

Author shares leadership tips

By Herb Moering

"To lead an orchestra, you have to turn your back on the audience."

Author Carolyn Thompson made that assertion at the Nov. 18 Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

The co-author of "The Leadership Genius of George W. Bush" suggested that chamber members can learn common sense approaches to life by watching any good leader to see how he or she regularly responds to situations.

"You will be surprised at what you can learn," said Thompson, president of Training Systems Inc.

She provided a brief summary of some of the 10 common sense principles she said President Bush demonstrates in leading the nation.

Decision-making is made easy, Thompson said, because Bush identified his core values and measures issues against

them.

She said the core values he espouses without deviation are "faith, family and integrity."

The values have been stressed regularly, Thompson said, and provide Bush with

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the vision he wants to communicate to his audiences.

That vision, she said, is to transform America one heart at a time and leave no child behind.

Thompson said Bush leads a very disciplined lifestyle and follows a regimented schedule.

That strong focus, which allows him to complete his work, impacts those around him, Thompson said.

Because Bush is so focused, it makes it possible for him to build lifetime alliances,

Thompson said.

That is done, she explained, by keeping lines of communication open — even when permanent disagreement exists on certain issues.

Good leadership also means bringing in the right people who share similar values, Thompson said.

According to Thompson, Bush describes the end result that is anticipated, which allows people to do their job and have something to measure their progress against.

Thompson noted that Bush had an unprecedented approval rating of 90 percent following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

It is now down to just under 50 percent.

"That doesn't make him less a leader," Thompson said, "just less popular a leader.

"It's not easy to be a leader, and not always fun."

Following the chamber meeting several people bought copies of Thompson's book.