

To Starting Again

Wow! It's been almost a year since the last edition of Leadership Couture where I naively announced I'd be taking the summer off and would be seeing you back in September. What happened? Life! Like many of you, growing a business, parenting, and partnering fill my days in the best ways. And, of course, I always make time for the #TBR list, red light therapy (my new obsession!), and walks with my favorite Doodle.

I also celebrated a few firsts over the last year – [ran a marathon](#), [keynoted for a few hundred old friends](#), and [conquered the highest coaster in the country](#). How cool is it to celebrate firsts in my 40's? We often reserve these milestones for the kids, but why?

Firsts don't have an age limit. They simply require a willingness to be a beginner again, to stretch past the edges of your comfort zone, and to choose curiosity over certainty.

This week I'm celebrating the first reboot of Leadership Couture. Yes, I took a longer break than planned, but that doesn't mean I can't start again.

What will you start this week, month, or summer? Choose something small or joyful. Choose something that makes you feel alive (hello coaster 420 feet in the air). Simply choose, and when you do, please tell me about it. I can't wait to celebrate your first with you!

For my returning readers, you'll notice some fresh updates to Leadership Couture. And, for those of you who are new, I hope this newsletter becomes the one you look forward to opening in your inbox. In this curated collection, I share insights on how to embrace your signature style and unleash your leadership potential. Together, we explore leadership that turns heads, influences with grace, and strides confidently into any room.

Enjoy, and until next time, stay stylish, stay courageous, and lead with intention.

Your Leadership Stylist,
Julie



Wear It

"Joy doesn't come from being the best at something - it comes from allowing yourself to enjoy it, no matter what the scoreboard says." Lindsey Godwin

Here's a little more motivation to try something new.

[Read more](#)

Tailor It

If "authenticity" was the word of the year in 2023, then "psychological safety" is well on its way to becoming the word(s) of 2026. When we have it, we feel brave enough to suck at something new. So, how do we create it for ourselves and our teams?

[Read more](#)

Style It

Did you know that color can shape perception and drive impact? For example, blue (hello insurance industry) signals trust, whereas orange elicits excitement and fun. So the next time you're on the edge of a first, consider reaching for orange. Choose your colors wisely.

[Read more](#)

PS...[Karen Nordaby](#) is the best at color analysis. Check her out!

Women I'm Amplifying

I hosted my first New Year's Eve party this winter (noticing a trend?). When I needed a charcuterie board, I ordered one from MJ Luxury Charcuterie, Picnics & Events, and they delivered! Now, I'm partnering with MJ to host a Denim & Pearls Social at the Fresh Market in Hershey. Of course, I'll be sharing [cabi's fabulous denim](#). Check out the details [here](#), and message me for your tickets!



Patterns I'm Noticing

Again and again, I'm noticing a pattern: when female leaders step into a community where they can compare notes, name the pressures they've been carrying, and experiment with new ways of leading, something shifts. The isolation cracks. The self-doubt softens. A different kind of confidence emerges. That's why creating spaces for women to gather and explore leadership together feels less like a luxury to me and more like a necessity.

If you're searching for a community of your own, consider this your personal invitation from me to join one of my favorites...

- [The Leadership Collective](#) - Launching this September for professional women in South-Central PA, The Leadership Collective is equal parts personal development and relationship building.
- [MyNetwork](#) - Entering it's 12th season, MyNetwork is a virtual facilitated peer group for women in insurance. In this next season, we'll be exploring The Art of Productive Conflict.
- [Women Presidents Organization](#) - An international collective of women business leaders who gather locally to strengthen their businesses through structured peer advisory meetings. Our Lancaster chapter is growing, and I'd love to tell you more about it.

The Signature Piece

Every great outfit has a signature piece. Every leadership journey does, too.

A signature piece isn't loud. It isn't the whole outfit. It's the element that elevates everything around it. In leadership, that signature piece is often the women who choose to support other women. Women who open doors instead of guarding them. Women who say your name in rooms you've never stepped into. Women who extend invitations, share opportunities, and make space at tables that once felt out of reach.

I've been lucky to have women like **Sara** and **Jayne** on my leadership journey. They have championed me, advocated for me, and created opportunities I didn't even know to ask for. Their belief has shaped my path in ways they may never fully see, and I carry that forward by doing the same for others.

Because when women support women, we don't just rise, we redesign the entire landscape. We create cultures where courage is contagious, where talent is recognized, and where leadership feels less like competition and more like community.

If you're reading this, consider this your invitation to elevate a woman in your circle. Share this newsletter with her, invite her to the meeting, or advocate for her when she's not in the room. The ripple is always bigger than you think.

MyNetwork

Passing the Torch

[Emma](#) and I are thrilled to build on the strong foundation Sara established for MyNetwork. We're grateful for her leadership and beyond excited for her next chapter!



WPO - Lancaster

A New Chapter

Jayne and I have only known each other for a little over three years, but I can't imagine my life now without her. First she was my coach, then my mentor, and now a dear friend. I'm honored to lead the WPO Lancaster chapter she so perfectly curated.



At [JMW Collective](#), I empower leaders and teams to grow with confidence, communicate with clarity, and build resilient, inclusive cultures. My coaching and programs help you lead with intention and drive meaningful results.

We may be a good fit if you're concerned about:

- **Team communication breakdowns** that slow progress or create tension
- **Leaders who lack confidence** stepping into bigger roles or higher-stakes conversations
- **Burnout or disengagement** that's quietly eroding performance
- **A culture that feels reactive instead of intentional**
- **Teams struggling to navigate change** with clarity and steadiness

If these challenges sound familiar, you don't have to navigate them alone. This is the work I love and the work I do best. [Let's connect!](#)