



SDSCA Newsletter



Fall, 2008

Welcome Back from Emily Sazama!!

Hello everyone! ☺ All of our summers have come to an end, but the school year is well on its way of being a great one for all. Plans for the SDSCA State Convention are coming together nicely, and the State Board is excited about the speakers and is keeping busy with planning a great convention! I'm sure that everyone will start again to keep busy with homework and planning the much-anticipated homecoming for each of our schools. I wish everyone a great school year and make it count!

Region Report

By: Colter Heirigs, Northern Hills Rep.

Hey South Dakota Student Councils! It's that time of year again. It's time to register for State Student Council. This year the registration fee is \$50 dollars for your school to be a member of the state association. Region meetings are coming up soon. The participation form requires a participation fee, and it would be a shame to miss out on this year's "Respectful Leadership" themed Region Meeting.

This year we have various activities and presentations, one of which will be a leadership calendar. For this activity we are asking all schools to bring a calendar of events that you have going on throughout the year at your school. Make sure to get your registration sent in because the region workshop will not be an event that you would want to miss.

Children's Miracle Network

By: Michelle Wehbe, SDSCA Secretary

Each year student councils from across the state come together to raise thousands of dollars for the Children's Miracle Network. This past year was no exception. A grand total of \$19,526 was presented to CMN at this summer's telethon.

- The money raised will be distributed to the two CMN health care providers in South Dakota Rapid City Regional and Sanford Health. The funds are then put to good use by supplying the hospitals with costly and necessary equipment.

The SDSCA is the second largest non-corporate donor to the Children's Miracle Network. That's definitely something to be proud of. It's amazing what can happen when students come together for the simple purpose of "kids helping kids."

This year the State Board set a goal to raise \$25,000 for CMN.

NASC

By: Parker Hanson, Spirit Falls Rep.

1,500 students and advisors from around the country including Canada flooded into Northwest High School in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area this summer for the 2008 National Association of Student Councils conference "Hats Off to Leadership!" I enjoyed the conference that began June 25th and concluded on the 28th. While there, the students and advisors had a chance to listen to multiple keynote speakers including Keith Hawkins and Bill Sanders. Also the attendees were treated to a question and answer session with CNN analyst Ken Walsh. Participants were able to enjoy all the thrills that the Dallas area had to offer with trips to NRH2O and Six Flags. It was a very memorable event.

Next year the NASC conference will be held in Colorado.

Letter from the President

By: Sam Carlson, SDSCA President

Hey everyone! I hope you all had a good and relaxing summer. As far as student council goes, I know I had an incredible time in Texas for the NASC convention, and I believe I speak for the other South Dakota delegates when I say that it

was amazing! Along with that, the state board recently had our annual summer overnight in Pierre and had a very successful session of meetings and getting to know one another a little better. The meetings were a great success, and I feel we are off to a great start in planning a convention equal to, or better than last year's, however, I know that that will not be an easy task. I hope this message finds everyone in good health, and I hope everyone has a good start to a new year at school.

Keep Informed

By: Emily Szama, SDSCA Reporter

I urge advisors and students to look at the SDSCA website to keep informed. To get there go to www.sdhsaa.com, click on *fine arts*, and then on *Student Council*, to find more information. It's a great opportunity to get connected. Lots of information is available on this website! From Board meeting minutes and newsletters to membership forms and overall information about who is involved in this awesome program. Check it out! If you have any questions email me at chick4christ_77@hotmail.com, and I will do my best to help you. ☺

National Council of Excellence

By: Renee Rebnord, SDSCA Exec. Director

Congratulations to Roosevelt High School for earning the Gold Level National Council of Excellence and to Harrisburg High School for earning the National Council of Excellence. This award is sponsored by the National Association of Student Councils after evaluating a council's activities based on given criteria and letters of recommendation. This award is open to any NASC member high school. Log on to their website at www.nasc.us and click on the link to Council of Excellence. Although a lengthy procedure, it is a great way for you and your students to earn some additional recognition at a national level.

Certified Student Leader Program

By: Renee Rebnord, SDSCA Exec. Director

A new program sponsored by the National Association of Student Council is available to those

seniors who have exemplified outstanding leadership in their respective schools and life outside of school. This program was established through NASC in conjunction with several major universities in order to make the listing of this award on applications meaningful. Log on to www.nasc.us and click on the Certified Student Leader link. It is a somewhat lengthy application and should be started as soon as possible.

All State Student Council

By: Renee Rebnord, SDSCA Exec. Director

Each year at the state conference the SDSCA honors those deserving seniors who have shown outstanding student leadership during their high school careers. A maximum of one senior from each region and seven "at large" seniors may be chosen by the committee to receive this honor. SDSCA senior board members are automatic recipients because of their obvious leadership skills in holding a state position. Advisors and seniors should look into this application process due in February. Honored seniors are given a hooded sweatshirt with the SDSCA logo at the conference banquet.

The Alliance - For Advisors Only

By: Renee Rebnord, SDSCA Exec. Director

The Alliance for Student Activities has been in existence for just one year and already has over 5,000 members who have joined forces to promote the value of student activities in education. An Alliance membership offers five issues of *The Advocate* newsletter which provides research about the value of student participation, a great downloadable poster of excellent leadership quotes for your use, monthly *New of Note* which contains a variety of activities and articles, five issues of *In Brief* which contains articles specifically for advisors of student activities, and an excellent way to network with other advisors across the US through forums and online help. For further information or to peruse the website got to www.Alliance4StudentActivities.org. The state association has already purchased a membership which allows you a discount should you choose to join.

For further questions, email:

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