

SUMMARY – Lean In, Women Work and the Will To Lead by Sheryl Sandberg and Neil Scovell

Ms. Sandberg left her job at the Dept. of the Treasury to become a top executive at Google and then moved into the COO position at Facebook. Throughout the book, she shares stories of her ascension to positions in corporate America not previously held by women. Her personal setbacks and success are told by referencing the influence of personal contacts (parents, spouse, family members) as well as workplace connections that influenced her career growth and helped her with some tough personal decisions. She discusses why we have too few women leaders and the idea of “having it all”. “Leaning in” requires taking a risk and being the force to drive change. She discusses how women often hold themselves back instead of “having a seat at the table”, and that climbing the workplace ranks is a “jungle gym” not a ladder.

The LLL Book Group discussed readers who might best benefit from reading this book. We felt that recent graduates, women facing workplace decisions and inequities, and men and women working in a human resource capacity. “Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.” Harvard Business School.