

[Subscribe](#)[Share](#) ▾[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▾[RSS](#)

NASSCED January Newsletter

[f Friend on Facebook](#)[t Follow on Twitter](#)[✉ Forward to a Friend](#)**Upcoming Events:**

*June 22-24, 2013: NASC Conference,
Las Vegas, Nevada*

*June TBA, 2013: NASSCED Meeting,
Las Vegas, Nevada*

*Dec 4-6, 2013: NASSCED Winter
Meeting, Austin, Texas*

Good Afternoon Esteemed NASSCED Members,

[A Message from the New Newsletter Editor](#) - S. Ginger, Nevada
Association of Student Councils

Michelle thought I was joking (and maybe I wish now that I was) but I offered to take over the NASSCED Newsletter.

We have such a rich pool of knowledge, skill and experience in our association, so I will continue to ask for contributions from our wonderful members. I don't think I can reward you with gifts of what my state is famous for like Michelle did without breaking a few laws, but I am a wonderful baker!

I am looking for contributors for these topics:

Feb - State Officer Accountability

March - Training student "staff" (workshop presenters, JCs, etc) for conferences and/or camp

April - Recognition (for members, officers, councils, volunteers, etc.)

In addition to articles from our membership, I plan to include some "guest contributors." I am thankful to Patrick Maurer who responded enthusiastically on short notice to help this month! I also plan to include a "Tech Corner" and a random collection of cool things I think you might like (I call that "Ginger Snaps")

Since it is OUR Newsletter, let me know if you have ideas topics/themes or guest contributors. I am excited about this new adventure and the opportunity to expand my skill set. Happy New Year!

[A message from NASSCED President, Michelle McGrath](#)

*"Most doors in this world are closed. If you find one you want to get into,
you dang well better have an interesting knock".*

Chris Pine, People Like Us

Welcome to the starting line of **2013!** A time to reflect on the year past, engage in a renewed optimism for the upcoming year, and quickly turn the page on yet another chapter in life. Hopes and dreams consume our minds amidst all of the uncertainty 2012 handed us! Now I could have started with the old cliche - "when one door closes another one opens" and wish that you have some of those open doors in the upcoming year. This year, per my New Year's resolution, I plan to be more practical, starting with this quote by Pine.

There is no way around it, life is hard and from what I've learned, it doesn't get any easier...more interesting maybe...but certainly not easier! As Pine reminds us, most doors in this world ARE closed and relying on fate or some other power greater than us only gets us so far.

There has never been a more important time than now to be in the business of "interesting knocks". Whether it is with the students that I or my staff trains each year or with my own children, equipping them with

[Subscribe](#)[Share](#) ▼[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#) ▼[RSS](#)

certainly don't take lightly. This sort of knock Pine talks about, we've all met those folks that have it! They understand that doors don't magically open and that "you earn your keep" on this earth, as my Dad would say. Those things hidden behind those closed doors, like success, happiness; those are earned. You earn them by working hard, practicing humility, living generously with your heart and mind, and always, always, when you think you can't give an ounce more, you dig deeper and find a way!

If you are like me, life has delivered a boat load of lessons reminding us about the necessity of an "interesting knock". My wish for you this year is simple; if you're still searching, I hope 2013 gives you ample opportunity to find your "knock" - that certain something that makes you different and allows *others* to shine in the wake of your success! Embrace the chances you get to mentor, coach, or teach others about finding their own "interesting knock". The top priority - MODELING!! The best lessons learned come from watching others demonstrate the qualities we yearn to have ourselves.

In 2013 - may your passions stir up enough moxie to get you creatively banging on a couple of doors that you want to open. May your knocks get more interesting and intriguing each step of the journey and above all, may your life become more vibrant in the process! PS - my knock - well today it's a cross between Jason Aldean's "The Only Way I Know" and Animal's drum roll from the Muppet's "Rainbow Connection" - I did stress being creative, right?

Guest Contributor: Patrick Maurer

KEEPING OUR RESOLUTION SHARP

pmaurer.com

pm@pmaurer.com

Around this time last year, my fiancé gave me a gift certificate to a knife skills class at Sur la table. I'm an avid Food Network viewer and wanna-be-chef, so I already knew some of the basics thanks to Alton Brown, but the class introduced me to something I had never even considered...
...the plastic scrapper.

Yep. That's it.

Simple tool with a dumb name revolutionized my knife skills. It's actually designed for baking, scrapping the dough from bowls, but it works great for slicing and dicing. Why? Because it picks up the cut product from the board. It drags things to where I need them to be rather than the knife (which I learned can dull the blade). It's a \$2 kitchen gadget that has made my prep time that much better.

So what does this have to do with leadership?

We're well into 2013 now. Our New Year's Resolutions have been made and broken a few times already, and yet that desire for success and improvement still lies within us. We still want change, but that change feels so big sometimes that we begin to think that change may be impossible. So maybe what we need to be looking for right now is our own "plastic scrapper."

I'm not about to be the next contestant on *Top Chef*, but I'm a little bit quicker in the kitchen now. My knives remain a little bit sharper and I'm able to spend just that much more time focusing on the type of cut I'm attempting. It's my \$2 step in the right direction to being a better cook.

So what is yours?

Subscribe**Share** ▼**Past Issues****Translate** ▼**RSS**

Is it the Wunderlist app to better manage your to do list?
Or could it be as simple as making sure you schedule a weekly coffee visit with a friend to keep you focused, center, and supported as you strive for success this year?

Sometimes the biggest change can come from the smallest first step.



Look for a new format starting next month including a section focused on technology and my favorite "Ginger Snaps"!!

On Behalf of the NASSCED Board,

Sandy Ginger
Nevada Association of Student Councils



**Board of Directors
2012-13**



National Leaders

Check out
*Leadership
Magazine* to find
NASSCED
members leading
the way in student
leadership
development.

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2013 - Wisconsin Association of School Councils, All rights reserved.

NASSCED News Letter

Our mailing address is: 4797 Hayes Road, Suite 202, Madison, WI, 53704

608-241-7107 (phone)

608-241-7139 (fax)

www.wasc.org

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)