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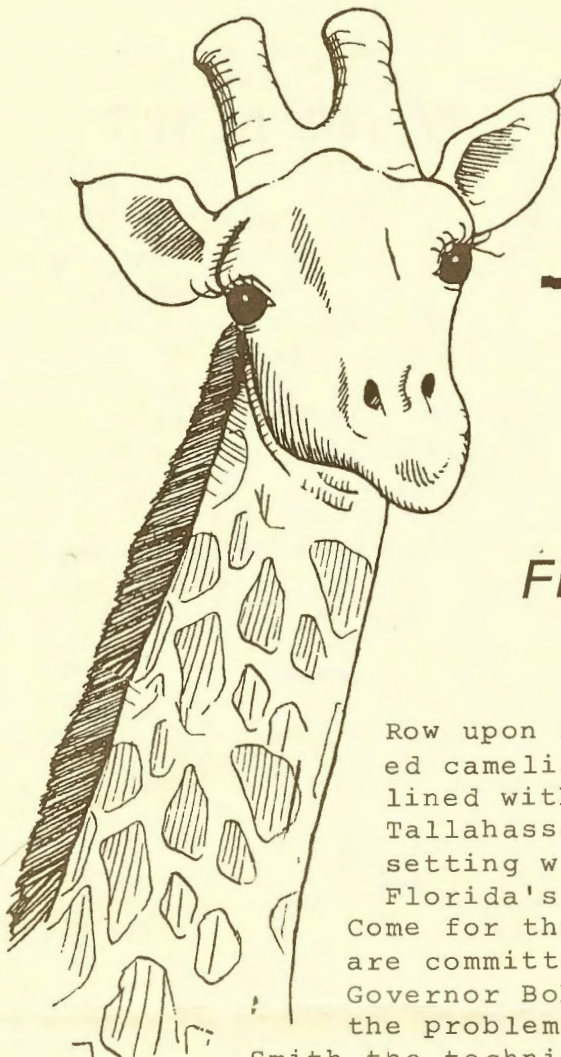
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FLORIDA INFORMED

FEBRUARY

PARENTS

1984

"COMMON GROUND" !!!!!

Florida's Prevention Symposium

Row upon row of azaleas in full bloom, perfectly formed camelia blossoms, sunny yellow daffodils, streets lined with dogwood forming a canopy of white lace -- Tallahassee in the Springtime awaits you. This serene setting will provide the backdrop for "Common Ground"- Florida's Prevention Symposium - March 21-22-23, 1984. Come for the 21st and 22nd and interact with others who are committed to stemming the tide of drug use. Meet Governor Bob Graham and hear about his commitment to the problem. Learn from your Attorney General Jim

Smith the techniques and strategies he is employing. Hear Peter Bell, Executive Director of the Black Institute of Cultural Studies in Minnesota, describe the kind of policy that your community must establish if it is to effectively deal with the problem. Discover what methods were used by Principal Bill Manning, author of "Harmfully Involved", as he rallied the efforts of an entire school (from the bus drivers to the administrators) and successfully met the needs of drug using members of the school family. Learn how to implement Project Graduation in your school providing drug-free fun for your graduating seniors. Learn how to set up a Tavern Task Force as Howard Rasmussen, Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, describes the model and how it can best be implemented to assure that youngsters under the legal age will not be able to purchase alcoholic beverages. Bring your young people who would like to become involved and allow them to participate in a two day fun packed agenda "just for kids."

Should you decide to linger for the third day, you may choose between these workshops: Parent Education, The Chemically Dependent Family, Identifying Substance Abuse, or Life Skills (implementing the RAISE bill).

For hotel reservations contact the Ramada Inn East, 1355 Appalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32301 and mention that you are attending the conference. A block of rooms will be held until March 6th. Call toll free 1-800-228-2828 or make a toll call to 1-904-877-3171. Ramada Inn is providing a shuttle from the hotel to the conference site daily - as well

....."STICKING OUR NECKS OUT FOR KIDS".....

as a free airport shuttle service. Rates are \$34. single or \$40. double. Reasonably priced rooms are also available at the Days Inn.

Sessions will be held at the unique F.S.U. Center for Professional Development. This architectural delight is within walking distance of the Capitol where a reception will be held in your honor.

