







September '17

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Could be you!

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Entrepreneur of the month mess yourse

## From the Editor

I've been asked by several different people throughout the years that "if it was possible to go back through time and change my past, would I?" and when I was younger, I would always respond with a yes, but as I've gotten older and more wiser. My response has changed to a definite no and their reactions to this statement remains the same "Why? Wouldn't you want to have that perfect life?" And my response is, because as much as I would like to be a millionaire, with a happy family and, above all, no criminal background; if I were to change my past, then I wouldn't be the man that I've become today.

It took making the mistakes I made, suffering the losses I created and dealing with the consequences I deserved to create a better me. Nothing more and nothing less would've been sufficient. A wise man once told me that "knowledge is experience and everything else is just information." I didn't understand the statement at first, but now I do; we are molded and defined by every experience we endure. If I didn't take the risks that I did when I was younger, then I wouldn't have the ability to make as much of a difference in others as I do today.

I am still alive after all of my wrong decisions so that I could inform the ones coming behind me who are in danger of making those same mistakes to go a different direction. Everything that happens in your life has a divine purpose and most of the time we think what we go through is meant for us, but in reality, it's meant for whose coming behind you. Don't ever be so afraid of making mistakes and falling that you fail to reach your full potential. Thomas Edison once stated that he didn't fail 1,000 times at making a light bulb; he just found 1,000 ways on how NOT to make a light bulb.

-Michael G. (a.k.a. Rice Crispy Treat)



As a servant-Leader of class "Spring 17", I would like to recognize a brother of "Legends of Fall '17", Zachery S. He deserves a shout-out, for his hard work and dedication—because no matter what happens, he continues to push through and strive for what's best for his future and to be successful upon his release. Zach is seeking a better future and I know he will continue to live by the "Ten driving values" that PEP stands for.

Jason J. "Sling Blade"

keeping up the hard work and dedication. With that been said there's a certain individual that has been consistent, disciplined and humble in his journey through this program. He has his priorities set and always gives his 100. he studies hard, passes all his test, helps others with studying and assignments as well. He is also a great mentor for those who have countless conversations with him. He gives us wisdom and knowledge so that we see the bigger picture and to keep having faith in the Lord. This legend is Miguel G. and he is a good friend and new brother of mine—of ours! Continue the good work, positive attitude, humbleness that you bring to L-pod. I salute you brother!

Marcos A. "Sweating Bullets"

Leadership and change can

be very tricky, but I have watched this man grow tremendously through out his new journey with PEP. Ramien H. has been a diligent studier and a servant-leader. I have been fortunate to have visually observed and listened in on the confidence and intelligence he easily shows. Ramien is extremely talented and is continuing to grow—but growth is a slow process and daily change, and change can become scary. I am confident he will continue to grow even more—sharpen his already long list of skills and help prepare the next

man and brother in their own positive transformation. Were lucky to have you

**Brother!** 

Bryan Gene A. "Roly-Poly"

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My experience at the Etiquette & Excellence was so much fun, but at the same time it was a wonderful learning experience. I learned how to tie a neck tie, appropriate dress, and how to properly eat. I have to say that with all the good food and all the laughs I shared with my brothers; this has been my favorite event thus far.

I actually have a real life experience that caused this event to have such a big impact on me. I went to diner with a woman, who I cared about very much, and her grandparents. Her grandmother told me that I was holding my fork like a shovel. As I glanced around, I realized that everyone was holding their forks like a pencil. I immediately felt embarrassed and insecure, because no one had ever taught me the proper way to eat.

With the things that I've learned at the Etiquette and Excellence event. I can now have confidence and present myself properly to leave a great first impression. Thanks Colleen!

Cody M.
(a.k.a.
Mr. Pringles)

We all came together from two different sides of the fence "literally", but one thing we do have in common is Chow! This event also brought out PEP culture, along with PEP executives who came to prison to dine with us; where does this happen other than at the Cleveland Unit.

It was a very enjoyable sight to see during the jeopardy game as participants kept the ongoing tradition of victory against the executives on proper etiquette and business behavior. This was an experience of a lifetime for most of the participants at the event. Mrs. Colleen R. is a master on teaching the art of business behavior and proper etiquette. She has taught us that most of us must have missed out on this important topic.

It was encouraging to see the brothers and the executives dining and engaging in various conversations together, that will shape lives and the perspectives of one another as we become one.

My personal experience was filled with great company during the midst. There was mutual edification and respect from all those at the table from the very moment we broke bread in prayer. It was an experience I will never forget.

The Legends of the Fall have gained valuable insight and developed relationships never thought to be possible. It was a blessing for us all to enjoy each others company, regardless, of our backgrounds or personal history.

I can surely speak for all of us when I say "It was an honor and privilege for us participants at the etiquette night event. I look forward to every event that we have ahead of us. God bless!

James K. (a.k.a. Golden Nugget)



#### Joe's Fun Corner



### Perspectives...

2001...



Alex P. (a.k.a. Tinky Winky) 2008...

Jamarcus T. (a.k.a. Sugar Smack)



2007.

Joseph W. (a.k.a. Ralphy)



1984...



Claude S. (a.k.a. Broke Down Ol Smoky) 2002...

Jeremy E. (a.k.a. Princess Fiona)



2000...



Dewayne C
(a.k.a.

Power
Ranger #2)

2000...



Emmanuel M. (a.k.a. Tinker Bell) 2006...

Joe A.
(a.k.a. Clyde
The Bumble
Bee)



1998...



James k. (a.k.a. Golden Nugget)

2013...



Zachary S. (a.k.a. Kelis) 2013...

Kevin V. (a.k.a. Wanda)



2008...



Lucas T. (a.k.a. Ice Cream Float)

#### What year would you relive again?

2007...



John P. (a.k.a. Lollipop) 2006...

Robert L. (a.k.a. Funnel Cake)



2010...

Ramien H. (a.k.a. Cinnamon Roll)



2003...



Adrian T. (a.k.a. Nacho) 1999 - 2000...



Nathan H. (a.k.a. Mr. Rodgers) 2001...

Ricky D. (a.k.a. Deanut Butter)



2011...



Reynaldo H. (a.k.a. Scrappy Doo) 1992...





2002...

Martinos W. (a.k.a. Little Teapot)



1994...

Timothy D. (a.k.a. Ren)



2006...

Raul R. (a.k.a. Selena)



1978...

Scott N. (a.k.a. J.G. Wentworth)



# Executive of the Month

WE would like to congratulate Cyndie for all the hard work and dedication she displays towards our program. Here at PEP we have honored by making her this months top executive, we asked her some questions and this was her response.

-Tell a little something about yourself?

I am originally from San Antonio but have been living in the Houston area since 1989. I retired from the city of Conroe after 22 years of service and have become a realtor since then. The loves of my life are my son and my grandchildren. I look forward in traveling the country via RV some time in the near future.

-Why do you choose PEP?

I cant think of a more worthwhile program to support!

-Why do you choose to return on a monthly basis?

I get great pleasure in visiting with the participants because they truly appreciate us, and it makes me extremely happy if I can bring a little joy into their lives once a month.

-Any final thoughts or comments.

I think coming here to PEP has also helped me to understand my 25 year old son, Zachary!

Cyndie from the bottom of our hearts we would like to thank you for the support you have shown towards our organization. It is people like yourself who leave a positive impact in our lives. We know that without your support from you the executives none of this would be possible. May God bless you in abundance.



