



Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association

P.O. Box 206 Norris, Tennessee 37828-0206

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To: Tennessee Middle School Principals and Superintendents

The Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association (TLEOA) wants to help your children in the fight against drugs and alcohol. Even with all of the efforts being made to stem the tide of drug abuse in the United States, we have to stop and ask ourselves, "Is it enough?"

While advances have been made, abuse has increased among young and chronic users. Each year, drugs and alcohol trigger up to \$75 billion in health care costs. Of the two million deaths in the United States each year, more than 25% are attributed to alcohol, illicit drugs, or tobacco use. Still, the question remains, "What more can we do as parents and educators?"

To add a new dimension to the attack on drugs, the TLEOA has established an essay contest for Tennessee's eighth-grade middle school students to reinforce the message that drugs and alcohol destroy lives. Our annual contest, "Why I will say NO to Alcohol and Drugs," will begin immediately. **The entries must be postmarked no later than January 20, 2006.** The TLEOA will award a total of \$5,400 in cash prizes to the first, second, and third place winners in each of the association's nine districts throughout the state. Contest entries will be judged by each district director and winners will be notified in the Spring of 2006 to award prizes honoring the top winners. **(1st Place \$300.00, 2nd Place \$200.00, 3rd Place \$100.00 in each district)**

We urge participating schools to make this an interdisciplinary event, encouraging art classes to make posters announcing the contest and asking social studies and health classes to research information and discuss the impact of drugs on individuals, families, and the community.

The enclosed brochure gives details of the contest theme and rules. It also gives you information of TLEOA nine District Directors. If you have any questions regarding the contest, feel free to contact your **TLEOA District Director** or myself at **P.O. Box 206, Norris, TN 37828-0206 or call (865) 494-3626.**

Sincerely,

Randy L. Roddy
TLEOA Secretary/Treasurer