

Leadership Link
Author: Sharleen Smith
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The cashier said "Happy New Year, Sharleen" as I walked out. I replied "Well, I hope it is! You too!" Yes, another year. Yes, I hope it will be happy. But how can I ensure that I give it my best shot?

We can all think of something we want to do this year. Some know of us know what we hope to do will never last. Some New Year's resolutions are well intended but not well initiated. Some are well initiated but not well intended. But deep inside, at the beginning of a new year, we all have these thoughts..."What will I do differently?" "I know I need to work on this or that." "Maybe I can start or stop such and such." Perhaps, it is not our getting started that stop us. Yes, discipline and follow through are important but maybe there is something else. Stephen Covey, author of Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, has as the first habit "Begin with the End in Mind." Simply stated, concentrate on what we want the end result to be and head in that direction.

How can we look at things very differently this year? To be able to see things with a new perspective takes us moving to a different angle or stretching our minds. And some people's minds have not been stretched in years! So let us throw out resolutions and grant REVOLUTIONS for the New Year! All of us have heard about how to write goals. Well REVOLUTIONS should be similar in composition to a goal but with a twist. Notice how plain water becomes more refreshing with a twist of lemon or lime? Same thing here. Look at the New Year with a new twist in perspective!

Most of us have heard of SMART goals. Let's make our REVOLUTIONS:

S - Specific (small increments, with specific points)

M - Measurable (able to be measured exactly)

A - Achievable (something that is within your grasp, gifts and capabilities)

R - Realistic (something that is possible, within a given period or parameter)

T - Time driven (timelines and deadlines)

Well, I am going to add another twist. Let's change the "T" because our 2013 goals have a timeframe - we must achieve them in 2013! So the "T" will now stand for:

T- Terrific (extreme, massive, tremendous)

In 2013, let's make our REVOLUTIONS stand for terrific leadership! Progress, character, influence, excellence and learning. Strive for something that is new, something that will add flair, and something that will change the world in which you live. Aim high. Aim big. Aim for greatness. Greatness in your leadership!

How can your leadership change the world for the better? What REVOLUTIONS can you develop that will reach out and transform the lives of others? How can you make a difference where you live? Within your family, children, friendships and community? First, you need a vision of where you want to be by December 2013 - what you want to have accomplished. Now you need a plan on how you will get there. This is where REVOLUTIONS (resolutions) come into play. Put these ideas together and you will have more than resolutions. You will have REVOLUTIONS! Have a revolutionary new year!

Sharleen Smith
University Outreach
Auburn University Montgomery
ssmith@outreach.aum.edu
Cell: 334.220.7464

