

**Subject:** SLTP Newsletter  
**From:** Fitzpace@aol.com  
**Date:** Tue, 24 Sep 2002 11:11:28 EDT  
**To:**

## **Linkage**

**An Email Newsletter for SLTP Alumni & Staff**

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JIM FITZGERALD, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION      1.800.600.7223

### **Thank you for sharing**

In the past two weeks we have received dozens of emails from alumni recounting the America Celebrations that were held at their school to honor the memory of those who were murdered on September 11.

In answer to the most frequent quest -- yes, we will be offering an event planning workshop as part of the OTS program and that workshop will include "how to's" regarding lyrical signing.

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### **New "stuff"**

SLTP will soon be expanding our outreach, and we are exploring new avenues for the newsletter. Greg Moffitt (Session 4, 02) has accepted the position of Communication Director for SLTP and he will be assembling a team to usher in a fresh approach to our communication network.

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### **Forming your group**

Every group and organization accepts its new members throughout the month of September and into the month of October. Ben Franklin's said, "Well begun is half done." He was right. Forming is the most important stage.

You know the theory. Now put it into practice. Try this three step plan of action.  
Step 1. It all begins with purpose -- why does the group exist? What is your purpose? Everyone must see it, understand it and agree to it.

**If your group doesn't really know who you are or what you do -- then you are in serious trouble. This is not as simple as it seems. Over 80% of student council and NHS members nationwide cannot give an adequate definition of who or what their group is. Keep the mission statement short and understandable, but write one as a whole group!**

2. Then everyone must RELATE to everyone in the group. This begins with names but

must develop beyond that first step (It is not about who you know, it is what you know about who that counts.)

**Knowing a person's name is simple respect. So that's a given for every member of a group. But to be successful, groups need to know more -- they need to really "know" each other. This takes a lot of work -- but it is fun. Use [Name Games](#) first, then [Mixers](#) and finally a [Team builder](#) or two. Inclusion is essential for every group. (use Name Badges and create a format for beginnings of meetings)**

3. There has to be something to do.

**Going to meetings to listen to someone talk is NO ONE's idea of doing something.**

Set your expectations for the group together. Don't just pass out rules and regulations, or talk about what will happen if people miss too many meetings -- set expectations for success. Focus the groups attention on what they can do. You can hand out the rules and obligations, but involve the group in setting expectations for success.

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### **What's going on during Forming?**

During the first stage in a group's process, there is a lot going on inside every new or returning member's head. Mostly it revolves around each individuals self-concern. Everyone is trying to find a place in the group. They're trying to determine if and how they fit in. "What am I going to do?" "What do others think of me?" Most of the conversation is confined to what is "safe." Some don't talk at all. They simply watch and listen. But everyone is thinking. Some react to this awkwardness with showboating type behavior. Some react nervously. Some simply shake their head and decide that the group is going no where.

The quicker a group becomes comfortable with one another -- the quicker that group can get down to business.

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### **Dress up days**

Dress up days allow students to have fun. In a small way dress up days relieve the stress and in a big way dress up days allow students to be more comfortable, and therefore more productive at school. Dress up days always increase school attendance. The key to success is setting solid expectations - the educational process cannot be interrupted.

Some ideas:

School colors

50's Day

Numbers day -- everyone wears something with numbers

Western dress up day

Camera day

Halloween dress up day

sock day

Pajama day

Vacation tee shirt day

Dressy dress up day

Sweats day

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### **Service is the measure of success**

Making a difference is what leaders do.

Some service suggestions:

- Non perishable food drive
- Random rakings or drive by rakings
- School staff reception or luncheon or ice cream party
- Election Day Babysitting
- Election Day coffee & Donuts
- Giving Tree ornaments
- Clothing drive or Mitten Tree

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### **The ReEnergizer**

It's on Saturday, November 30. The REE is the best one day conference anywhere. How can we claim it is the best?

<> Well, there is the atmosphere -- the conference is SLTP style which means unconditional acceptance and lots of fun.

<> And the workshops are student run AND have substance -- the information relates and is applicable.

<> And the schedule is absolutely full - no fillers or time wasters.

<> And the REE focuses on STUDENT leadership, not some specific club or group

<> And it is huge without being so huge that it becomes impersonal

<> And everyone who attends wants to be there - no one attends just to get out of school for a day

<> And the program is filled -- there will be a very special presentations by our "Connections" troupe tackling some very heavy issues -- there will be presentations to differencemakers from all over the region (including your school)

<> And it is a chance to meet up with all of your friends from last summer, plus a whole lot more

Visit the website [The ReEnergizer](#) and get your application in today. Fill the car with friends, they'll love it too.

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### **Summer Video's**

Check the back of your binder, or print out a copy of the form from the CD -- but send in your form as soon as possible, because time is running out to order a copy of the video of your session.

As you know the video's contain 3-5 hours of video and are a fairly complete record of your session -- all the big events are on the video tape.

The video's will be delivered at the REE or mailed to those few who cannot attend.

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### **Champions for Youth**

Who in your community deserves to be recognized for their efforts on behalf of the youth of the community?

Who makes a difference? All alumni and staff are eligible to nominate community leaders for special recognition by the Student Leadership Training Program. We will provide certificates and suggestions for recognition, and if the nominee attends the REE, we will fete him/her along with all of the other attending nominees during a special ceremony.

So how does this work -- well, each member school (if your school sent delegates to SLTP last summer, yours is a member school) is eligible for 5 nominees. The nomination

must include a brief paragraph or two explaining WHY the person deserves the title "Champion for Youth." All nominations must be signed by the school's principal (in the event that the school principal is the nominee, then the vice principal should endorse the nomination). The person filing the nomination must attend the REE (and please let us know if your Champion will be attending too).

Schools who had delegations larger than 5 should meet to determine who the nominees will be.

So who exactly is this? As it says above the Champion for Youth is a difference maker -- specifically a person who makes a difference for the kids in **your** community. Naturally this includes school officials, advisers, coaches and personnel, but it also includes all of those people who work for the kids in your town -- coaches, scout masters. booster club members, anyone who makes a difference.

So get together with the other kids who attended from your school. The get your nominations in.

The deadline for the nominations is **October 21**.

Send to:

Jim Fitzgerald  
Champions for Youth  
108 Observatory Way  
Marshfield, MA 02050

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### Activity Fair

One of the most acclaimed features of the ReEnergizer Conference has been the Activity Fair which takes place before and during registration.

There may still be presentation space available for your group / club / organization if would like to share your activity or general information.

Contact Kristen Bouley --

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### Early Bird Application Deadline

The Early Bird application Deadline is drawing very, very near. If you already know you're coming next summer -- don't wait, take advantage of the low fee.

The Deadline is -- **October 15**.

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## The 2003 SLTP Conference Schedule

at

*Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts*

*Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!*

**The ReEnergizer Conference - Saturday, November 30**

*DifferenceMaker Showcase - April TBA*

*Leadership in Athletics Conference - June 27 - 29*

*Officer Training Seminar - - June 30 - July 1*

*LTC's - - July 8 - 12; July 15 - 21; July 29 - Aug 2; Aug 5 - 9*

*ALC's - - July 8 - 12; July 16 - 21; July 30 - Aug 2; Aug 6 - 9*

*Adviser Certification - - July 30 - Aug 2*

**[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)**