What is Lean Leadership?

Lean Leaders embrace and champion continuous improvement throughout their organization.

Traditional Leadership
- Leader plans
- Staff meets goals set by leader
- Leader produces metrics and feeds back when not met
- Rigid enforcement of rules and regulations
- Information controller
- Sole problem solver
- Technical expert
- Assignor of work
- Performance appraiser

Lean Leadership
- Direction setter
- Ensures team goals support vision
- Monitors and audits team's metrics
- Sets expectations
- Information conduit
- Facilitates 'root cause' analysis
- Technical resource
- Provider of forward workloads
- Appraises team performance to team goals

Lean Leaders embrace and champion continuous improvement throughout their organization. They are committed to ensuring activities are value-added, and that people are empowered to solve problems and improve processes.

The best way to define lean leadership is to compare it to traditional leadership. Here is a list of the differences between lean leadership and traditional leadership.

Take a moment and compare the two leadership styles. In the traditional role the leader plans, solves, and acts as the expert. In contrast the lean leader sets the expectation, facilitates "root cause" analysis, and uses the knowledge of the worker for the expertise.