Support Staff Council 2012 - 2013

“Service Through Support”

Support Staff Board’s theme for the year “Service Through Support” was presented to the quarterly meeting participants and all was approved as presented.

This included a project to not only update SS website but to provide a link for concerns to be sent to the president. A monitor has agreed to overlook those transmissions and offer guidance, when needed. The person’s name is not required in order to offer suggestions or complaints. Concerns, compliments, questions, etc. brought by members will be read by the Support Staff President and then passed on to Dr. Wise. Secondly, we will begin to archive the large amount of materials, notes, etc., on this website. Webmaster Erin Simpson met with us and has been most helpful in assisting and directing us.

Projects with a long standing history will be continued again this year. These projects include Fall and Spring Festival hot dog sale and February’s Secondhand Hearts sale are the fund raisers for the Support Staff Scholarships. There could be as many as five recipients this semester.

There was a renewed desire to rejuvenate the manuals given to Support Staff new hires. This has not been done in several years and is a task that can be streamlined with the upgrade of our website. However, the monitoring of ever changing personnel is a task needing cooperation on several fronts. Currently, we have someone on the executive board that is aware of all new hires. This is something to be addressed at a later date and perhaps made a permanent committee.

UT Mobile Mammography unit will be asked to return to our campus. This past year 18 people were serviced. “Making Strides against Breast Cancer” walk was announced for October in hopes we will have a team.

Promoting good works and pride in our organization will be done with our Secret Pal program and the Quarterly Support Staff Award will be brushed off to be headed by a committee that will report to the President and Executive Council. Additionally, programs for professional growth along with invited speakers on various topics will be scheduled to give presentations at varying times of our work day. Scheduling is essential in the success of participation. Topics will vary from health concerns to assistance with aging parents. Regular meetings are held quarterly but plans are being made to have these presentations on a monthly/bi-monthly schedule.

Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays will be celebrated with a lunch and breakfast. The Thanksgiving lunch will be a covered dish affair as well as the Christmas breakfast. The breakfast will, however, be themed “Bring a Dish, Bring a Friend”. We are encouraging staff to invite boss, work study student, faculty, or contract worker to this event.

Florence Crittenden is an organization Support Staff Council will be supporting throughout the year and based on this organization’s needs. Links will be added to the web site so members can participate at will.
The slogan for our activities (Service Through Support) and overall purpose was introduced to our group but was further explained by our speaker, Annie Gray. It is our sincere hope that we will collaborate with Service-Learning throughout the year. Dr. Gray and I have spoken at length about the means in which we, as a group, are partnering to provide the needs of others but can direct our attention to the needs of our Service Learning students and faculty. In this manner, we feel as if we can strengthen not only Service Learning but our entire Pellissippi family.

Holiday grocery gift cards to needy staff members will again be distributed at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Amounts will vary based on the number of those requesting and funds donated. It is our hope to include those faculty and students who are also in need. This effort can yet be another collaborative project with Service-Learning.

Monthly Executive Board meetings are being held on and will include all site campuses and have already been arranged.

Attached you will find the text of what Annie Gray so graciously spoke to Support Staff on Wednesday, July 25th. It is this spirit I have asked Support Staff Council to contribute to themselves and our entire Pellissippi family.

Thank you for your time and support.

Kathy King

Support Staff President

August 2, 2012