



# POWER CHOICES<sup>©</sup>

*Guiding People and Businesses to Choose Passion & Performance for Amazing Health & Wealth*

*Choose to Identify*

October 2005

## Power Choice #10– Identify – Laura Novakowski

Families struggle, friends move on, communities change, companies restructure and if we are **not clear** about what matters most in our lives, we can become overwhelmed and distracted. How can you avoid getting caught up those in actions and activities? Consider the following:

In an operations meeting, the group engaged in a lengthy discussion about how much to financially contribute to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Finally, a woman quietly said, "As I drove to work today, I appreciated the beauty of the countryside – I had not lost my home or community. Filling the gas tank, I was glad that I had money to pay for gas – I had not lost my job. I am going home tonight and intend to cherish my family – I have not lost a loved one. But as I think about those things that I **now** appreciate so much more, I must say, that I for one am willing to give up reporting less of a profit. I would rather leave this meeting today knowing that I can help those who are not as blessed as I am. I am willing to work harder to make up the difference, if the rest of you feel, we must make up that financial difference. But, this issue is more important for me than just being in business and serving customers. *This is about serving humanity.* It is a fellow organization that we are talking about. And, I believe we need to do more!"

The room was incredibly silent. Then suddenly, the financial officer reviewed again how successful the organization was year-to-date. Another person identified what could be done to reduce costs and designate even more dollars to help those affect the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Suggestions and support grew in the room. When the meeting was over, the organization had committed **3 times** the original designated donation. Additionally, the group created a plan to **extend monthly** support until at least the end of the year.

The CEO leaned back in his chair and slowly passed his gaze around the room. "I am extremely proud to be part of this organization and associated with such exceptional people." Every man and woman in that room shifted in their seats and sat taller.

As they exited the meeting, people hugged, shook hands, slapped each other on the back. It was clear that everyone had just been part of something truly extraordinary. They had shown their commitment to values and to stand out as leaders. They each were grateful to identify with a company and a team that stood for something that would and could make a difference for so many that they did not know and would probably never meet.

To identify with people that want to do the right thing – that's a powerful choice!

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## Choices to Ponder

- I choose to identify with honor!
- I choose to associate with people who take positive action!

*"Your self image is your pattern!. Every thought has an activity visualized. Every activity belongs to a pattern. You identify with your pattern or thought. Your patterns leads your life."*

J. G. Gallimore



An Amazing Biography!

Boyd  
Robert Coram

## *Identify with Legacy Leaving Actions*

Leanne Hoagland-Smith

A man's identity is not best thought of as the way in which he is separated from his fellows but the way in which he is united with them."

Robert Terwilliger

Have you ever thought that you have not done much with your life? During a recent conversation with a very dear friend, she expressed this very same sentiment. I was astounded that this energetic, high family and work ethic person had this negative self-image, but pleased that she felt comfortable sharing this thought.

Quickly, I began to ask her questions about all of the "Legacies" that she had left in this world during the last 60 plus years. Since her retirement, she relocated to be near her daughters, grandchildren and in-laws to support them. This support included taking her grandchildren to necessary school functions, being there for them after school while still being actively involved in her church and local civic organizations. Her high values, unselfish and positive attitudes to overcome life's challenges became a rock for her family and friends. As we continued to talk, she expressed several times how I made her feel much better. Her honesty provided me with the opportunity to return one of the many legacies that she had shared with me during our 30 plus year friendship.

After our conversation ended, I began to wonder why someone with such incredible gifts and who had personally left countless individual legacies with so many people had such feelings of inadequacy?

Possibly, the presence of the media from local newspapers to television to the Internet may contribute to the development of these feelings. When we hear and see the success of others who have reached high positions whether in business or government, we may start comparing our accomplishments with these high profile media persons. Unfortunately what happens is that many of our "average" citizens fail to understand that it is these average citizens who are the backbone of this country and without their legacies we would not be the country that we are. Plato recognized the importance of citizens over 2000 years ago when he wrote, " This City is what it is because our citizens are what they are."

Each of us lives a legacy, not when we are gone from this earth, but when we are here. Our legacy may be something as simple as a smile to a complete stranger to taking the time to help a friend or co-worker through a difficult situation.

Just imagine what the world could be like if everyone looked at every interaction as an opportunity to leave a legacy? What would happen to your personal relationships if you intentionally acted with the desired end result to make each and every interchange one in which you left a legacy that the other person could build upon and then later share with another? Or how about at work? What additional heights could your team reach and how much stronger would your organization be by such "Legacy Leaving Actions"?



With the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the fourth anniversary of 9/11 on the horizon, the American public is being reminded of the importance of legacies. Citizens both private and corporate across the country are demonstrating "Legacy Leaving Actions" by donating their time and resources to help those affected by this natural disaster. Through the stories of those who survived 9/11 and those who didn't, again, American citizens can hear and even see how they, average American citizens, left legacies during that fateful day which changed our country forever.

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## Complete the following Power Choice Inventory...

- Do you choose to identify with a person that complains about his/her problems in life?  
or
- Do you choose to identify with those who find grace even when faced with life-threatening illness?
- Do you choose to identify with a person who criticizes others because of something they said or do?  
or
- Do you choose to identify with those who understand where the others are coming from?
- Do you choose to identify with the person who throws the blanket over his/her head because it's raining?  
or
- Do you choose identify with those who jump up and make a splash in the puddles?

Conduct your "Choices Inventory" in conjunction with the action planner found on the last page of this newsletter. Finding **your** inspiration will help you to find your *magical potential and go beyond purpose to achievement* to making your dreams a reality and making conscious choices that will crystallize the life **you** desire.

*If you are interested in learning more about processes that help you and your organization **inspire** new ways of looking at every situation, **implement** Power Choice strategies, and **improve** results, please contact us at:*

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*"An artist must possess Nature. He must **identify** himself with her rhythm, by efforts that will prepare the mastery which will later enable him to express himself in his own language."  
Henri Matisse*



## Action Plan Exercise: Power Choice #10 – Choose to Identify

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1. Describe a person that you would like to identify with and why  

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2. Describe at least 3 behaviors that take away from what you have chosen to identify with  

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3. Describe at least 3 behaviors that you can improve to help you come closer to the person that you would like to identify with  

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4. Write 3 action steps that will take you closer to the person with whom you identify and take action  

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*Please contact Leanne or Laura if you are willing to sharing your responses.  
We would love to hear from you.*

If you are interested in a keynote or seminar to excite the  
**M.A.G.I.C.A.L.™ Potential: 7 Capacities for Going Beyond Purpose to Achievement**

for you or your people, please contact:

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