Hello SCs and RCs -

As your chapters embark on organizing themselves into committees supporting the five levers, you may want to consider the motivational interviewing style questions listed below to help them keep momentum going in the effort to organize.

Our goal: Help our members of Congress move up the ladder of commitment. Some will become sponsors. Others will simply quietly abstain. Others will fall somewhere along the continuum. Regardless, we want our chapters to find stronger footing in the effort to build the political will needed by their MOCs.

Strategy: Host 5 Levers Organizing Workshops with chapters ready for a more sophisticated organizing structure.

Our CAT trainers can learn to lead the 5 Levers Organizing Workshop. Others who are not yet CAT trainers can learn to lead the 5 Levers Organizing Workshop. I think it helps to have someone external to the chapter lead the 5 Levers Organizing Workshop. But, it is entirely possible that the group leader or another volunteer internal to the chapter could lead the workshop.

Regardless of who leads the workshop, it can help tremendously if a state coordinator or regional coordinator follows up with the group leader and assists them in the effort to build momentum around the new sophisticated system.

Below is a list of motivational interviewing questions which you can use to stimulate introspection and reflection with your group leaders. Feel free to add to the questions. Please share your insights with me. You might uncover a pattern that would help us improve the 5 Levers Organizing Workshop or the follow-up.

1. How many committees did you wind up with after the workshop?
2. Which committees are those?
3. Who is chairing each committee?
4. How many members on each committee?
5. When do the committees meet?
6. What has each committee set for its short term goals? 12 month goals?
7. In what way is each committee working with you to build the agenda for the monthly chapter meeting?
8. How is each committee helping with monthly actions that come from CCL?
9. In what way is each committee leading monthly agenda items related to their focus?
10. How does your chapter recruit volunteers for the various activities that the committees want to tackle?
11. What does your new volunteer onboarding process look like (It can be nice to have the group leader playing some role in onboarding. The group leader could do something as basic as greeting newcomers and introducing them to the person leading a newcomer orientation.)

Touch base with them about the group leader preface that accompanies the monthly action sheet.
1. How are you using the group leader preface to create your monthly agenda and build participation?
2. What could you say to new people in the on-boarding process that would let them know that you would like to ask them to help with a monthly agenda item?

With love,

Elli Sparks