



Sovereign Kings get schooled by Colleen Rickenbacher

Fifth annual Etiquette Event provides plenty of fun for PEP members along with good eats

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By Christopher Winfield



Colleen Rickenbacher began the fifth etiquette event on Thursday, October 30th by conducting the Excellence in Etiquette class for Sovereign Kings/Winter'18. The class included lessons in table manners, dress and overall behavior. Essentially Ms. Rickenbacher teaches PEP participants how to act in public through good manners, proper decorum and just being a polished individual.

The class included role playing, quizzes on the material in her book, "Be On Your Best Business Behavior", (which the class read as an assignment) and an array of other demonstrations, such as setting a table properly for a meal. Ms. Rickenbacher has a unique gift of making each lesson, demonstration and

lecture fun. That is why she is such a beloved figure in the PEP family.

All this was in preparation for probably the most eagerly anticipated PEP event, the Excellence in Etiquette Dinner. The dinner took place on Friday. As usual, the event attracted a large turnout of executives and volunteers to enjoy a nice meal of enchilada's, rice and other goodies followed by cake for dessert. The Sovereign Kings used some of the skills they learned Thursday to impress the outside guests.

The event was, as always, a rousing success. Ms. Rickenbacher continued to use her charm and wit to entertain the audience before dinner, again making etiquette fun.

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Beloved Executive, Linda Thomas, touched many lives

When we lose a friend suddenly, a disbelief and sadness can engulf us. Yet in the midst of our sorrow we can also smile and remember all the good a person brought into our lives and into others.

PEP lost a kindred and gentle soul recently with the passing of Linda Thomas, a person who always shared and brought a smile to one's face.

Linda, along with her husband Carl, has been a permanent fixture at most PEP events since its beginnings here at the Sanders Estes Unit. More importantly, Linda touched so many people's lives in a positive way. She could make your heart smile and bring light into your life like few others. That is why everyone who knew her wanted to be around her and was so at ease and comfortable around her. She exemplified something everyone should strive for: how to be a good human being. How lucky the PEP program and world was to have her.

Linda Thomas was also an excellent role model for the program too. Linda was a serial entrepreneur having started numerous businesses and also authored a book called "Coloration".

She was gracious with her time as she regularly came to give a one day lecture about the book which discusses the power and purpose of colors in clothing, how you dress and other things. Her one day lecture on the book was consistently one of the best events of the classes.

Linda also organized get-togethers for executives, volunteers, released PEP brothers and others at local coffee houses. These outings were for people to give testimonials, tell stories and mostly become better friends. She started these get-togethers after events at the Estes Unit and it mushroomed into regular gatherings among regular PEP executives, volunteers and others.

Of her many positive qualities, it was her ability to listen and give you her undivided attention that made one feel special. She treated everyone the same; with upmost respect and that you were important no matter who you were. All those involved with the PEP Estes Unit and the entire PEP organization will miss her greatly. Let us always remember her and smile at the memories she has left us. We'll miss you.



Ms. Rickenbacher continues to make etiquette event a day of fun and laughs



The meal was great; Graduates acted as servers (the service was impeccable due to tips from Colleen) and everyone was on their 'P's and Q's', not wishing to have the dreaded Colleen 'POOF' occur at table-side. The event coordinators did another stellar job with crowd control, seating arrangements and ensuring a smooth flow during transitions.

After the meal everyone shifted back to the PEP room for "Etiquette Jeopardy". Once again, PEP defeated the executives for the fifth time in a row, with a score of 3500.

The Driving Value theme of this event was Love. Multiple speakers addressed its value to the program and their lives. This event is always one of the most looked forward to events of the year and it did not disappoint. Every PEP brother came away with a much greater appreciation of the whole concept of etiquette and why it is so important to 'know how to act in public'.



The day came to a close with a moving testimony by Manuel Ibarra. Bryan Kelly and Tony Meyer spoke on the current status of PEP finances and recent as well as upcoming events.

Winter '18 also granted another committed volunteer, Jessica, her "Tough Name". She attends virtually every event, and always has a lot to contribute. It had become time for her to be christened with a "Tough" name (the ladies don't get Sweet names). Hence forth, she is to be known as 'Tough Arnold Schwarzenegger'.

Again, we'd like to give a special thank you to Colleen Rickenbacher for her continued contributions to the program and bringing her special brand of fun and love.