"Common Ground" is for each of you - whatever your role in the community. "Common Ground" reflects the very essence of an effective community response to the problems of alcohol and drug abuse. It is essential for Chemical People Task Force Members, Parent Groups leaders, school personnel, clergy, and Kids Who Care. BE THERE!

EDUCATION CREDITS AVAILABLE
for
"COMMON GROUND"

- * The use of second dollar training funds has been applied for with the Fla. Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.
- * Ten nursing contact hours are available (March 21-22, and Six nursing contact hours are available (March 23rd.) \$5 fee for contact hours.
- * Four to six hours of continuing education credits have been applied for with the Department of Professional Regulation. Those eligible are:
 1. School Psychologists
 2. Clinical Social Workers
 3. Marriage & Family Therapists
 4. Mental Health Counselors
- * Category 1 credits for Alcoholism Counselors have been applied for through F.A.C.C.B.

IN THE NEWS

Widespread apathy toward illicit drugs has permitted the smugglers to operate openly in Colombia. That attitude may be changing. For one thing, Colombia has discovered a problem of drug abuse in its own backyard. A cigarette called "Basuco" is appearing on the streets. Children as young as 10 are buying it, paying about \$2. for five cigarettes containing coco paste, marijuana and such impurities as gasoline. (Wall Street Journal 11/28/83)

• • •

Alcohol counselors say that one out of 10 adults who drink become alcoholics, but that the odds are two or three times as great for adolescents who drink. (U.S. Journal of Drug and Alcohol Dependency, July, 1983)

• • •

In Sweden, as a result of a 1980 law, no hard liquor can be served at government expense. The idea is to show the Swedish people that you can have a swell time without booze. (Wall Street Journal)

• • •

The Diplomacy Against Drugs Amendment, aimed at blocking U.S. aid to drug producing countries, sponsored by Paula Hawkins, passed the Senate with a 96-0 vote and was signed into law. Nov. 22.

Passed as an amendment to the State Department Authorization Bill, this law will ban foreign aid to major opium, cocaine and marijuana producing countries with poor performance records of drug eradication. This measure also directs American representatives at international banks, such as the World Bank, to oppose loans to such nations unless they reduce their illicit drug output.

In introducing the amendment, Senator Hawkins made the point that U.S. foreign assistance and U.S.-backed loans should not be spent to support the economies of drug producing nations.

"We should not use taxpayers' dollars to help a country that helps put drugs on our streets," she said.

• • •

Francis M. Mullen, Jr., Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration has announced his intent to prepare an Environmental Impact statement that will consider possible environmental and health implications in the U.S. associated with domestic marijuana eradication. A range of alternatives will be considered including mechanical, manual and chemical means of eradication. Alternative herbicides such as 2, 4-D, paraquat and glyphosate will be considered. The illicit domestic cultivation and trafficking of cannabis is a significant problem in the U.S., both in quality and quantity of the product being produced. Sinsemilla production has increased in the U.S.; a single plant can yield at least one pound of pot with a much higher THC content than other types of cannabis. Anyone who has comments and suggestions concerning the scope of the Environmental Impact statement (range of actions, alternatives, and impacts) should contact (in writing) :

Thomas G. Byrne, Chief
Cannabis Investigations Section
Operations Division
D.E.A., U.S. Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20537



Ian MacDonald, a private pediatrician in Clearwater, Florida, is reportedly being considered by the White House as the director of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration. Dr. MacDonald has long been active in state anti-drug campaigns and his candidacy is supported by Florida alcohol and mental health professionals as well as those in the drug field. The position of director of ADAMHA was left vacant in October, 1983, when then-director William Mayer, M.D., resigned to assume the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

Dr. MacDonald has been actively involved with the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth on the national level and with the grassroots parent movement in the state of Florida. He is a strong spokesman for youth drug and alcohol prevention. It is through these activities that Dr. MacDonald gained the interest and support of Carlton Turner, Special Assistant to the President for Drug Abuse Policy, who reportedly is promoting Dr. MacDonald's candidacy.

Referring to Dr. MacDonald as "the president's nominee" to the ADAMHA position, Mr. Turner has said that the nomination will go to Congress soon and that the only delay involved is the FBI background investigation that is required for every high level appointment.

