



**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE**

2293 North Main Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Office: (219) 755-3200
Home: (219) 322-4139
Fax: (219) 755-3064

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GERRY J. SCHEUB, President

**EDITORIAL
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS
OF LAKE COUNTY**

Now that the election is over, I want to express my deepest appreciation not only to those that supported me but also to all citizens of our county that participated in one of the most important civic duties... the duty and obligation of voting.

We are facing turbulent times ahead. In addition to my concern for the general welfare of all our citizens, I am also concerned about the abominable curse of illegal drugs. There are those sub-humans amongst us motivated by greed who prey upon our young and those addicted to narcotics. No matter how diligently we pursue drug dealers and incarcerate them there are always other criminals that fill their shoes and continue their pursuit of the despicable deleterious illegal trade. Drugs do and will continue to destroy lives unless and until a final and effective solution is devised.

I often wonder why our national leaders do not subscribe to the idea of creating a national agency that would administer a program for addicts. Addicted persons would be examined by qualified medical personnel to determine if they are indeed addicted and then be administered the drug at a minimal cost. This would also be a method of cure through professional assistance. If and when such a program is instituted, the illegal drug trade will effectively be eliminated.

I know such proposal will meet with furor and loud acrimonious protestations. There will be those that vehemently assert that legalizing drugs is morally and ethically unacceptable. But, is it morally and ethically acceptable to allow the abominable illicit trade to flourish and devastate a myriad of human lives? Others will advocate that addicts always exalt the virtues of drugs and attempt to convert innocent others to addiction. But, how are addicts going to convert any one when they would never have possession of any drugs? Addicts would have to be medically certified as addicts and would receive their drug of choice in a controlled environment and under the supervision of qualified personnel.

It is time to stop the terrorizing of law-abiding citizens. The senseless waste of innocent lives taken from families due to these criminals.

It is high time that a governmentally administered program for addicts be publicly debated and considered. Thanks again to all of you that took the time out to vote.

Gerry Scheub, President
LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER