



# 2010 IPLEA WINTER RETREAT

## Review

Sponsored by IPLEA  
January 11 & 12, 2010



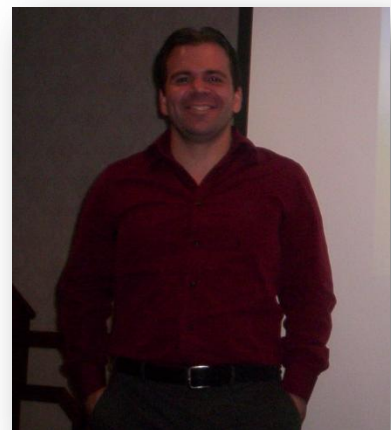
The 2010 IPLEA Winter Retreat was a successful day and a half training and networking session. Thirty park law enforcement professionals from twelve different agencies learned about troubled teenagers and their subcultures on Monday, and then on Tuesday they learned about the types of illegal drugs many of these groups use. At the Board meeting, a new IPLEA President was elected. A banquet was held, where the 2009 “Officer” and “Department” of the Year awards were announced.

The Comfort Suites City Center in Aurora, Illinois provided an excellent training facility and was conveniently located near entertainment venues. The conference room was complete with a refreshment and coffee bar and meals were provided during the conference. Even the weather was accommodating, as many attendees were fortunate with an easy commute from the surrounding area.

The January IPLEA Board meeting occurred on Sunday evening, January 10<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting, a vote was taken by the board members to fill the vacant board president position. As a result of the vote, Board Vice President Patti Bowker of the Kane County Forest Preserve District was elected as the new IPLEA Board President. The resulting Vice President vacancy will be up for consideration in the future.

The Monday training session was titled, “*When Problem Teens Become Your Problem.*” Dr. Michael Pica Psy D., a licensed clinical psychologist experienced in residential, inpatient, correctional, and outpatient practice, as well as, serving as a clinical director of an inpatient adolescent psychiatric unit provided the attendees with a wealth of information.

Dr. Pica delved into the adolescent psychological development and the theories that explain a child’s development and recognition of one’s self. The Doctor also discussed the effects of family and cultural systems and how they shape the adolescents identity in the social environment.





Perhaps the most important concept Dr. Pica expounded on was the idea of transference, “bringing the past into the present.” The teens that the officers may be dealing with may be displaying issues from their past in the present situation. Dr. Pica stressed that the officer’s need to check their own transference when dealing with others, since their past experiences, ideas, and prejudices influence their perceptions of others in the present. If the officers can control their own transference, they may appear more open to the troubled teen and improve communication with them. Dr. Pica stressed that this advancement in communication was always after the situation with the teen was made safe. Dr. Pica acknowledged that

sometimes there isn’t time to apply these approaches when the situation is out of control, or the teen is not responding.

Dr. Pica proceeded to describe many teen types and subcultures, complete with photos and music association. Many teen groups, their style, and “substance abuse of choice” were known among attendees. Some attendees were made aware of some of the more modern teen groups, like “Emos,” “Scream-Os,” and “Anime kids.” It was a full day of information that everyone was able to benefit from whether on the job or in their personal life.

On Monday evening, IPLEA hosted a dinner banquet at the hotel. During the banquet, an announcement was made welcoming the new IPLEA President, Patti Bowker. The 2009 IPLEA Agency and Officer of the Year awards were also announced. The Fox Valley Park District was voted “Agency of the Year” by the IPLEA Board for their Department’s commitment to achieving CALEA accreditation status. Both recipients were awarded a plaque and certificate by Board President Patti Bowker.



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