A partial list of Dr. MacDonald's credentials, as listed in the U.S. Journal of Drug and Alcohol Dependence, includes: Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of South Florida; Director of Clinical Research, Straight, Inc.; President, Scientific Advisory Board, American Council on Drug Education; and Chairman, Fla. Medical Association's Drug Abuse Committee.

Florida Informed Parents, Inc. congratulates Dr. MacDonald on his candidacy and looks forward to having a Floridian of his caliber serving as the Chief Executive of all federal drug, alcohol and mental health programs.

RESOURCES

- For up-to-date information on drug use and effects, drugs and crime, drugs and education, drugs and industry in an easy to read format DRUG ABUSE UPDATE can be ordered from Families in Action, Suite 300, 3845 N. Druid Hills Road, Decatur, GA 30033. There are four issues per year; cost for a years' subscription is \$5.00.
- "Up Front Drug Information offers drug information, pamphlets on substances and signs of substance use, referral to treatment and support groups and much more.

Up Front's S.P. Lab tests alleged drugs for actual content. Many lab clients are parents who find suspicious substances among their children's belongings and, wisely, want to know what they are talking about before confronting their children. For details on Up Front services call weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 446-3585 in Dade or toll free from other Florida counties to 1-800-432-8255.
- Ruby Wilcox, founder of PRIDE of Polk County and recently featured on television's "Hour Magazine" with Dr. Ian MacDonald, is available to speak to your groups. Her favorite topics are: "Effects of Drugs on the Minds and Bodies of Adolescents" and "Economic Effects of Drugs on Everyone." She can be contacted at 948 Heron Ct., Winter Haven, FL 33880 or 1-813-324-4959.

- For suggested School Policy Guideline's based on Northside High School in Atlanta, GA contact "Committees of Correspondence" P.O. Box 232, Topsfield, MA 01983 and ask for Issue #14, Dec., 1983.

- Available through the F.I.P. office:

1. Project Graduation brochures have been printed to help "spread the word" in your community about this exciting project. Kids can have safe, drug free fun during the commencement season.
2. Project Graduation Manual: A "how-to" guide for the chairman of the project in each school.
3. Tavern Task Force Guidelines: step-by-step help as you implement your community's plan to enforce "no sales" of alcoholic beverages to minors.
4. Scholarship Applications for Attorney General Jim Smith Scholarship Loan Fund. This fund was established by the Attorney General and is administered by F.I.P. It's intent is to provide an opportunity for advanced education (college or vocational/technical) to a young person who has successfully completed a drug rehabilitation program.

National Federation of Parents Annual Conference

September 27-29, 1984
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

GRASSROOTS

"Project Graduation" is off to an exciting start in Leon County under the leadership of Suraya Teeple. Suraya is herself the victim of a drunken driver and has undergone extensive facial reconstruction as a result of the automobile accident that almost caused her death. Suraya comes to Project Graduation determined to educate Leon County's young people about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and automobiles.

Suraya worked with the "Project Graduation" concept in Maryland before she moved to Florida. She is employed by the Bureau of Highway Safety and has the enthusiastic support of her agency for her volunteer efforts.

Suraya has begun speaking to community groups about her accident, using her personal experience to graphically demonstrate the need for "Project Graduation." She has spoken to the Lincoln High School Task Force, and the Leon County Task Force Steering Committee. She hopes to be speaking to the Chamber of Commerce soon. Plans call for her to meet with the presidents of the student bodies from all over the county in the next few weeks.

and...

In Winter Park, Paramedics Against Drunk Drivers has formed (P.A.D.D.) under the motto "We've Had Enough!" For information, write: P.A.D.D., 2808 Amsden Road, Winter Park, FL, 32792.

and...

Rick Soskis, secretary of the Chemical People Task Force of Gadsden County, reports that Lynn Massey is the Chairperson of that group this year. Under the leadership of Lynn and Rick this group has set

three goals for itself:

- 1) to educate themselves and the county's citizens about the drug and alcohol problem;
- 2) to link those who need help to those who can provide help;
- 3) and, to nurture positive peer pressure and to reverse negative peer pressure through education and parental involvement.

and...

