



CHESAPEAKE REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Giving Back

Corny Galdones, April 2005

None of us would be where we are today without the nurture and care from various individuals and groups eager and glad to share their time, knowledge and support with us. Our debt to them is priceless, our gratitude boundless. The ultimate tribute we can make is to carry on their legacy by giving back in kind to others.

For whatever reason, some within our ranks disappear when it comes to giving back. Others stay in the background. Perhaps their supervisors can motivate these detached who have forgotten what got them here. Gads, by doing their own thing, they may even have a life! The dedicated among us bearing the brunt of the burden can only hope for one. Thank goodness for these folks. Else, officials would soon become an endangered species.

For the uninitiated who don't know how to get involved or are new in the limelight, here's a Giving Back 101 primer. If management is your goal, show over time that you're competent and committed. Be careful for what you wish for because ambitious, quality leaders willing to work for peanuts are in demand. If no one comes calling, start out on your own. Every individual effort counts.

We once admired and patterned ourselves after role models. We've become one. On the sly, those of less stature will study us as icons on assignment and in public. What we say and do will be gospel. So set a shining example everywhere you go. Be someone's idol.

We once learned from teachers, observation and experience. Pass on your acquired wisdom to a novice. Tutor and guide. Focus on your charge's mentality and behavior as much as technical skills. "Do as I say, not as I do" is okay for nobody's perfect. Cover the ideals, logistics and expectations of core activities. Develop a grounded, rounded professional that people can trust anytime, anywhere. After your protégé matures, recruit and aid another and continue on. Seeing them grow and prosper rewards you with a sense of pride and gratification. Improving their welfare while treating them with respect gains you respect in return as a mentor. That's a bonus.

Our membership organizations once invested in us and still do. Be not only a taker, but a giver too. Volunteer laborers as well as leaders are sought. You're in the wrong outfit if you'll only work for pay. Make time and step forward. Find a staff job where you can be of use. If no opening exists, create a niche to fill a need. If you find fault in a system function, fix it. Solve, not complain. Aim to serve and produce results, preferably good results. Do your share and do it well, and you'll earn acceptance and acclaim. Moreover, our organizations survive, if not thrive, for another day and everyone's happy. Well, almost everyone.

Officiating is a choice. Protecting its lifeblood and health is in the best interest of all who elect to pursue this enriching avocation. Ascent and attrition now make us the torchbearers of our profession. Just blowing the whistle isn't enough. We have a higher calling to help others like others once helped us. Our commitment, loyalty and sense of obligation are vital to growing our pastime for the benefit of one and all. Show our love. Give back.