

UpFront: Considering Leadership

by Janet Fritsch, RPh

During this past year as president-elect of PSW, I have had the opportunity to spend more time with leaders in PSW. As I started working with the executive board, I was at first struck by the awesome leaders these people are, amazed at the skill and energy and wisdom they bring to PSW. Then, as I got to know them, I found them to be mothers, and fathers, and friends, and dog-lovers and basically just normal people. I found in them friendship and support. I found them to be good listeners and storytellers and fun.

Last year at the Board of Directors retreat, we were asked how it happened that we pursued a leadership position with PSW. Almost everyone told a story about a specific person who reached out to them and tapped them on the shoulder and talked to them about leadership. Engaging with fellow pharmacists and technicians is powerful. Looking at who is around you and seeing the leadership qualities in them, and then reaching out to them, builds up PSW by bringing in new leadership.

People often ask, “What qualities are necessary for a good leader?” The answer is: Your qualities are necessary for a good leader. We need your qualities. We need your ideas. We need your energy. What you think and the input you have is important to those around you. Your experience and your wisdom are needed at PSW.

The other important part of being engaged and involved in PSW is ... it just makes me feel better. When I have a busy or difficult day at work, a Zoom meeting with the membership engagement group pumps me up. When I have a good day, it is great to share it with those on the independent pharmacy Zoom. Being with other pharmacists who share your passions, whether they work in similar or different practice settings, just makes

you feel good. Attending the Annual Meeting or educational conference or Legislative Day with others in the pharmacy practice energizes and inspires. When you are feeling overwhelmed by your job or your responsibilities, it helps to reach out to a fellow pharmacist friend in PSW. We can be a support to each other.

Are you feeling encouraged to be more engaged and involved in PSW? Maybe to look for a leadership opportunity? Check out the [Ladder of Membership Involvement](#) on the PSW website. It lists ways to be involved and ways to be a leader at PSW.

I want to leave you with a quote from John Quincy Adams: “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” You are passionate about pharmacy, you are passionate about caring for your patients, and you want to share that with others in pharmacy. So, concerning your engagement and leadership in PSW: What’s next?

Janet Fritsch is the President of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin in Madison, WI.

The Ladder of Membership Involvement

