

October NASSCED Monthly Newsletter

Lou Miller <webmaster@nassced.org>

Thu, Oct 13, 2011 at 4:22 PM

To: NASSCED Membership <members@nassced.org>

Hello everyone! Here is the October monthly newsletter, from Michelle McGrath of Wisconsin...enjoy!

“What do you do in the first hour of the first day to teach a monkey how to ride a skateboard? Mango, mango, mango. You set behavioral destinations and then reward each step toward that destination. Hundreds of sessions later, you’ve got a mango-bloated monkey ready to skate a half-pipe”. Amy Sutherland – Animal Traine

Welcome to the month of October dedicated to elections and partnerships – a combo pack from September and October! Why this quote you ask when talking about topics as concrete as elections and partnerships? One word “CHANGE”. The newsletter itself was a “change” for NASSCED and as I sit down to gather hot topics and guest experts each month, I’ve learned that it is more a process than an immediate change and being flexible for this “change” has been essential.

So let's be clear, I am not offering you mango or advising you to treat your students or colleagues like monkeys and offer mango in abundance. Reinforcement should never be condescending or trivial, however it does require you to have a clear view of the destination and to be savvy enough to reinforce the positive behaviors when they happen. The NASSCED Board has a clear vision of their destination – an organization here to serve and educate its extraordinary and talented members - YOU. However, we cannot do it alone.

The most important lesson for us to learn from the animal trainer is this: Change isn't an event; it's a process. There is no moment when a monkey learns to skateboard; there's a process. And there won't be a moment when your community starts to invest more in its school system, or when your study body becomes more involved, or when experts will be in such abundance that they need to be turned away for the newsletter, there will be a process. To lead a process requires persistence and careful organization. A long journey requires lots of mango!

So with an abundance of enthusiasm (and if I only had chocolate covered mangos, a mango infused Cosmo, and some WI cheese curds to virtually send) – THANK YOU! THANK YOU! To our guest experts this month! Suzanne Imhoff and Sandy Ginger! Your expertise is appreciated!

Suzanne Imhoff – imhofsu@scf.k12.wi.us

St. Croix Falls High School, St. Croix Falls, WI.

Advisor, WASC Governing Board Member, Summer Camp Curriculum Coordinator, Wisconsin's Warren E. Shull 2011 Recipient, and High Impact Leadership Director

The SCFHS Student Council Election Process

Our process begins with the handing out of nomination papers for any student wanting to and qualified to be a class officer. The candidate must be a member of the class which he or she hopes to represent, must be in good academic standing (2.5 GPA or better and passing all classes), or have no co-curricular violations within the past year (or outstanding violations).

For a candidate's name to appear on the official class officer ballot for the student council, an official nomination form must be completed. The official nomination form consists of five signatures of other student council members of said candidate's class, at least three faculty signatures and 15 signatures from said candidate's classmate along with an essay. The essay is 200-300 words on why the candidate believes her or she is qualified for the student council and what contributions he or she wants to make. This must be completed in the week time frame and be given to the SCFHS Student Council Advisor. Student council members who sign the official nomination form may endorse only one candidate per grade. Each of the grades will have three elected officers; President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, along with two Members at Large to represent them on the SCFHS Student Council. The two Members at Large are selected from the completed Member at Large applications by the SCFHS Teachers one week after officer elections have been completed.

Our election process happens in the spring of the current school year for the next school year. Once all nomination forms are turned in, official ballots are typed up for each grade level. All student body grade-level meetings are held for the election process to take place. Each candidate reads their essay to their respective classmates. The election order starts with President, followed by Vice President and finishing with the Secretary/Treasurer position. The process of 1/3 plus 1 voting* is used. At the conclusion of the officer elections, Member at Large applications are handed out to all interested with a one week deadline. After all of the Member at Large applications are in, the SCFHS Teachers will select two representatives for each class from completed applications.

Election of the SCFHS Student Council officers takes place among all of the newly elected class officers, members at large and veteran members**. Persons wishing to hold SCFHS Student Council office must be nominated and seconded by a student council member that is present. Each candidate gives a short speech on why they want to be that particular officer and what they will do in that position. The candidates leave the room. Final determination of the Student Council officer shall be made by secret ballot, with all council members present voting. The secret ballots shall be counted by the advisor and current Student Council President. The current Vice President automatically turns into the President for the upcoming year so there are four positions up for election; Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer

* 1/3 Plus 1 Voting: You take the total number of nominees, divide it by 1/3 and add 1 and that is the number of votes cast. The top 1/3 plus one of the nominees receiving the most votes remain on the ballot. The process continues until it is down to two nominees and then one nominee is voted on.

** Veteran Member: students that have actively served on council for two or more years during their high school years. These student need to notify the Advisor, after elections, of their intentions to continue to be on the council

Sandy Ginger – ginger@interact.ccsd.net

NASSCED Board Member, CCSD Student Activities Coordinator

Partnerships with NASC

The state motto for Nevada is “All For Our Country” - maybe that is why our State Association has a strong partnership with the National Association. The Nevada Association promotes the national programs of RSVP, Certified Student Leader and National Council of Excellence. These National Council of Excellence program has helped our members have a sense of national connection and promoted unity in our State.

Like the student leaders in your state, Nevada councils do a great job of recognizing students, teachers, teams and clubs but are rarely given a pat on the back for all they do to make the school and community a better place. Because of this, we enthusiastically promoted the NASC National Council of Excellence award, but our councils were still unlikely to seek recognition for themselves.

To convince them to participate, we made it a goal for our Association to have our councils recognized and packaged it as a way for our members to help the Association succeed - they are willing to help with that!

To assist them in this quest, we annotated the National Council of Excellence award criteria to show how it aligns with our state award and provided tips/ideas/explanations for the criteria. We offer workshops that help de-mystify the criteria and application process. Councils soon realize that they are already doing most of what is required for the national award. When the February deadline approaches, our state officers remind council presidents of deadline and encourage them to “help Nevada get recognized”.

The real goal is for our councils to get the recognition that they deserve, and because we make it about our Association’s success, the members are more willing to participate. Our hardworking student leaders get the pat on the back that they deserve when principals, school board members and district officials congratulate them on their national recognition. “All of Our Country” turns out to be good for all of our members.

Upcoming Events

Online registration for our upcoming **NASSCED Winter Meeting**, which will be in Salt Lake City on December 1-2, is now open. Online NASSCED membership registration for 2011-2012 remains open at this time. We encourage you to complete both as soon as possible, so that final plans can be made for our time together in Salt Lake this December.

You can use the links below, or access it in the left sidebar of any page on the NASSCED website at www.nassced.org.

WINTER MEETING:

<https://njasc.wufoo.com/forms/nassced-winter-meeting-2011/>

2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP:

<https://njasc.wufoo.com/forms/nassced-membership-20112012/>

If you are staying for the NAWD National Conference on Student Activities, registration is open for that event as well at www.nawd.com.

Hope you are having a great fall! Looking forward to seeing you in a couple short months! Next month our guest expert is Charisse from Utah with updates for our NASSCED stop in Salt Lake City!!

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
