



SDSCA NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009



Welcome Back!

By: State Board President Sam Miller

Student councils of South Dakota, your summer has officially come to a close. As you return from the beach with a pocketful of sunshine and shoulders full of sun burn, it's time once again to launch ourselves into the wonderful world of Student Council. The 2010 year promises to be an exciting one, and it's never too early to start looking forward to some of the events that are on the horizon.

Your state and region boards are already hard at work planning workshops and conventions with which to entertain and enlighten you, and your most important responsibility right now is very simple: show up.

Region workshops take place in late October and early November - they're a great time to meet fellow council members in your region, learn a lot (spoiler alert: the theme may have something to do with "Going Green"), and begin preparations for the State convention. There is fun to be had, songs to be sung, and friends to be made. But I hear you out there, Miss Debbie Downer, mumbling "oh, my school never goes to workshops, and it's probably too late to sign up anyway. Besides - I hate recycling," and this goes out to you: NO. All schools, regardless of your membership in SDSCA and previous regional student council excursions, are welcome at your region workshops, and it's never too late to sign up. Information on contacting your region's advisor can be found at the SDSCA website (the URL is a mess - just go to sdhsaa.com and follow "Fine Arts --> Student Council --> SDSCA website"). Your school could be one e-mail away from the experience of a lifetime.

Much in the same vein, the State Student Council convention is back by popular demand, and will be on again in late March. Mark your calendars (there should be a "save the date" enclosed). Speakers have been

booked, themes have been selected, changes have been made, and I can make a personal promise that this year's convention will be bigger and badder (in a good way) than ever. All past and future attendees will be asked to don the cape of leadership, and Pierre, SD is the place to do it.

The synopsise - 2010 will be an enriching and enthralling year for Student Council in South Dakota. There's a lot to be looking forward to and planning for - so I'll see you there."

Fall Project!

The time for the fall project is fast approaching! This year's focus is on "Honoring America's Heroes", those who have served our country in the armed forces. There are many ways to accomplish the goal, whether by visiting a veterans hospital in your community, or even just having breakfast with veteran. With everyone's support this will be a wonderful fall project!

The State Board suggests the following as some possible activities that can be done as part of the "Honoring America's Heroes" project:

- **Assist local organizations in decorating the graves of veterans**
- **Take time to Visit with veterans**
- **Invite veterans for breakfast**
- **Do an Oral History Project (record interviews with veterans about their experiences – place in library**

DON'T FORGET!

Now is the perfect time to make plans for the 2010 SDSCA State convention! The event is scheduled for March 28th- 30th.

Children's Miracle Network

By: Murphy Dods

Every year, schools from all around South Dakota raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. These schools present their donations at the SDSCA state convention. For the 2008-2009 school year, a total of \$22,801 was raised for the CMN. Student council members Sam Miller, Mallory Schulte, Courtney Krcil, Shanna Burns, Komal Shah, and I were privileged enough to present this check at the 2009 CMN telethon for eastern South Dakota. The check for the western half of the state was presented at The Rushmore Mall CMN telethon. Sam Haverly and David Tilley had the privilege of presenting the check. The telethon was held at the Sanford Children's Castle of Care in Sioux Falls. After the presentation, we were given a tour of the neonatal intensive-care unit (NICU) of the hospital. A nurse led us into an unused room and began explaining what the SDSCA's donation had helped to purchase - a head cooling device for newborns called a CoolCap. The CoolCap consists of a water-cooled head cap hooked to a temperature controlled monitoring device. It is used on newborn babies affected by neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE), a condition that results from an oxygen-deprived birth. Without oxygen, the baby's brain cells begin to be destroyed. The CoolCap drastically lowers the temperature of the

newborn's head which is thought to interfere with the depletion of brain cells. Before the invention of the CoolCap, babies affected by HIE had little chance to live and were often affected by mental or a physical disability. Although one CoolCap system costs much more than \$22,801, it was amazing to learn that just by organizing school fund-raisers, students from all over South Dakota helped to save the lives of newborns. This new technology gives families hope, and it is amazing to be a part of that. I am proud of our Children's Miracle Network donation!

NFHS – National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC)

**By: Kip Littau SDSCA V.P./NSLC
Delegate**

This past summer I was honored with the opportunity to attend the NFHS NSLC in Indianapolis, Indiana. I was chosen along with five other sophomores from around the state. The other delegates were: Lorrin Anderson, Winner; Emmy Smith, Mitchell; Jordan Koch, Yankton; Joel Hermann, Sturgis; and Logan Oestmann; RC Stevens. We also had the privilege of spending the week with two great chaperones, Paul Harens and Renee Rebnord.



The conference was July 16th-19th at the Hillton Conference Center in Indianapolis. This year there were about 300 of the top leaders from thirty-two states and two Canadian provinces. This was one of the most prestigious conferences in the country and one of the best to attend. The four day conference was packed full of workshops, break-out sessions and getting to know the other delegates. During the conference every delegate attended workshops on positive values and perspectives, respect and sportsmanship, and teamwork and healthy lifestyles. The sessions were presented by some of the top college students in the nation. One of our general sessions was lead by Dr. Rich Luker who works for ESPN putting together the polls used by the station. He recently wrote a book entitled, "Building a Better Community, and Living a Better Community." He stressed the importance of a community and how important it is that we keep our communities involved.

Each session the delegates attended gave us great ideas to take back to our councils and the State Association. The showcase workshops at the 2010 State Conference will be presented by the '08 and '09 conference delegates. If you have any questions about the conference or would like to use us as a resource please feel free to contact any of the delegates. We all agree that this is a hands-down must do conference for any freshman or sophomore, so put it on your "to do" list and will hopefully see you at state convention for an interview!

Where my seniors at?

Welcome to your last year of school! You've been working hard for the past three years balancing your time between academics, extra curricular activities, student council, and trying to get that one certain someone to like you (you know

what I'm talking about), , and it all comes down to this... **SENIOR YEAR.**

Now before you all go into a nervous mental breakdown due to the sudden realization that college awaits you next year, take a half hour of your time to reflect on your last three years, and what you have achieved during your service to your student council and fill out the application form to be recognized as an All-State Student Council Member.

A QUICK REMINDER!

- Applications for All-State Honor Council are due by November 1st.
- Applicants will be notified by December 15th.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE

By: Renee Rebnord

The National Council of Excellence is a program through the National Association of Student Councils. It provides an opportunity for you to continue to look at programs, projects, and areas of evaluation for your council and earn them national recognition. It is similar in many ways to our state Outstanding Student Council program with a few more areas of involvement and paperwork. This past year both Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School (2nd year in a row) and Harrisburg High School (National Council last year) both achieved the Gold Level of the NCE award. If your school is a member of NASC, I would encourage your students to check out the award form on www.nasc.us and participate this next year. The award year is for January through December 2009 with the final form due February 15th. Feel free to contact me with any questions.