

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

THE REPORTER

WINTER 2011



**WHAT'S NEW IN
YOUR DISTRICT**



The Reporter

Winter 2011

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The Reporter is the official publication of the Illinois Association of Student Councils, published quarterly for students, advisors and friends of the association.

Any comments or news items can be emailed to
reporter@illinoisstuco.com.

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Message from the President



Brexton Isaacs
IASC President

Hello Student Council Members and Advisors,

I hope everyone is doing well! The IASC Executive Board is hard at work preparing for the 77th State Convention, among our other projects. For many of us, during this wintertime period there is a “lull” in activity, so I encourage you to take time for your council. Host a council bonding day or weekend to get your student council enthused for the rest of the year. My council is going to Silver Birch Ranch in Wisconsin during January for a weekend-long retreat with horseback riding, cross country skiing, tube sledding and a host of other activities.

I am also excited to announce our State Service Project for the year. We will be working to support the “No Phone Zone” organization, made famous by Oprah Winfrey. More information on this project is included in this publication, and is also available on our website. I am very excited about this project because this service will directly impact the students in our schools and hopefully make our roads safer.

I would like to thank the Eastern, Hopewell, Northwest and Northeast Districts for hosting me at their events over the past few months. If I haven't visited your district yet, I look forward to visiting in the future.

Sincerely,

Brexton Isaacs
Byron High School
IASC President

FALL WORKSHOPS

By: Stephanie Venis and Morgan Weise
Oakwood High School

At the 2010 fall workshop in Tuscola, we learned about presentation and communication. It was very well organized and beneficial. Each student had to give a series of presentations which gradually increased in difficulty and length, starting with our “a-b-c’s” and progressing to a small persuasive speech.

Following our icebreaker, during which we were able to talk to many of the other students in attendance, we were divided into small groups. We were each told to recite the alphabet to our group in an interesting way to listen to, just as if we were giving a speech to our group. We were then divided into new groups and given a bag of commonplace items and children’s toys. Our next task was to sell this item to our groups. We were forced to be creative in order to get a group of high school students to have the desire to buy things such as a wooden block or a fly swatter.

Between our different activities, we learned different tips for giving a successful presentation. One of the most important tips was to be prepared. We also learned to look for feedback in your audience. For instance, the various postures one may be presenting can show their response to what the speaker is saying. Being aware of these things can help you give a better presentation.

We were then divided into yet another group and asked to create an imaginary animal given only its name. We had to describe to our group everything about this animal such as where it lives, what it looks like, what it eats, etc. this was the task that allowed us to be the most creative as we were given very few limitations. For our final task we were given a list of various topics on which we were asked to give our opinions and had to include an introduction, two key points, and a conclusion. All of our previous presentations built up to this final presentation, which made it easier to handle.

By the end of the workshop, we had all improved our presentation and communication skills and had fun doing it.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The IASC invites members to review the IASC Constitution and present any amendments to be presented to the Constitution Committee, and later discussed and voted upon by the voting delegates at the state convention in May. Students and schools are invited to propose multiple amendments if that is your desire.

The IASC is also accepting proposed resolutions to be presented to the Resolutions Committee at the state convention. A resolution is a stance that is taken by an organization on a particular topic or issue. For example, someone might write a resolution on the IASC supporting the “Green” movement. If this was proposed, then it would be discussed during a general session at the State Convention in May and voted on by the schools in attendance.

All proposals must be submitted no later than February 1, 2011. To submit an amendment or resolution, download the forms from the Publications page on www.illinoisstuco.org.

ILLINOISSTUCO.ORG

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ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION
ON UPCOMING WORKSHOPS,
CONVENTIONS AND MORE.**

What's Happening

What's Happening In The...

North Central District

New Members Workshop a Success:

On October 25th, the North Central District (NCD) held their New Member's Workshop hosted by the NCD President, Alex Petersen, and Woodstock North High School. The event had a phenomenal turnout of about 80 students and received rave reviews from its attendees. The night consisted of three stations, each targeting a different aspect of leadership. They include an activity designed to identify individuals' leadership styles (such as thinker, director, relator, or socializer); an elaborate "escape the room" activity designed to improve teamwork and working around barriers; and an activity designed to teach "taking one for the team" over one's own ambitions. It was a great way to start off a strong year for the NCD.



Winter Retreat Fast Approaching:

On December 3rd-4th, the NCD will be hosting the first of its two overnight conventions at George Williams College in Wisconsin. The retreat is hosted, this year, by Retreat Secretary, Hayley Demus, and St. Charles North High School. The students will be participating in the Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership School (OWLS) program. After the amazing reviews received about the retreat at George Williams and the OWLS program in 2008, the NCD decided to return. The OWLS program consists of about four hours outdoors participating in low ropes courses and other leadership building activities. This year's retreat will also include a talent show, "The Amazing Race", and an idea swap. It is sure to be a great time!



