# Maximize Your Resources

• he world is filled with unlimited opportunities. Unfortunately, we are not; we all have defined boundaries on our time, resources, and capabilities. But even though the sky is not the limit, there is still room for us to make a giant leap forward from where we are today. The key is using our resources as effectively and efficiently as possible to strategize our way to the top.



#### Bare essentials

A solid marketing plan is the foundation of any business success. How you define and execute your marketing plan will create your future, so make it solid and then make it work. Use your marketing plan to establish guidelines and to chart the course of your success.

Once you begin to implement your plan, continuously evaluate your progress, making sure that the delivery of your message is effective. Client and office management systems are paramount to promoting your brand. Ensure that systems are as sound as possible; efficient systems can save you valuable time and energy. Timely follow up is essential as well. To begin your ascent, ensure that you have these basics in place.

## Look good in print

Some of us automatically create a disadvantage by using the term "financial planning." Seemingly benign, the phrase can subconsciously repel people. "Financial" is often associated with confusing choices or unpaid bills, and the word "planning" evokes the tedious efforts of thinking, organizing papers, and making sense of numbers. People don't want financial planning, they want solutions for a secure future. Construct a positive branding campaign that reflects real solutions for your clients and that eschews intimidating buzzwords.

#### Take calculated risks

Your marketing plan should identify the financial and legal protection you have in place, as well as the risks you are willing to assume. Are you taking enough calculated risks or are you frozen by the fear of failure? Examine your plan and find the right balance. Taking smart risks can help you achieve your maximum value.

# Alone or with a partner?

A defined strategy can also help you align your resources and monitor whether those resources are sufficient to reach your goals. Do you need to partner with someone who complements your strengths and counteracts your weaknesses? For

# Marketing tips to propel you closer to success

example, if you have mastered one product and work within a captive environment, you may want to consider pairing with a partner who is diversified and specializes in noncompetitive products.

Finding outside resources to cover the areas where you lack proficiency can reduce stress and allow you to more effectively focus on your strengths. Conversely, differing work styles and personalities can result in conflicts and zapped energy, so consider the decision to partner carefully.

### Stay lean and mean

Can you honestly say that you are conditioned for peak performance? Are you performing your tasks efficiently? Ask yourself what your competitors are doing better than you. Maybe they are performing their duties more efficiently than you are. Learn to promote your assets while finding ways to reduce costs.

Can you visualize that view from the top yet? The marketing plan you develop will define your route, but it's your ability to execute your strategy that will determine whether you actually enjoy the view.

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