

# What I Wish I Knew When I Became Chapter President

Setting the Theme for the Year

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# Key Point

- Every Chapter is Different
  - History
  - Geography
  - Demographics
  - Identity

# Kansas Chapter

- Rural State
- Two major cities
- One academic medical center
- Two general surgery residency programs, one set of non-general surgery residency programs
- One chapter (encompasses the entire state)
- Several well known ACS leaders as members

# Plan Ahead

- Start as soon as you are elected
- To do list for President-elect year
  - Learn the history
  - Previous challenges and failures (tap into resource of past presidents)
  - Speak to active members (and very inactive members)

# Plan Ahead

- National ACS
  - Look at the website
  - Read the Bulletin
  - Attend the Leadership and Advocacy Summit
  - Attend the Clinical Congress

# Set the Vision (and the Plan)

- Does not have to be a vision statement, but have to be able to put into words
- Buy in from the Council
- Have the plan set prior to president year

# What I did? (and Warning)

- May only make sense in the context of our chapter
- One day meeting to facilitate greater attendance by busy surgeons
- Heavy resident focus at the meeting (half the meeting)
- Non-scientific experiential presentation
- New initiates dinner after Clinical Congress
- Make local advocacy a focus: advocacy day

# Greatest Regret





# Summary

- Start Early
- Make sure it is relevant to your context
- Align with the national focus