



My View

THE TIP ANNUAL MEETING

Once a year, TIP Leaders from all our Affiliates gather at the TIP Annual Meeting. This year the meeting was hosted by TIP of Portland/Vancouver. Although I was not surprised, I was very appreciative of the hospitality shown by our friends in Portland/Vancouver. This fine hospitality included being shuttled around in Portland Fire Bureau vans by firefighters, eating famous voodoo donuts for breakfast, dining at the foot of Mount Hood and painting while sipping wine at a place called Vine Gogh Artist.

The meeting included sharing by local leaders of "what works" in their affiliates, sharing of leadership challenges, team building exercises and lectures on a wide variety of subjects.

I don't have the room here to include all that was shared and the content of all of the lectures, but a few common themes seemed to emerge...

- ... The importance of using social media to promote our Affiliates and to communicate with our constituents.
- ... The importance of having volunteer opportunities for those in the community who want to help TIP but not as formal TIP Volunteers.
- ... The importance of self care for TIP Leaders.

I'm sure that the "take a ways" from the meeting are different for each TIP Leader. Here are a few of the ideas and programs that "jumped out" at me...

- ... Using yard signs to recruit TIP Volunteers.
- ... Putting the "Translator" program on the national website.
- ... Consider using "Auctions by Cellular" to manage TIP silent auctions.
- ... Create You Tube videos for a variety of purposes including making videos of grateful clients giving testimonials.

As I reflect back at the meeting my major feeling is one of gratitude. Gratitude for...

- ... The TIP Volunteers who stepped up and continued to operate our Affiliates in the absence of their TIP Leaders.
- ... The TIP Leaders who made the effort to attend the event to not only learn from their peers but to contribute to them as well.
- ... The constant innovation and commitment to excellence which was came across loudly and clearly as TIP Leaders shared what was happening in their local Affiliates.
- ... The affection that TIP Leaders clearly have for each other.
- ... The strong network of TIP Affiliates which will serve as "training grounds" for future fledgling TIP Affiliates.

Finally, one thing became crystal clear to me at this annual meeting...in our 27 year history, we have never had a group of TIP Leaders who are so skilled and so committed to TIP. Because I believe that "leadership is everything," I believe that as a national organization we have never been stronger. There is no doubt we have the people and the infrastructure we need to grow and to take on whatever challenges are ahead.

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