

Just as your chapter starts to get busy, here comes the September/October issue of *Dimensions* to the rescue. The theme of this issue is starting up your chapter for the year, and the articles offer advice on those beginning tasks.

The article called “**Five Seeds at the Core of Chapter Engagement**” has several takes on getting members committed to your chapter’s goals and involved in its work. The first step is to focus on the causes, not the consequences, of low chapter involvement. A suggested physical teamwork activity (Balloon Toss) can help you illustrate how to look for underlying causes of disorganization. **[To do:]** Use this activity with either your officer team or the chapter as a whole.

As a second point, the author illustrates the importance of each member’s “personal power” in the group. **[To do:]** Use the author’s description of an involved member as a starting point for members to examine their own involvement.

The article’s third point about the difference between groups and teams is worth special emphasis. **[To do:]** Have your members each write down two ways in which a team differs from a group. Then look at the author’s points and evaluate them. Ask your members to discuss the phrase “Go big or go home.” Without committing to too much, what “big” thing can they make happen? Have second-year members share what they think are the “big things” about DECA?

The article lists seven defining qualities of an involved DECA member. These qualities can also be viewed as goals. **[To do:]** Help members pick several **Torchbearer qualities** they will work to develop. **You might even work these into your installation ceremony.**

The article “**Crimson Corner Creates a Legacy**” illustrates some basics of running a successful school store. If you are considering starting a store, or if you want a quick way of showing members how one works, have them read this article.

For an example of an unusual school-based enterprise, look at the article on Mark Rau’s inventive clothing business in Yuma, Arizona, on page 8 of this newsletter. **[To do:]** **Send your students to www.crimwear.com to see the selection of clothing and to evaluate the Yuma chapter’s Web site.** Have students rate the clothing’s variety, appeal, pricing, and branding plus the ease of shopping and ordering from the site.

The article “**Chart Your Year with a POW!**” should help you get your members motivated to develop a program of work for your chapter’s year. **A POW teaches concepts important to business**

management careers, including setting goals and deadlines, staffing, and resource management. **[To do:]** **As a starter for your chapter’s planning, ask your members the questions at the end of the article.** The answers can form an idea pool for developing your chapter’s unique goals.

You more information on a program of work is in the *Roadmap Planner* at pages 14 and 22. Let members see some POW examples at www.deca.org/advcornerresources.html.

Former national officer Joe Wittneben has contributed an article on **time management** for this issue. His slant on the problem is for members to look at how their technological connections can either waste or organize their time. See if your members agree with Joe’s analysis.

[To do:] To help members check their use of time, ask them to track their activities for three days. **You can download and reproduce a form from the Web site on which members can enter their activities** (www.deca.org/pdf/timetrack.pdf). Then lead a discussion to have them rate which activities are essential, worth the time spent, or too time consuming for their value, and where in their daily lives members can find time for DECA commitments.

The issue is filled with articles written by the new National Officer Team. Encourage members to send appropriate questions to the officers by having them go to the Web site for email addresses. They can ask for opinions on DECA issues or they may ask about the process of becoming a state or national officer. (You will want to monitor the communications.)

[To do:] Have your members look up the names and contact information of your state’s/province’s officer team and check out the services they offer to chapters. This exercise helps members find out what is happening closer to home, and may encourage them to get involved one crucial step beyond your chapter.