

Inspirational Thoughts on Leadership

La Jara Mayor
Larry Zaragoza

Challenging times ahead for municipalities

- Infrastructure
- Parks & Recreation
- Law Enforcement
 - Small communities (SLV) continually advertising for law enforcement
- Water & Sewer
- Drug Use/Abuse

1940's La Jara



1940's La Jara



Present Day La Jara



Present Day La Jara



La Jara Town Staff



My road to becoming a leader

- 1974—First Year Head Coach
 - My first cross country team
 - In the beginning
 - Need to come up with a team
 - Time to recruit
 - Getting enough numbers
 - First Race
 - Pre State Meet in Pueblo
 - Need for Uniforms
 - Meet Travel (Pre-meet Meals)

Camaraderie



Coaching Moment

- Maybe we have something here
- Control
 - What do we have control over and what don't we have control over?

One month later
We go back and win the state championship
"The Cinderella Team: From Rags to Riches"

Philosophy of Being a Mayor

- I chose to get into civic government to pay back to a community that has been so good to me. It is just a small way to say thanks.
 - I have a strong belief in people
 - Nothing of any 'Real Value' is achieved without hard work, commitment and dedication
 - Develop a healthy attitude towards civic government
 - Develop a "Spirit of Cooperation". I like to develop a sense of team unity
 - Develop the desire in people to strive whole heartedly toward excellence
 - Develop a sense of pride and satisfaction when serving your community

Leadership secrets

- The greatness of a leader is measured by the sacrifices he/she is willing to make for the good of all
- A leader should always rise above the pettiness
- A leader cannot perform if he/she loses their nerve (self confident and self reliant has worked well for me)
- A leader does not have to be brilliant to be successful, but must have an insatiable hunger for learning
- Leaders never take themselves too seriously

Leadership Secrets (Cont.)

- Weak leaders surround themselves with weak people
- Leaders must learn early that working through hardships is an experience that influences them all the days of their lives
- Successful leaders learn to deal with adversity and to overcome mistakes (Problem-solving)
- A leader can achieve good things for which he/she is willing to pay the price
- A leader's performance improves with meaningful and inspirational critique, not by the unnecessary and demeaning criticism

Likes of being a small town mayor

- Visiting with most of the residents of our community
- Attending functions to represent the town
- Working directly with town employees
- I support most of the businesses in our community
- Signature authority, facilitating board meetings but mostly enjoy being the town's number one ambassador
- Learning and sharing from other mayors (CML's Mayor's Summit and CML Conference)
- I enjoy supporting other mayors from the surrounding communities

Dislikes of being a small town mayor

- Negative comments regarding our town
- Residents coming to my place of residence to complain or vent
- Outliers who micromanage
- Being on call 24/7
- Lack of resources

Thank you

- Lisa White, CML
- Paula Medina, La Jara Mayor Pro Temp
- Best of luck to all and safe travels
- "Leaders rise when they lift others up!"