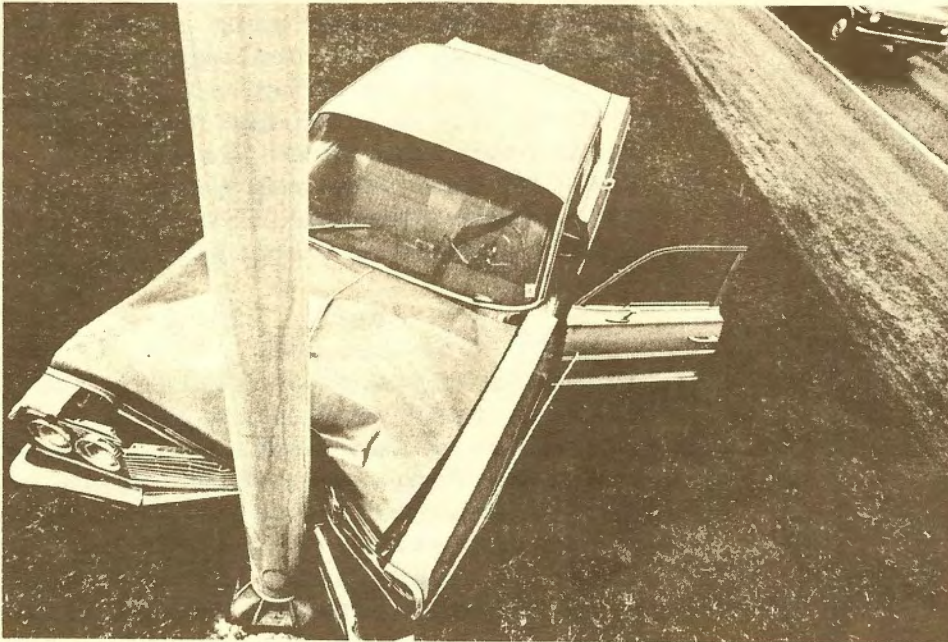
The Fort Lauderdale Informed Parents group was officially incorporated in December, 1983, and by mid January had been the catalysts for a police videotape movie of beachfront night life. Members of the newly organized Fort Lauderdale Informed Parents group has asked for police tours of the mile of beach and bars where as many as 1600 children and teenagers congregate at night. Police had been looking for a way to warn parents of the dangers inherent in "crusing the 'strip'". Alcohol and drug abuse, violence and prostitution were rampant and officers hoped to encourage parents to keep their children away from the beach, especially at night. So, armed with their videotape equipment, police taped an hour long film entitled "Hanging Out--A typical Friday Night on Fort Lauderdale Beach With Your Kids." The film was premiered at Sunrise Middle School before 1300 interested citizens.

lastly...

The Task Force representing the western part of Citrus County meets every two weeks since The Chemical People. (Much to our delight, a portion of the meeting is spent reviewing the F.I.P. newsletter.) They are planning to invite Nancy and Bill Perkins to come to their community in early March as a part of their "Walk Aound America" (see Dec. issue of F.I.P. newsletter.)

A Child Has Died

An Editorial by June Milam,
Director of DREAM



Editor's Note: This kind of party with this kind of tragic result is not native to Jackson, Mississippi. It happens everywhere. Perhaps it has already occurred in your town. If it has I hope you fought back. If it hasn't, let this child's death be a lesson for you. Let this child's death save other children's lives.

A 17 year old girl I didn't even know has died and I share her family's grief. But even worse, in some strange and twisted way I feel the responsibility for her death. Yet, I, alone, am not responsible for her death. There are approximately 300 other parents who must also assume this burden of responsibility-Responsibility born of neglect - Responsibility born of indecision -Responsibility born of giving in to pressure.

It was to be "the party of parties". It was billed as "Ye Old Christmas Boog". The idea was to "rally in the Christmas spirit" - true "Bacchanalian Revelry". Starting as soon as school was out at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, a 24 hour bash was to begin - Forty miles up the Natchez Trace kids from all Jackson area schools sped. How could anyone miss "the party"?! *Everyone* was going to be there. For \$3.00 per person you could get whatever you wanted - the chance to be seen; the chance to dance with someone special; the opportunity to feel included; and for many, the opportunity to get as drunk as you possibly could. Kegs of beer and cases of liquor produced staggering, vomiting kids. But weren't they "having fun!"

