



November - 2008

To: District Drug Awareness Chair-person(s),
Lodge Drug Awareness Chair-person(s)

DAP110: “Underage Drinking - Myths and Facts” pamphlet has been updated and has a whole new look. The DAP -110 is available for ordering and is on the Elks Drug Awareness Web site. The direct link is <http://www.elks.org/dap/dap110.cfm>. The Spanish version will be available on line by the end of November.

If you have not been to the Elks Web site lately you should try it out. The main web page and the member’s only pages have been redone. For current news on drug trends and where kids are turning to get the drugs they are using, please visit the Elks Drug Awareness web page at www.elks.org/dap and review the “Latest News” items listed there.

At the Drug Awareness Session held on Saturday September 27, it was announced that the Drug Awareness Program has received a limited matching grant from Grand Lodge for the purchase of a 5th Drug Awareness Trailer. We need to get bids for the new trailer. If anyone knows of someone that could provide a quote, please let me know.

The Elks Parenting is Prevention series is now available for only \$20, per set. The *Parenting is Prevention* series is designed to help you and members in your community build greater parental leadership. This series will also help parents understand how children in the new millennium are affected by their surroundings, not only at home but in school and the community.

This six-session series is based on Milton Creagh’s experiences not only as a father, but also as someone who has traveled extensively and seen the results of both good and bad parenting styles.

Each session can stand alone, but using the entire series will produce the most benefit for all attendees.

What Is A Parent?

Parenting is a joint project. Each parent must bring something to the table in raising a child, even if the parents are no longer together. Kids learn from what parents do far more than they learn from what parents say! The purpose of this video is to encourage and educate parents on how to become a more successful parent.

What Are We Teaching?

You are your child's first teacher! Your parenting style can either make it tougher or easier for teachers to teach your child. Our children are our greatest assets in society today. Anything we can do to help our young people grow up to be productive citizens is of utmost importance not only to their future, but to the future of families everywhere. The purpose of this video is to help show parents how to create a positive learning environment both at home and at school.

Stages of Drug Use

It is critical to know your child's best friends and their parents! Don't be misguided by the widely-held (and erroneous) beliefs that if your child starts using drugs, their grades will fall, their friends will change, and they'll lose interest in extracurricular activities. None of those things are likely to happen until the addiction stage. The purpose of this video is to educate you on the stages of drug use and some important steps you can take to protect your child.

Ending the Conspiracy Theory

Can you think of a time when you were guilty of the "not MY child syndrome"? How could you have handled the situation differently? We like to believe that our children will not lie to us, but they do. Some are lies of omission and some are lies of commission. The purpose of this video is to show you the importance of having your child hear and understand you in any situation.

High-Tech Meets Low-Tech

High-tech entertainment shouldn't replace the low-tech tradition of direct involvement in your child's life. Limitations need to be set for watching TV, talking on the cell phone, surfing the internet, and playing video games. The average American child watches more than 24 hours of television each week. That same child spends only 5 hours per week studying. The purpose of this video is to show you how important it is as a parent to be involved with what your child does in their every-day activities, whether they are at home or at school.

Behavior Begets Consequences

Of this generation, one in two kids will live at home with parents until their mid-twenties. One in four will live with their parents in a dependent state well into their thirties. This problem is tied to economic growth strain from a number of extenuating circumstances, including low work ethic. What are some things you are doing to teach your child a good work ethic? How about how to maintain a financial budget? Our children cannot become productive adults unless we teach them. The purpose of this video is to help you prepare your children for the future.

Recently, there has been a fair amount of confusion over the status of the Hard Choices comic book. As many of you know, this program (now three years old) was designed for schools and teachers and not as a hand out for Elks. While every Lodge in the country got a copy of the comic (and the teacher's guide and the order form) when the program first started, not every school was going to be able to participate nor did they opt to. Grand Lodge and Marvel tried to target schools located in the same jurisdiction as most (if not all) of our Lodges. They knew at the outset that not every school was going to be able to participate and that their budget wasn't large enough to fund every school.