Warm Your Feet, Warm Your Heart:

Along with Winter Retreat, the NCD Executive Board is hosting a sock drive. Each school is in competition as to who can collect the most pairs of socks before Winter Retreat. At the retreat, clothes lines will be hung in the registration building for each school to display their collections. The socks will be donated to Good Will after the retreat.



Spring Convention Planning in Full Swing:

On March 11th-12th, the NCD will host its second overnight convention. This year's convention will be held at the Abbey Resort in Fontana, Wisconsin off of Lake Geneva. The theme is "Spring Training: Bringing it Home". The convention is hosted by Convention Secretary, Brittany Kowalski, and DeKalb High School. The convention will consist of high-energy speakers, valuable discussion groups, and NCD business such as By-Laws review and election of the 2011-2012 NCD Executive Board. The convention is being planned with every detail considered, and it should be a success!



Please contact our Public Relations Officer, Katie Carroll, at bucbabe_93@t6b.com with any question you may have about the NCD.

g Around the IASC

North West District

Kate Kuehneman
District President

Hello from the North West District. Over the past the six months in which our board has been together, we have been working hard to accomplishing many things. To kick off the new school year our district created a new workshop called BOWL (Big Ole Workshop on Leadership) where we brought all of our new district schools together with last years members. For BOWL we visited Plum Hollow, a recreational center in Dixon, Illinois. Plum Hollow is equipped with bowling, rock climbing and laser tag. I can personally say I enjoyed meeting all NWD members outside of a meeting atmosphere.

Our Fall Workshop was held on November 16th and went extremely well; I believe that day was a great learning experience for everyone who could be a part of it, thanks to our incredible guest speaker Matt Glowacki.

Three out of our five NWD board members attended the District Leadership Experience put on by the IASC and made a lot of positive memories. All District Board members came to the conclusion of choosing The Ronald McDonald House Charity as our service project. Our schools will be collecting pop tabs and raising money for the charity. The pop tabs will be delivered to the Loyola Illinois House, and we will buy and make baked goods for the residents of the Loyola House. We are patiently waiting for Spring Convention where our final collection of pop tabs and money will be held. The North West District Board is looking forward to seeing the faces of the people we've been given the opportunity to help.

Kickapoo District

Lauren Ovca
District Liaison

So far this year, our district has accomplished a lot. We have had three district events, and we have hosted one state event. Our current and standing service project for our district is Kickapoo Cares. At each district event we encourage each school to bring in items that correspond with the list that pertains to our current charity. As an incentive, the school that brings in the most items per person gets to eat first. It has been extremely successful, and we have been able to help many organizations.

Our most recent district event was our Fall Workshop. At this workshop the district officers talked about their positions to the members of the district. This is very helpful to those who are thinking of running for a district board position, but do not know the responsibilities. Earlier this year, we held a Fall Picnic and a Halloween Dance.

The Fall Picnic was our first event of the year, and served as an icebreaker between schools and students. It was a fun filled day with leadership games and activities. Our Halloween Dance was another social event. At the dance, we gave out prizes for the best dressed and other creative costumes.

Everything is going smoothly for KDASC. Feedback from the schools has been positive, and the students seem to have a great time at events. Kickapoo Cares is providing supplies to send to different charities, and the supplies that are brought in are incredible. We have started out the year strong, and we are looking forward to the rest of the year!

Everything is going smoothly for KDASC. Feedback from the schools has been positive, and the students seem to have a great time at events. Kickapoo Cares is providing supplies to send to different charities, and the supplies that are brought in are incredible. We have started out the year strong, and we are looking forward to the rest of the year!



ADVANCED WORKSHOP

The dead of winter doesn't mean that all leadership training comes to a halt. The IASC Advanced Workshop provides a different kind of workshop where the focus is on individual development opposed to teambuilding. This workshop focuses mainly on values and what determines those values, as well as how values impact the decision made on a daily basis.

The workshop has been completely re-written this year and for the first time ever, features a high ropes challenge. The overarching goal for this workshop is for students to leave the workshop knowing who they are and what they stand for.

Make plans to join the IASC at the Lake Williamson Center in Carlinville from January 22—23. The cost for this workshop is only \$120 for IASC members. Don't delay—send in your registration form today. Full details are available online at www.illinoisstuco.org.

NO PHONE ZONE



The IASC Executive Board has decided to make the “No Phone Zone” program the state service project for the 2010-2011 school year. The “No Phone Zone” is a movement, made famous by Oprah Winfrey, that is aimed at eliminating texting and talking on the phone while driving by having people sign a pledge not to do so. This project will directly impact the lives of our students, and the IASC encourages all councils to take part in our service project so we can keep students safe on “The New Road to Leadership.”

For more details, visit the publications page on www.illinoisstuco.org, and look for the link under State Convention Materials.



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