

Happy Tuesday, $[UD:FIRST_NAME|]$!

You would think asking an organization you've already worked with about future opportunities would be easy.

They know you. They've experienced your work.

So why does asking still feel like a stretch?

I've been reaching out about year-end and 2027 speaking opportunities, including to organizations I've worked with before.

And I've had to check an assumption:

They know my work, so surely they have me in mind.

Meanwhile, they have a thousand things going on.

Knowing me doesn't mean they're thinking about where I fit into their next event, workshop, or leadership retreat.

Apparently, my name does not automatically appear on every planning agenda. 😂

I have to ask. Remind. Follow up.

And I have to remind myself that needing to do those things usually isn't personal.

This shows up at work, too.

"My manager knows I want to advance."

"My colleagues know I'd like to be involved."

"They know I'm interested."

Maybe they do. But have you told them what you want now?

People can know your work and still need a clear ask.

That might sound like:

"I'd like to be considered to lead the next project. What would you need to see from me?"

Or:

"I'm interested in moving into a leadership role. Can we talk about what that path could look like?"

You can't control the answer. But you can give someone a clear opportunity to respond.

Everything begins and ends with communication—including the opportunities we hope someone will remember to offer us.

This week, choose one thing you've been assuming someone already knows you want. Put it into words and start the conversation.

I'm making my asks, too. When someone needs a speaker - think of Paula!

And yes, I still need this reminder.

What are you waiting for someone to offer that you haven't clearly asked for?

Show Up. Do You.

Paula R Jenkins

Visual Reminder



They know my work. I still have to make the ask.

And here's my ask.

If your organization is planning a year-end gathering or a 2027 conference, leadership retreat, or workshop, I'd love to talk about speaking with your leaders.

My work centers on communication, emotional intelligence, authenticity, and the conversations leaders need to have.

Reply and tell me what you're planning—or introduce me to the person organizing it.

For a conversation you can begin with your team today, explore Show Up Like You Mean It: Living, Leading, and Speaking Your Truth.

Explore the book.

Reading with your team or book club? Reply to request the companion discussion guide.

If someone forwarded this newsletter to you, you're welcome here. Every Tuesday, Leadership Unscripted offers one conversation to help leaders communicate with more confidence, authenticity, and emotional intelligence.
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LFS Consulting LLC, PO Box 118, Lake Villa, IL 60046

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