

# Community & Economic Development Strengthening Arkansas Communities

## STEPS TO BECOMING & L-E-A-D-E-R

#### Listen

Speaking out and taking a stand is one thing, but keeping an open ear is essential. Don't assume what citizens want. Go out and talk with all organization members.

#### **Enthusiastic**

If you are passionate about local issues, the enthusiasm will radiate to the rest of the community. A positive attitude and optimism will also go a long way to make the task both fun and effective.

#### Action

Goals are important, but providing a comprehensive plan of action that explains how to reach those goals is even more so. Be creative and take risks in order to find new ways of accomplishing those goals.

### **Dependability**

The community should be able to trust its leaders to operate ethically and with their best interests at heart.

#### **Educated**

A leader should have a good understanding of the dynamics of the community, and how its members operate. A leader should also lead by example.

#### Results

The motivation to be a leader should not be for an impressive resume or to satisfy the urge for attention – it should be about getting something positive done. There are true leaders, and then there are people who grab a leadership position as a stepping stone in their career.

