** comes to he who waits”.
2. **Know yourself.** When sitting in your Professional Automobile, are you the Driver, Navigator or Passenger?

- **A “driver”** is a person who steers; who wants to control the direction and speed of the efforts. “Drivers” are people that seek opportunities such as running for elected offices in their associations, serving on committees, contributing to professional newsletters.

- **A “navigator”** wants to control the direction but relies on someone else to perform many of the necessary tasks. Being able to instruct and guide the driver can also be very successful if you have the right driver.

- **A “passenger”** is someone who sits in the backseat and goes where the car goes. Passengers may or may not have any input into the direction or speed but once the automobile gets there, they can still be productive.

- Regardless of your self-determined position in the car, you should utilize your strengths and minimize your weaknesses.
3. **Begin by assessing yourself** with questions such as:

- Do you write well? If so, see what opportunities or needs are there at school, in the community or association.
- Do you create visual packages? If so, make your office, website bulletin boards both attractive and informative.
- Do you speak well? If so, get involved with professional associations, seek educational speaking opportunities.
- Are you someone that contributes when asked? If so, be a volunteer at work, in your associations and with sports groups.
- Do you seek leadership roles? If so, look around for opportunities to “flex your muscles”; nothing ventured, nothing gained.
- Do you prefer small group interactions? Committee work may be perfect for you.
- Are you creative? See what opportunities are out there. Not everyone you encounter will be as good at creating as you are so they will really welcome your skills.
4. **Never underestimate the power or your appearance and your words**

When you speak with a distraught parent or an injured athlete, the manner in which you conduct yourself can calm fear, inspire confidence and serve to promote you as a professional healthcare provider. Likewise, the appearance of your workplace, regardless of its size, speaks volumes to parents and athletes when they first enter the room.

A clean, organized and efficient workplace is perceived to be a reflection and a result of the people who work there.

The way you are perceived will directly affect your opportunities to get involved.
5. **Keep your eyes and ears open**

Attend meetings, listen to colleagues and association leaders talk; know what is going on.

Read what is available from your associations; know what are large, global concerns and what are local ones.

*Align yourself with individuals you consider to be where you would like to be one day***

***Be patient; they didn’t get there in one day and neither will you***
6. **Develop a philosophy of your own**

Look within yourself, call upon your life lessons, decide which behavior of those you admire you would like to copy and then make it your own. Use these skills as you become involved.

Become a student of human behavior. Know how to speak and how not to speak with people. For some, leadership comes easily, for most it is an acquired skill. "Some are born to greatness, others have it thrust upon them."

Become a good speaker and more importantly, become a good listener.
7. **If at first you don’t succeed**

Always step up to the plate as often as you can.
Don’t wait to get asked to play the game
Most careers are a collection on base hits.
Become recognized as someone who is always up there swinging.
Look for, but don’t plan on, those occasional home runs.

Remember few of those great individuals that you can think of were always great. They developed their skills, earned their place and respect. Did any of them get there without being willing to get involved or to take the heat or suffer some defeats and move on...........no
Thoughts to consider...

“A leader is one who sees more than others see, who sees farther than others see and who sees before others do”- Leroy Eims

Leaders do more than just navigate. They see the whole trip in their mind before they leave the dock. They have a vision for their destination. They understand what it will take to get there. They know who they will need on the team to be successful. They can see obstacles on the horizon and steer to avoid them.
Thoughts to consider…

Don’t get discouraged. When Abraham Lincoln left the military, he had achieved the rank of private.

“You have achieved excellence as a leader when people will follow you everywhere if only out of curiosity” – Colin Powell

The higher the level of leadership you seek, the greater the sacrifice you will have to make
Thoughts to consider...

“When you become a leader, you lose the right to think about yourself” - Gerald Brooks

If you can’t stand the heat, don’t step into the spotlight

A team doesn’t win the championship if the players have different agendas. An effective coach leads them down a common path.

People don’t at first follow worthy causes. They follow worthy leaders who promote worthwhile causes.