

Linkage

Alumni & Staff Newsletter

February / March, 2004

The DifferenceMaker Showcase



What is Community Service? Why is it necessary? Who benefits? Does it really make a difference?

The answers to those questions are EASY. Any leader who understands their role as a citizen can readily answer the easy questions -- but there are harder questions. Such as -- "how to keep everyone seeing the real meaning behind the service?" -- and "how to make the service experience a real learning experience?"

SLTP teaches and encourages leaders to see leadership as a "GET to" and not a "HAVE TO." And we honestly feel that the service experience could and should be among the most meaningful experiences any student can have during high school or college.

The *DifferenceMaker Showcase* is one of our most special events and this year it will be even more special. Service is leadership in action. This conference is about expanding service opportunities, learning how to stage particular events and exploring the possibilities for service inside and outside of school. The focus this time will be on direct civic action and community activism.

So if you have any interest in becoming involved politically at the grass roots level. This DMS is a great place to start exploring the possibilities.

It's coming up fast – Sunday, March 28 from 12:30 – 4:00 at Nichols, where we will bring together all manner

of experts to present workshops and to showcase the opportunities to make real differences.

Additionally we will be celebrating the nominees for SLTP's Student Leader of the Year.

There is still time to sign up – but you'll need to hurry. Bring your friends for a spectacular spring afternoon. It's **Sunday, March 28 and it's only \$10 until Wednesday the 24th after that the fee will be \$15 if there is any space left!** And if you submit 10 registrations, you can bring 12 delegates as two will be admitted free.

A registration form for the conference is attached to this newsletter and they are also available on line (www.sltp.info).

Scholarship Fund Created

Giving back ...



it's a common theme for SLTP, isn't it? All of the staff are volunteers. SLTP is committed to making a difference. We are a service organization. We are a not-for-profit educational organization.

That's been our history from the beginning. Since 1990 over 300 selfless men and women have found ways to give and give to build SLTP. SLTP exists to enable students to become difference-makers.

To date "stop, look and listen" has earned a substantial amount of money through its presentations at area high schools. The Administrative Board of SLTP has decided to put that money where it can do the most good. It will be

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used to help some kids to learn and grow.

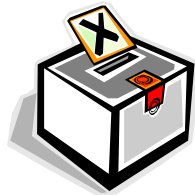
This sum is to be the Staff Special Resource Fund and each staffer will be eligible to draw scholarships for deserving applicants. Every staffer will have an opening account of \$100 to be utilized as 4 \$25 scholarships to either LTC or ALC. Obviously these are not retroactive (applications we have already are not eligible – all were Early Birds) and cannot be combined with other scholarships (Baltren or Circle Awards). Applications must be accompanied by a full deposit to be eligible. The Deadline for eligibility for these awards is **April 10**, which is when the applications must be in Marshfield.

We can think of no higher tribute to the actors, authors, and developers of "*stop, look and listen*" than to have the fruits of their labor being transformed into kids attending camp.

"*stop, look and listen*" made a world of difference to our camps last summer, and it made a very large impact on the places it has toured. It's nice to know that it will continue to have an impact this summer too!

These scholarships are available through any of the current SLTP staff.

California Lawmaker Proposes Voting Age of 14



A proposed amendment to California's constitution would give 16-year-olds a half-vote and 14-year-olds a quarter-vote in state elections.

State Sen. John Vasconcellos proposed the amendment. He believes

the Internet, cellular phones, multichannel television and a diverse society makes today's teens better informed than their predecessors.

"When we gave the vote to those who didn't own property, then to women, then to persons of all colors, we added to the richness of our democratic dialogue and our own nation's integrity and its model for the world," Vasconcellos said, calling it time to further extend the vote.

A Republican colleague said it was "the nuttiest idea I've ever heard." Said Assemblyman Ray Haynes: "There's a reason why 14-year-olds and 16-year-olds don't vote. They are not adults. They are not mature enough. They are easily deceived by political charlatans."

Student supporters said the idea could give them a say in issues such as education funding and bring new voices to the California electorate. "If we could vote, politicians would see us as votes, not just kids, and they would take our issues seriously," said Robert Reynolds, a student at Berkeley High School.

What do you think?

The National Day of Silence



The Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the

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discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies. The Day of Silence is scheduled to take place on **April 21, 2004**.

The Day of Silence is an awesome opportunity to create more inclusive school environments and make some noise by being visibly silent. The Day of Silence has been taking place annually since 1996 and this year tens of thousands of students are expected to participate.

For more information about the Day of Silence visit:
<http://www.dayofsilence.org/>

Application Packets



The third and Final Mailing of SLTP's Application Packets will arrive at your school in the next two weeks

-- please direct this packet to the students and advisers who are interested in learning how to make a difference.

Applications for all of our summer conferences are rolling in at this point. We are expecting our highest enrollment to date. Because of staffing limitations this year, we may have to restrict the size of some of the sessions -- so if a particular session is the only one you can attend -- please register soon. Do not be left out.

One deadline is fast approaching -- and that is the deadline for TLC (the Leadership Center, which is our most advanced leadership seminar) -- the deadline to apply for TLC is APRIL 25.

New Resources Available Soon.



SLTP staffers have been busy writing, editing and compiling two next resource texts.

The Encyclopedia of Energizers was recently published by SLTP and will be available at the SLTP Store this summer as well as on line.

Compiled and edited by Ashley Robshaw and Jim Fitzgerald, this new resource book contains over 200 energizers!

The In-Actions Index is in the final editing stage and will soon be released. Copiled and edited by Pam Horan and Jim Fitzgerald, this resource book is filled with icebreakers, mixers and introducers.

Both texts were written with SLTP student leaders in mind.

The 2004 SLTP Conference Schedule

at

*Nichols College in Dudley, MA
Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!*

Leadership Training Conferences (4)
July 6 - 10; July 13 - 17; July 27 - 31;
Aug 3 - 7

Advanced Leadership Conferences (3)
July 14 - 17; July 28 - 31; Aug 4 - 7

The Leadership Center - - July 7 - 10

Officer Training Seminar - - July 1 - 2

Adviser Certification - - July 28 - 31

The ReEnergizer Conference -
Saturday, November 27