By 1:00 a.m. the fun was all over for one promising young girl. Her body lay crushed in the grass where she was thrown from the car in which she was riding. The fun was all over for the 16 year old driver of the car who was also injured. There was no "Christmas spirit" in the homes of those two girls. Hopefully, there was diminished "Christmas spirit" in the homes of the boys who put together this wonderful bash. I know there was diminished "Christmas spirit" in my home as a result of this tragedy.

Why do I feel responsible? I allowed my daughter to attend that party for an hour and a half. Never mind all the reasons why I felt compelled to let her go even if only for so short a period of time. Never mind that I consulted with the parents of her friends and we collectively came to this conclusion. Never mind that I had a long and mature talk with my daughter and her friends concerning this particular party. Never mind that she obeyed the rules and was even glad that I had asked her to be in earlier than her normal curfew. Never mind that she learned that those "kinds" of parties weren't really that much fun. My husband and I were just plain lucky. It could have been my daughter that was killed that night.

The responsibility for this child's death falls clearly on my shoulders and the shoulders of every other parent for allowing such a party to occur.

We may lament, "Parties like this have been going on for a long time" - "we'd be naive to think that we could stop them!" But we can. Parties like this become much less glamorous if very few people can attend. Parents of those children giving them would be very reluctant to allow it if they realized that they were going to be sued should something like this child's death occur. We owe it to our children to remember that teens, cars and alcohol are lethal! We owe it to our children to stop this kind of revelry.

A child has died and I feel responsible. But I am determined to learn from this experience. For the sake of this child and her family, I hope that all those other parents do the same.

A Teacher: Help Me Stop Drug Abuse

BY DOROTHY M. KENNEDY

LAST YEAR, Bill J. was a 17-year-old junior in a literature class I taught.* He virtually inhaled Poe, Emerson, Whitman, and *Mad* magazine. His eyes danced when I made clever remarks, and I played to him shamelessly. He discovered that he could write poetry with powerful images, and he dabbled with an impressive one-act play. He instigated a pun contest that kept the class groaning for weeks. He was, in short, delightful, and I wasn't at all surprised to learn that his P.S.A.T. scores were unusually high for our little rural school.

This year, the same Bill J. occupies space in my senior composition class. His papers—if they arrive at all—are trite and disorganized. He has trouble focusing on a topic, and his attention span is that of a seventh-grader. Even the broadest humor escapes him, and as for the scintillating subtleties of language, forget it. Like, he's burned out, man, don't bother him 'cause the only thing he's worried about is where his next joint is coming from.

Jenny T. is a girl I've known since she was in the sixth grade. She was strikingly beautiful then, as she is now—if you can find her beyond the vacant eyes, stringy hair, and ragged denim coat. She used to write long, tangled essays in which she described her struggles to get along with her mother, her wistful hope of going to modeling school someday, and her efforts to keep her grades up. But somewhere along the line, Jenny decided to give up rather than grow up. Now she pops Quaaludes, and only her friendly drug pusher can reach her.

Lance C. has begun to worry me recently. He never was what you'd call a model student, but his work was average or better, his attendance good, and his disposition generally pleasant. I could talk to him and get a sensible response. But in the past few weeks I've watched his work slip, his attendance fall, and his moods vary from viciously sullen to jumping-in-the-air, heel-clicking, hyper-happy. Yesterday, he walked

into the wall and then complained of a headache. Later, I saw him in the hallway having an earnest conversation with a known drug dealer. I can't prove that Lance is "on" anything, but every instinct I have tells me his changed behavior is of chemical origin.

Multiply these three cases many times over, throw in a batch of neophyte alcoholics, and you get a picture of what today's high school (and junior high) teachers face in their classrooms every day. These kids might never experience the exhilaration that comes from doing a difficult task well. There will be no fine musicians, athletes, salesmen, artists, or writers from this group. They've chosen to take a shortcut to what they think is happiness. Because I care about them, their choice leaves me filled with anger, disgust, and frustration.

Mostly frustration.

