



It's a Brand New Year

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It's time to shake off the dreariness, tough choices and hardships of 2010. Though I still hear wearisome complains, that year is now gone, kaput, behind you. It only serves as part the foundation on which to stand as you enter this wide open New Year.

You are a savvier and wiser leader today than you were one year ago. Build upon that as you look at the blank canvas of 2011. What do you want to create or experience this year? What will you change? How will you grow into an even stronger, wiser and savvier individual over the coming 12 months?

Some of you have already set mighty goals of all that you will change and accomplish. Others work best with a vision of who you'll be one year from today.

If you foresee minor or major changes this year, here are my top '7' tips to make it happen.

1. **Join something new to broaden your horizons:** The City Club of Central Oregon will deepen your knowledge of topics that influence your life in this region; a Toastmasters club will help you become a more confident, eloquent speaker; a Rotary group will get you more involved in helping those in need in your community; EDCO's Pub talk will introduce you to innovative business minds.
2. **Revert to something old:** In moving fast and furiously toward accomplishing our goals year after year we easily forget who we are at our core. A steady flow of highly successful clients come to me in a lost state, forgetting what is important to them or why they do what they do. Staying in touch with old friends, mentors or neglected family members will remind you of what is truly important.
3. **Be Bold:** Whenever you hear that voice inside say something to hold you back, blast right by it. No matter what your pursuit, you have room to grow and become more proficient. Who is the best-of-the-best in your field? What do they do that you don't do; what have they thought of that you have not thought of. Learn from them or create your own elevated path with a proven coach.
4. **Read and Grow:** The average American reads less than one book per year. With over one thousand books in my library this astounds me. Learning something new will make you come alive. Suggestions that belong in any business library are: Blue Ocean Strategy, Now Discover Your Strengths, Ideaship, The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, Good to Great, The One minute Manager Meets the Monkey and so many more.
5. **Get more physical:** Whenever a client gets stuck in negative or limited thinking my first suggestion is to go outside. I hear from too many Central Oregon successes that they moved here for the outdoors and are now too busy to enjoy it. You don't have to be an elite athlete to enjoy the benefits of being active. Make a plan, stick to it. You are not getting any younger. Now's the time! This is the place!

6. **Develop new friendships:** One constant on clients New Year list is to make new friends. We all change. As we grow we sadly leave some acquaintances behind. Our interests change as do theirs. Developing new friendships is exciting. With each new interaction we expand our self knowledge and concept of what is possible.
7. **Lighten up:** There is enough negativity out there without you adding to it. Though you may not realize it, rehashing the same old negative news or events is a 'turn off' to many. Be different this year. Set a goal this year out to be more positive and proactive in leading discussions around possibilities, not obstacles.

Your 2011 success story is ahead of you. Incorporate one or all of these tips into your planning and make this the best year of your life.

Read all of Ann's Writing and Wisdom at: <http://gvasuccess.com/writing-and-wisdom.htm>

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