

**Executive Leadership SIG Meeting Highlights**  
**ACLEA Mid-Year Meeting**  
**January 2009**

**Sunday, February 1, 2009**

**Breakfast**

To kick off a great MidYear Meeting, a small group of SIG members met for an informal discussion over breakfast. One of the hot issues discussed was the economy and what we are doing in our shops to save money and generate more money. Some shops are just beginning to feel the pressures of a down economy, while others have been facing tough issues for a while.

Another topic was the work environment. There was a discussion about the growing lack of fact-to-face contact with those we work with and the greater need for face-to-face discussions instead of always using email. This developed into a discussion of staff use of iPods, IM, facebook, etc. during the work day.

If you have insight into or questions about these issues, please use the listserv to get feedback from the experienced and insightful membership we have in the Executive Leadership SIG.

**Sunday, February 1, 2009**

**Luncheon**

A group of about 50 SIG members met for a luncheon discussion of issues we are facing as leaders in our workplaces and how the economy is impacting us. After informal discussion time at each table, our special guest, Larry Center, facilitated an interactive discussion on the topic of Leadership in Tough Economic Times. Some of the practical tips shared were as follows:

- Communicate with your staff; tell them more, not less; include them in the strategizing and problem solving
- Be seen and available to your staff
- Smile—you are a role model
- Be honest; Don't pretend to know all the answers; Convey the seriousness of the situation
- Keep up morale—even more important in tough economic times; Some examples of how to do this were lunch time clubs such as cooking clubs, book clubs, scrabble contests, etc.
- Surround yourself with others when making tough decisions to balance your strengths and weaknesses
- Communicate and work with your governing boards to convey the long term perspective and instill confidence
- Integrity and Relationships are important

Larry also shared a website that will send a leadership tip to you daily. You can sign up at <http://www.smartbrief.com/leadership/>

We hope fellow ACLEA members will join the Executive Leadership SIG events in Salt Lake City and join in our list serve discussions. It's a great group!