I began teaching 20 years ago, and I've been learning ever since. I've learned how to cope with teenagers' mouths, moods, whims, and insecurities. I've learned how to recognize a con job, how to cajole the lazy students, how to prod the gifted ones. I usually know what to do about their boredom, inattention, rudeness, tardiness, forgetfulness, sloppiness, carelessness. You name it, I can handle it. Except for drugs.

I'm programmed to work with human beings, genuine American-style kids, teenage bodies with teenage minds. I don't know what to do with the zombies I'm assigned. I can't reach 16 or 17-year-old bodies filled with mind-altering chemicals. My time-honored gimmicks don't work. The graduate courses, seminars, and inservice training sessions I've been offered certainly don't address the problem. Oh, I can find lots of experts to teach me how to construct valid tests and measurements, how to mainstream the retarded and enrich the gifted, and how to use the latest audiovisual aids. I even can find a methods course in teaching drug education, but I'm an English teacher, and I don't really want to transfer to the health department. I just want to know what to do about the drug users in my own classroom. Do I lecture them? Court them? Ignore them? Kick them out? And what happens to the "normal" kids in my classroom while I wrestle with the problem?

I realize there are no simple answers to these questions. But it's time (or past time) for administrators and professors to sit down with rank-and-file classroom teachers to dig for answers. Perhaps the few stopgap measures I've devised in desperation to help me cope in my classroom can help get the dialogue going. The list is short and almost certainly inadequate, but I offer it in the hope it might generate more profound ideas:

1. Nobody is allowed to use my classroom as a forum to promote drug abuse. I do not tolerate talk about who got how high over the weekend and what a cool party that was. Serious discussion of drugs is another matter, of course, but I refuse to put up with snickering, meaningful glances, and inside jokes about drugs. If the kids want to promote that life-style, they'll have to do it on their own time. I refuse to be intimidated by their pseudosophisticated claptrap.

2. I openly deplore the influence of the drug culture in the media, frequently citing *Saturday Night Live* and the *Tonight* show as hideous examples. I let my students know that I find nothing humorous about a performer who is stoned or a skit that is based upon the misery of addiction. I write similar messages to the networks and encourage my students and their parents to do the same.

3. When public figures speak out against drug abuse, I ballyhoo their comments. Carol Burnett's disclosure of the family struggle with daughter Carrie's addiction got plenty of play in my classroom. So did a less publicized comment by Ringo Starr indicating that he had never used drugs because he had to keep his head clear to work with the Beatles.

4. I try to serve as an example of a fully alive, adult human being who gets her kicks out of life rather than drugs. I dramatize my enthusiasms, and if the kids laugh, I laugh with them. Together, we explore such topics as yoga, backpacking, reroofing a garage, playing the guitar, canoeing, raising orchids, and photography. I try always to promote involvement rather than passivity.

5. I cooperate fully with other efforts within our school to cope with the drug problem. We have an excellent class in

* All student names used in this story are fictional.

drug education, and I encourage kids to enroll. I do the same for the interpersonal relations class, because I believe in its approach. Our library has plenty of current material on drugs, and I advise kids to study it. Our guidance department is outstanding, and I make frequent referrals. When a kid like Lance begins bouncing off the wall, the counselors need to know about it.

I support the administration, too. Whenever administrators stage a drug bust and suspend those caught, I applaud their efforts. If they want to bring in dogs or do locker searches, it's all right with me. I don't have any problem with civil liberties. I can justify such moves easily with a cliché such as, "All's fair in love and war," telling myself that if we love teenagers, we must declare war on drugs.

How about it, experts? Am I right? If I'm going in the wrong direction, let me know. If you have better ideas, tell me. I have several thousand colleagues who would like to know, too. ■

Reprinted,

Texas War on Drugs

REGISTRATION

Florida State Prevention Symposium
"COMMON GROUND"

March 21-22-23
Tallahassee, Florida
Center for Professional Development

Registration Fee of \$35.00 is enclosed..... ☐
Youth Registration of \$20.00 is enclosed..... ☐
I will need a luncheon ticket; \$5.00 is enclosed..... ☐
I am a nurse, license#_____, and have enclosed \$5.00
for ____ contact hours..... ☐
I plan to attend a workshop on the 23rd from 9-4 entitled
_____. I have enclosed \$10.00 for this..... ☐

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