The program is a huge success and although the National Directors were able to obtain several copies of "over run" comics and guides, it didn't last long before supplies dwindled (although it did take the better part of two years). Thanks to Marvel and ENF and the Elks web masters, they have been able to feature the comic book and the teachers guide on the Elks website.

Essentially, they have made both the comic and the teachers guide available to everyone with internet access. An announcement to this effect was sent to every Elks Lodge and I have been handing out the announcements at every DAP session. The Elks magazine also published an article to this effect. If you have anyone asking about Hard Choices, simply direct them to the Elks web site and they can download it. The web site is a great tool for you to use and to direct people to.

The National Director's are trying to negotiate with Marvel to obtain any more "over run" issues, but the simple truth might be that there are no more available.

Mr. Kent Gade (National Director of the Elks Drug Awareness Program) is negotiating with Marvel for the possibilities of developing a completely new issue! If they do produce a new comic it will take about a year before completion. These things are not in a "can" and every little detail has to be finely tuned and approved before production can start.

If you have any specific questions, comments or concerns about the comic book please feel free to direct them to me and I will do my best to answer or address them.

As, no one person can do this program alone or should they try and since no one person has all the ideas on how to reach more kids in Illinois, I would like to restart a section I use to have in my news letter called:

Lodge Drug Awareness Activities:

This section is for all of you to share your Drug Awareness Program ideas with each other. While what one Lodge does might not necessarily work for another Lodge it might just spark an idea. So please submit your program ideas and if you have pictures to me and I will put them in my news letter. You might even see them in the Elks National Magazine!!

Being an Elk, Elroy does not mind the cold weather. He can help make your inside event an success. To schedule one of the Elroy's, please contact;

Area 1 - Robert Swisher (217) 562-9292

Area 2 - Eddy Lundmark (630) 964-8247

Area 3 - Karl D. Wilson (618) 532-5681

Area 4 - Matt Stropes (309) 303-1036

Also, the Fatal Vision Goggles are available for use year round.

Please share this news letter with other Lodges in your District or other members in your Lodge that might not have received it.

One last item, I would like to share with you is an e-mail I was sent. The original author is unknown, but I thought you might be able to relate to it and in some cases agree with it:

Subject: Fwd: 'I went to a party mom'

Went to a party Mom
(read all the way to the bottom and sign your name)

I went to a party,
And remembered what you said.
You told me not to drink, Mom,
so I had a sprite instead.

I felt proud of myself,
The way you said I would,
that I didn't drink and drive,
though some friends said I should.

I made a healthy choice,
And your advice to me was right.
The party finally ended,
and the kids drove out of sight.

I got into my car,
Sure to get home in one piece.
I never knew what was coming, Mom,
something I expected least.

Now I'm lying on the pavement,
And I hear the policeman say,
the kid that caused this wreck was drunk,
Mom, his voice seems far away.

My own blood's all around me,
As I try hard not to cry.
I can hear the paramedic say,
this girl is going to die.

I'm sure the guy had no idea,
While he was flying high.
Because he chose to drink and drive,
now I would have to die.

So why do people do it, Mom
Knowing that it ruins lives?
And now the pain is cutting me,
like a hundred stabbing knives.

Tell sister not to be afraid, Mom
Tell daddy to be brave.
And when I go to heaven,
put 'Mommy's Girl' on my grave.

Someone should have taught him,
That it's wrong to drink and drive.
Maybe if his parents had,
I'd still be a live.

My breath is getting shorter,
Mom I'm getting really scared
These are my final moments,
and I'm so unprepared.

I wish that you could hold me Mom,
As I lie here and die.
I wish that I could say, 'I love you, Mom!'
So I love you and good-bye.

Sincerely:

Frank J. Burr

Frank J. Burr
IEA Drug Awareness Chairman

CC: F. Louis Sulsberger (State Sponsor – Past Grand Exalted Ruler),
Darrell Swisher (IEA State President),
IEA State Officers