



# weLEAD Book Review

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## **The Tripping Point in Leadership Overcoming Organizational Apathy**

**Slight Edge Publishing - 2008 (109 pages paperback)**

**Author David Byrd**

**ISBN 978-0-89811-550-5**

The Tripping Point in Leadership is short, direct and powerful in its brevity. Author David Byrd challenges the reader to accept the fact that *change* is essential for growth in both individuals and organizations. The enemy of both change and growth is apathy! Byrd defines apathy as “A natural, human instinct, common to us all, that consistently encourages us to seek a comfort zone in which nothing ever changes.” He continues by observing, “The cumulative impact of apathy on an organization is stagnation and ultimate decline. I have observed that this decline is inevitable unless counterbalanced with a proactive and consistent leadership development program.”

The Tripping Point in Leadership offers a number of wise and common sense solutions to the problem of apathy and its negative effects. The author offers a number of characteristics or “powers” that can help one to break through the barrier of apathy. For example the power of *choice* enhances our awareness, attitude, action and accountability needed to avoid apathy. Other chapters include a discussion of the power of vision, power of attraction, and the power of courage.

The last portion of the book discusses *effective* leadership in individuals and in organizations. Byrd stresses the vital importance of having a “proven and consistent leadership development process.” He defines an effective leader as the *Developer* who believes in people, communicates well, uses internal and personal motivation, and shares power. Finally, Byrd believes that excellence and sustainability in an organization occurs when effective leadership is developed at every level.

The Tripping Point in Leadership is a succinct and engaging work. The information is direct and pulls you into the subject. It reminded me of attending an authoritative college lecture. It is good to occasionally cut through the various fragments of leadership and get to the point in a dramatic way. This book does just that.

***weLEAD Rating – highly recommended***

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