



MAKING GOOD CHOICES -The Evolution of an Idea

As most of you have read in the CONNECTION, the idea for the Making Good Choices Program started with Bud Berger at the Vocational Tech Center. He then took his program to Loudon High School, where he taught in a class of "At Risk" students. The class was a success. Bud was asked if he could put the program in an elementary school. At that point our Kiwanis Club became involved when Bud got John Fosse, Jim Nicholson, myself to mentor his program at Steeke Elementary School to 4th grade classes. We took Bud's original material provided by the American Medical Alliance and through our individual research, added to it. At the conclusion of a year of mentoring, Loudon County School District asked if the program could be implemented "county wide". The group met several times and tried to decide the best way to present one program. It was finally decided that all the members would give me all their teaching materials and I would attempt to put it in basic format keeping Bud's major themes central in the program. The program was put into a notebook for each school and the group was asked to speak to all the counselors at the opening of the 2005-2006 school year. Bud continued to teach the class at the high school. He and I discussed the ideas he was trying to get across and he asked if I could help develop a high school curriculum for his class. I agreed to try. We came up with a high school plan that met Bud's needs. The program then evolved at the high school to include a wellness program to be taught by Bud and the football coach. The High school now wanted a Freshman Orientation Program. Could I help? A Freshman Orientation Program was researched and developed. You can see how Bud's Making Good Choices Program is starting to evolve. After Bud left the classroom part of the program, we continued the effort to get the "updated" version of the program into the schools. A Middle School version of making Good Choices was developed to go along with the Elementary and High School versions, all the time keeping the original ideals of the program as the central points.

The program, as it exists today, consists of three large notebooks containing lesson plans, discussion ideas and student activity sheets. Teachers can use any or all of the material that they feel are appropriate for their class.

The title page in each of the notebooks indicates that the lessons and materials were compiled and presented by members of the Kiwanis Club of Tellico Village. On Wednesday, March 5th, I will be presenting these programs to the Instructional supervisor of the Lenoir City Schools and then to the school counselors. Although I have done the research for the program, I have never lost sight of where the idea came from and that Bud Berger was the motivation for me to keep adding materials to the program.

Respectfully,
Woody King

PACT PROGRAM

The Kiwanis Club of Tellico Village is a very important part of the volunteer and community partners program for the Lenoir City School System. This program is administered by the Family Resource Center. One of the first programs that the Kiwanis Club became involved with at the Lenoir City Elementary School was PACT (Parents As Children's Teachers). This program was started over eight years ago and is still going strong.

PACT is a parent involved program offered to parents and their kindergarten and preschool children. The children check out books weekly for parents to read with them at home. They also receive an activity sheet with fun and educational activities to also do at home with their parents. Kiwanis members arrive bright and early at the elementary school each Thursday morning to assist the young readers with book selection from carts. It is an invigorating as well as a rewarding experience for these volunteers. These same volunteers also serve as guest readers for the preschool classes on a monthly basis.

The current volunteers are: Farrell Bruner, Keith Emerson, Paul Kyker, Al Porell, Chuck Sanford, Chuck Swenson, and Ron Uncapher. Marion Smith (Paul Smith's wife) also assists when needed. Since a minimum of four members is required each week, there is an urgent need for additional volunteers. This would allow us to reduce the load on current volunteers and expand the reading program. Anyone interested should contact Chuck Swenson at 458-9097.



The program for the February 5th meeting was a tour of the CARLEX automotive glass fabrication plant at Tellico West. The members above are getting an introduction and briefing before plant officials took them on an excellent tour of the facility.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Mr. John Hunter, a project manager for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, spoke to us at our February 19th meeting about ongoing projects in Loudon County. The land acquisition for the new HWY 321 bridge across the Tennessee River at Ft. Loudon Dam is nearing completion. The funding for design and construction of the bridge has not been secured, and the entire project remains somewhere out in the future. The flyover at the intersection of HWY's 11 and 321 in Lenoir City is nearing the final funding and design stage. The project should proceed in the near future. While we should see the flyover come to be, the bridge project is beyond the horizon .

Larry Williams

REPORTING VOLUNTEER HOURS

By Lou Livengood, President

As explained by our able Club Secretary, Bob Kryter, in last month's newsletter, your Board has been busy developing a new system to allow a better flow of information for reporting volunteer hours. Although this might not be anyone's most exciting topic, I want to add a few comments to help us do a better job of reporting. Our new attractive club directory shows how all our various projects are grouped under 5 committees headed by chairs or co-chairs.

Most projects have a leader who is responsible for collecting volunteer hours each month and reporting this collected information to the chair of the appropriate committee. Under the new system, individuals should not report volunteer hours directly to the club secretary. Instead, reporting should be made to either a project coordinator or directly to the appropriate committee chair.

Your club Board agreed that our goal will be to collect volunteer hours contributed by each member during a given month. However, if members generally work a similar number of hours, the coordinator should simply indicate the same hours to each member. The intention is not to make this process too involved or time consuming.

PERFECT MEETING ATTENDANCE

Kiwanis International defines perfect meeting attendance as follows: ***Kiwanis members who attend all regular club meetings for 12 consecutive months will be credited with 1 year of perfect attendance.***

For members that aspire to attain perfect meeting attendance, there are a number of ways to off-set missed meeting. One of the best ways is to volunteer each month on one or more of our many club projects. If a member volunteers for a project for at least one hour, the member receives credit for a missed meeting. If a member accumulates more than 3 hours on a project for that month it will be assumed that the member was involved in the project on at least 2 different days and will be credited for up to two missed meetings in a given month.

Here are a few additional ways to get credit: attend a Board meeting or committee meeting; participate in an interclub meeting; participate in club fund raising events or any club approved activity.

Please let me know if anyone has any questions or if any of this needs clarification or discussion. And as members have pointed out, the real goal of our club should be to provide help for people in need. Hopefully, these administrative details will not deter us from our main mission.

