



PROFESSIONAL CLUB MARKETING ASSOCIATION



## **Professional Development** **Stepping Outside Your Comfort Zone**

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If you have never held a leadership position such as student council president, vice president of sorority development or captain of a sports team, stepping into a leadership role in your career may feel like a daunting task-and possibly even be terrifying.

Each of us has our own comfort zone within our jobs, which is part of the routine of our daily lives. This routine makes us feel comfortable, calm, in control and relatively emotionally stable most days. However, experiencing a little stress and anxiety every now and then is a good thing too because the outcome is usually growth.

This recently happened to me when I was presented with the nomination of vice president of PCMA. I was honored and excited, and in the same moment insecure and overwhelmed. I immediately had a lot of questions running through my head: Can I do this? Do I have the skills to be a contributing leader? Will there be enough time in my schedule to dedicate to the role?

I am fortunate that challenges like this are looked upon favorably at my club and supported by the general manager and Board. So with their support, and after speaking with industry professionals, I decided to step out of my comfort zone and put my name in the running for the position.

I learned that taking risks, regardless of the outcome, are growth experiences. Throughout the application process, I learned it's OK, and even a good idea, to promote myself. I learned I have a terrific support system here at the club and at home, and I learned that stepping outside of my comfort zone and taking a chance is an opportunity to grow.

Luckily for me, the risk paid off, and I was elected vice president of PCMA for the upcoming year. I now have the opportunity to try something new and expand my repertoire of life skills and self-knowledge, while working with a professional team to enhance the career of other membership professionals.

Perhaps it time for you to consider stepping up to lead in your community by chairing a local fundraiser for an issue that you care about. Maybe you challenge yourself to pursue an advanced certification like your CMP, or possibly you take initiative to improve a situation at your job.

You can choose to lead in ways that energize you and help you grow, instead of leading in ways that drain you. You can take on challenges that are fun, rewarding, or interesting. It's up to you. Now is the time to create your own personal vision statement to remind you where you want to be going and what you can achieve as your first step.

Uncomfortable? Maybe. But worth the chance? YES!