

Change is a creative leadership choice

Bob 'Idea Man' Hooley

“Searching for the peak performer within yourself has one basic meaning - You recognize yourself as a person who was born, not as a peak performer but as a learner. With the capacity to grow, change, and reach for the highest possibilities of human nature, you regard yourself as a person in process. Not perfect, but a person who keeps asking: What more can I be? What else can I achieve that will benefit my company and myself? That will contribute to my family and my community?”

Charles Garfield

In life, we have the opportunity thrust upon us to make changes and to take personal leadership in dealing with those changes. A death, a major illness, or a major economic upheaval can force us to take stock of our lives at that point and make sometimes-radical changes; to take leadership in our own lives and the lives of those we love, lead or work with daily.

As competition becomes more global in our changing economy, we find businesses and professional associations being stretched and tested. Staffing has become more challenging, and so has training and marketing.

Customers are becoming more demanding and specific in what they want. Change is pushed on us everywhere we turn. We can avoid change, can't we? That's what too many business leaders think and miss their full potential.

Isn't it better to seize the opportunities to change and grow? Isn't it better to be a leader who is open to learn, stretch, and to push yourself and your team past your own comfort zones? Isn't it better to lead than follow in the dust?

This change is a creative leadership choice! Life is a series of changes and choices, why not take personal leadership and control their direction and pace? Why not decide to be a leader, not a follower!

Ask yourself a few questions. Allow your honest reactions to reflect the changes in your attitudes, and the actions that may need to be addressed to maximize your life, your career advancement and leadership performance.

Change is the breakfast of leadership – applied risk has its rewards!

What do I really want to have my life to accomplish? What is my biggest dream?

What would I like my organization/company to accomplish? Where do I want my career to go?

Looking back from retirement, I am most proud of _____?

What am I afraid of? What is stopping me?

What keeps me up at night?

What do I need to change to make it work? When do I need to change it?

When will I commit to start making these changes?

Will you have the courage to change? Will you commit to being your best, and to applying your leadership in creatively building your business or association to maximize its potential? Tough questions, aren't they?

Remember the words of retailer **J.C. Penney**: ***"No one need live a minute longer as he/she is, because the creator endowed us with the ability to change ourselves."***

Answering these questions will have given you a 'glimpse' of what needs to be changed to make your dreams, teams, and goals a reality. The secret is in putting foundations under your dreams and actions under your goals. The secret to unlocking your 'leadership' potential is in accessing your ability to embrace and utilize change for mutual benefit. The choice is yours!

"Of all the things I've done, the most vital is coordinating those who work with me and aiming their efforts at a certain goal." *Walt Disney, founder of Disney*

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Bob 'Idea Man' Hooey, DTM, PRA, CKD-Emeritus, Accredited Speaker, 2011 Spirit of CAPS recipient is an inspirational leader, speaker, and a prolific author whose works include **'Legacy of Leadership, Strive for significance – lead on purpose!'**, **'Speaking for Success'** and **'The Courage to Lead!'** His articles have been featured in a multitude of North American trade and global consumer publications. He is a respected leader who has been honored by CAPS, NSA, Toastmasters, and the United Nations for his leadership contributions. His creative Ideas At Work have allowed him to travel the globe sharing insights, encouragement in 61 countries, so far. With Covid-19 he has been zooming around the globe to share his ideas. His **innovative Ideas At Work!** have been successfully applied by global leaders as well as Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies.