



KEY ATTRIBUTES OF SUCCESSFUL ALA LEADERS

Leadership is the foundation for all organizations. Leaders set high standards for themselves and are an example to those they expect to lead. ALA leaders are Ambassadors of the Association and should strive to be their best. In addition to ALA experience, effective and ultimately successful Association leaders aspire to develop within themselves the following attributes: Vision, Communication, Passion for the Association, Reliability, Inclusiveness, Balance, Respect, and Collaboration. Effective leaders mentor others to develop these attributes and become the next leaders.

Vision

ALA leaders shall possess or develop skills to help facilitate the goals established by the Association. ALA leaders are a primary resource to our members. Their knowledge and skills should bring creative strategies that enrich membership value, as well as promote and educate members on ALA's policies, programs and initiatives. These policies, programs and initiatives are tied to implementing and advancing the current statement of the Association's organizational blueprint.

Communication

Effective written and oral communication skills are essential for ALA leaders. ALA leaders should be able to communicate messages of every form in a positive and constructive manner, and are expected to communicate effectively and respectfully at all times.

PassionfortheAssociation

ALA leaders are highly visible to the Association membership, and are the example for the membership. ALA leaders should demonstrate enthusiasm, a positive outlook, and the desire to engage members of the Association. An important component of passion is knowledge of the Association, including its vision and mission. ALA leaders should always exhibit a pleasant demeanor and professional behavior.

Reliability

Whether working on a project for the Association or dealing with a question or problem from a chapter, attention to detail and responsiveness to requests are imperative for a successful ALA leader. ALA leaders are expected to track regular submissions from chapters (i.e., education summaries, board and chapter meeting minutes, Business Partner communications, Chapter certifications, etc.). The job descriptions for ALA leaders define major responsibilities, but each leader should be diligent in managing deadlines, expectations and requests.



Inclusiveness

Diversity and inclusion are core values of ALA and a responsibility of each of its leaders. ALA leaders are expected to reflect the Association's commitment to diversity and inclusion; to encourage diverse groups of individuals, both within the Association and in the legal community, to be involved in ALA leadership and activities. Through diversity and inclusion we build a better organization, and we provide a positive experience for our membership and the community.

Balance

Keeping things in balance is important for a successful ALA leader. This is true in everyday situations as well as when dealing with conflict, change, and other difficult situations within the chapters and the Association. ALA leaders should demonstrate the ability to remain unbiased and professional in all circumstances.

Respect

Respect for others is an integral part of any successful organization. ALA leaders are expected to show respect for others in the Association and in the community, as well as demonstrate self-respect at all times.

Collaboration

The ability to work together as a team and present a united message is critical to the success of the initiatives and goals of the Association, and the Association itself. ALA leaders should put aside personal preferences and speak with one voice to facilitate and promote the mission and Plan of Work of the Association.