Kickoff Event begins the PEP experience for new participants

By: Christopher Winfield

The Summer '18's Kickoff Event was a hit among participants as well as executives. This class means not only new participants but also a new path for people who are actively seeking change. The Kickoff Event is the official beginning of a long journey of life changing events. This event was not just the beginning of a new class but the continuation of a tradition that began years ago, in which the executive-volunteers prayed over the servant-leaders who will be responsible for developing the new class. This was a prayer for the servant-leaders to be blessed in all of their PEP endeavors so that lives can be permanently transformed as a result of this program.

The new class was ushered into the room with a tunnel of love, welcoming them in with open arms and warm hearts.

You could feel the energy and excitement in the air as this new class was brought in by executive-volunteers and servant-leaders. Faces showed the positive outlook of the new class with smiles and excitement. Many of the participants had no clue what to expect out of the event, but every one of them had a great time. The new class will now begin the nine-month PEP program looking for positive transformation.

The new class then broke up into groups with at least one executive volunteer and one servant-leader. The purpose of these discussion groups was to bring to the forefront and emphasize two of the most critical Driving Values: Integrity and Accountability.

Many will come to realize that it is a blessing to be a part of the Prison Entrepreneurship Program. Bert Smith spoke about the benefits of being involved with PEP yet was quick to point out it is not all about business. Money in the hands of a fool creates no gains. He reiterated the importance of character development and the time PEP will devote to that along with other character building lectures, exercises and talks.

The purpose of the next three months in the character development phase is to become the positive and productive person that we were destined to be. This can be the most important phase because if your character is lacking then it does not matter what kind of position you are in or the amount of money you are worth. A person with faulty character is a liability to all. Servant-Leaders and executive volunteers alike want to see everyone move forward and continue to improve and develop with this program.

As the event demonstrated, the PEP family welcomed the new class with open arms. Now it is time to get to work and become the man that our families



Inspiration Corner

Excerpt from Teddy Roosevelt's acceptance speech in 1910 for the Nobel Peace Prize in Paris. The speech has become known as 'The Arena'.

It is not the critic who counts;

Not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles,
or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena,

Whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood;

Who strives valiantly; who errs,

Who comes up short again and again,

Because there is no effort without error and shortcoming;

But who does actually strive to do the deeds;

Who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions;

Who spends himself in a worthy cause;

Who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement,

And who at the worst,

If he fails, at least fails while daring greatly,

So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.



1. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit – **Aristotle**
2. There is no more noble occupation in the world than to assist another human being – to help someone succeed. - **Alan Loy McGinnis**
3. You can't claim to have integrity unless it is your habit to always be honest - **Rick Warren**
4. When there is no change, life will still feel like yesterday - **Anonymous**
5. If you are patient in one moment of anger you will save a thousand days of sorrow - **Chinese proverb.**
6. The only difference from where you are right now and where you will be at this same time next year are the books you read and the people you meet - **Anon**

The Year in Pictures

The PEP Chronicle applauds the efforts and hard work of our Photography/Media department. The next few pages is a collection of their work. There are too many people to name as many have come and gone but their contributions will not be forgotten. We extend our deepest appreciation to all of the media team members who have put in countless hours and dedication to paint a picture of PEP life through pictures. Your work will live on forever. Thank You.



Our current Media Team members: from the left, Michael Smoltich, Luis Sabogal, Tye Paris, Andy Campos, Jimmy Moore and Henry Tolliver. Thank You Gentlemen for your work.



Angel Herrera doing what he loved.

In Remembrance of our friend and brother, Angel Herrera.

Once in a while we are lucky enough to have someone enter our life's who is a ray of light. Someone who seems to live each day with enthusiasm and a pure joy in anticipation of what each day may bring. Despite some hardships and setbacks they continue to see the good that life offers and spread that positivity to others. Our friend and brother, Angel Herrera, was one



such person. He came into PEP, embraced the program and changed his life. Each day seemed to be an adventure for Angel. He embraced life and looked forward to endless possibilities. But God tapped him on the shoulder and had other plans for him. Sometimes God sends a messenger to show us how precious life is. Angel touched many of us. We'll miss you friend.

In Remembrance of our friend Linda Thomas. Thank You for touching our lives and hearts.





The Year in Pictures



The Year in Pictures



The Year in Pictures



The Year in Pictures

Let's Dance!



The Year in Pictures

Lets Dance!

