

April 2011 NASSCED Monthly Newsletter

Lou Miller <webmaster@nassced.org>

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To: NASSCED Membership <members@nassced.org>

*Hello everyone - below is the April newsletter written by **Michelle McGrath** of Wisconsin. I apologize for the delay in getting this out to you, Michelle sent this to me a while back. My intent was to get this out on April 1, but as some of you may already know I was on the road last week visiting the Maryland State Conference and encountered a little car trouble on April Fool's Day that delayed my return home. Thanks to Lance Ledebur and the good people of MASC - who put on a great conference - my extended stay was an enjoyable one. Thanks for your understanding and patience - enjoy the newsletter...*



Dear NASSCED Members,

“Toys simply and powerfully make the lessons of leadership more memorable. Whether you are an executive, manager, or parent, you will find the toy box a real place to look for lessons to successfully influence and lead others. To be a great leader you will need to utilize all of the lesson from these toys, not just the easy ones” Ron Hunter

Welcome to the month of April, dedicated to “Officer Training”. Can you remember what Little Green Army men taught you about strategy? Or the fact that LEGO bricks are at their best when you step back and see the entire structure, connected and united, rather than an individual piece, typically found underneath every article of furniture I own (thanks Grace and Fletch). And Play-Doh, if it loses its mold ability, it hardens and you throw it away. As leaders in your states, have you remained flexible, adaptable, and able to be mentored/shaped? And what are you teaching the officers and student leaders about those strategies? Leaders, the ones you are and the ones you are developing, are like Weebles, you can knock, throw, or kick them down and you would find them in the same position they were in just moments before – upright- teaching us that staying down is not an option for leaders!

So with an abundance of enthusiasm I challenge us all in our training of officers with this message from the “Toy box”. Share your toys, your gifts, your talents, and let the lessons they teach guide your path in your work. The selfish kids who gathered up his/her toys and went off to play in the corner by themselves...nobody liked them then, and nobody likes them now! Thank you to Ann from Minnesota and Kyle from Illinois for sharing their “toys” with us this month!!

Illinois – State Officer Training: (Kyle Gordon – KGORDON@kahoks.org)

In the state of Illinois we provide for our wanna-be officers to go through our one day Officer Training program. An invitation to the program is extended to any high school student in the state who is thinking about running for any elected office within their school. Although we have a tremendous focus on getting our IASC prospective state officers to attend and go through the four hour training in order to prepare them for the office they seek, we reach out to all students wishing to take a leadership role in their schools.

The Officer Training program we provide in Illinois focuses on training students in the following six skill areas:

- *Knowing Yourself/Recognizing Person Strengths and Weaknesses
- *What Kind of Leader Am I/Leadership Styles
- *The Role of Delegating
- *The Importance of Setting Goals/Follow Through
- *How To Run A Meeting
- *Decision Making/Problem Solving

Peppered in through the workshop are chances for students to network and discuss issues that concern them. Also, multiple ice breakers and problem solving games are played that can easily be taken back home with the attendees so they can use them when needed.

Minnesota – Region 4 Officer Training: (Ann Postlewaite – ann@mail.massp.org)

Every year when the Region IV Student Council Executive Committees get together we make it a point to include some form of leadership training and service project in our meeting. We start our day and half meeting with a quick welcome and introduction and then each State's Executive Committee leads an ice breaker/mixer. This gives all of the officers an opportunity to be in front of the group and everyone a chance to really get to know all in attendance.

The leadership training has been presented in a variety of ways. It has ranged from two to four hours or more of training. We have had a leadership consultant that we have hired to come present to the students. We have also had student leadership teachers, camp staff, and Executive Directors from our Region IV states present leadership lessons to those in attendance. This is often a highlight of our Region IV meeting.

The service project component has great fun as well. A couple of our favorites have been lap size fleece tie blankets, I Spy jars (empty water bottles filled with rice and small items, with a list of items in two language to find), and mittens from recycled sweaters.

Our Region IV dates for next year are February 10 and 11, 2012 at the Minneapolis Marriot City Center. Any state that would like to join us is more than welcome to attend!

Dates to Remember:

- NASC/NHS/NJHS Star Leaders Conference - June 25 to 27, 2011
- NASSCED Summer Board & Membership Meetings - June 25, 2011
- NASSCED Winter Board Meeting - November 30, 2011
- NASSCED Winter Membership Meeting - December 1 to 2, 2011

Thank you again for ALL you do for student leadership in our nation! I look forward to our journey together this upcoming year. In May we will highlight the "STAR LEADERS CONFERENCE". We have SO much to learn from each other!

On Behalf of the NASSCED Board,

Michelle

Michelle TerMaat-McGrath, Ed. D

Executive Director

Wisconsin Association of School Councils

4797 Hayes Road Suite 202

Madison, WI 53704

(V) [608-241-7107](tel:608-241-7107) (F) [608-241-7139](tel:608-241-7139)

www.wasc.org
