

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

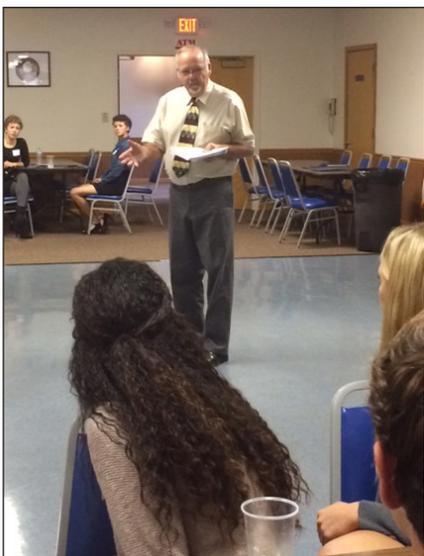
Seeing yourself through another's eyes can be, well, eye-opening.

That was the case for many Pickaway County high school students who took part in the annual Student Leadership Conference held at AmVets last Friday.

Bill Frost, retired Logan Elm school counselor and football coach, was the keynote speaker and reminded the nearly 60 students that they are leaders and are viewed as such by those around them.

"Realize, kids, that people look up to you and admire you," he said.

And while leadership comes with privileges, he said, it also comes with responsibilities.



Bill Frost talks to students about leadership during the Student Leadership Conference held at AmVets last Friday.



"Making decisions is tough. When you make decisions for big things you need to make it for the right reasons," Bill said.

Bill encouraged students to weigh the good and bad when having to make decisions.

"You won't always make the right decision but it's easier to accept the consequences of your decisions if you can say that you thought it out and the good outweighed the bad."

In addition to Bill's presentation, the conference is an opportunity for the students to discuss ethics and leadership.

Jacob Bowe, a Teays Valley junior, said the conference was a good opportunity to learn more about being a leader.

The captain of the junior varsity football team, Jacob said he liked the ethics session best. During this session, each student was given a fake pot of \$2,000 to spend on items at a values auction. Students had to decide how items such as looking good, getting a high school diploma, not doing drugs or avoiding STDs were worth to them monetarily.

Then the group was given a scenario – such as "I'd quit my



Nov. 4, 2016

job because of a moral issue" – and students chose to be for it, against it or on the fence and had to argue why they felt that way.

"I got to see how other people stood" on issues, Jacob said, "and look at myself and my values."

The annual conference is sponsored by the Pickaway County ESC, the Rotary Clubs of Circleville, the county schools' National Honor Society chapters and AmVets. Students are nominated by teachers and NHS advisers to attend the conference.

Joining me in leading sessions were Brian Bigam of Circleville; Patti Burgett of Teays Valley; Jeri Hartley of Logan Elm; and Kathryn Schoonover of Westfall.

Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.