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NASSCED February Newsletter

[Friend on Facebook](#)[Follow on Twitter](#)[Forward to a Friend](#)**Upcoming Events:***March 15-17, 2013: NASSCED Board Meeting - DC**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 NASSCED President, Michelle McGrath

"My father wrote, always question where your loyalties lie. The people you trust will expect it, your enemies will desire it and those you treasure the most will, without fail, abuse it. Some say loyalty inspires boundless hope and while that may be, there is a catch. True loyalty takes years to build and only seconds to destroy".

Revenge (Season 1, Episode 10)

When I contemplated this month's topic, I kept coming back to this quote and the concept of loyalty - a very complex word and one that Webster defines as faithful, dependable, and reliable....all elements of good character, being accountable to not only yourself but to others.....and some of the toughest to teach.

The first thing that pops out of my head when I think about loyalty is my dog Abbey. She has been there with unwavering loyalty through thick and thin. I'm sure there are lots of folks out there that are nodding their heads in agreement referring to their own pet! Owners of pets often imagine a world where everyone displayed such loyalty! Heck, I'd give my next pay check just to be my dog for a week!! Here's the truth about Abbey, I could forget to feed her, be away from home for days at a time, and she would still be there waiting, tail wagging, just waiting for a chance to steal my attention! That is the reality! Now is that acceptable? Well for me, Absolutely NOT!

If you have lived long enough on this planet, it's hard not to read the above quote from *Revenge* without nodding in agreement. Loyalty is a tricky concept as indicated in the quote. It is a concept deeply rooted in relationships. Relationships are necessary to ANYTHING you want to do in this world! However, they bring along expectations and expectations are either met or not...and that's where the life lesson begins.

When I think of those people that have extraordinary character - they are those people that do not take relationships for granted. They, as Webster concludes, are faithful, dependable and reliable. They nurture relationships and encourage synergy to those that join them on their journey. They have learned firsthand about building relationships, only to find them destroyed in seconds by ill will, hurtful words, and the selfish actions of others. Through this they have learned the art of forgiveness and perseverance; two more essentials of leadership. Leadership encompasses a great deal. In the month of February, may you be reminded that it is through the relationships and loyalties you not only keep but nurture, that you learn the greatest lessons about character and accountability.

This Month's Topic: State Officer accountability**An ounce of prevention**

When you see them so infrequently, it is not always easy to keep your student officers in line. Most State Execs have found that the best solution

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Executive Council Application includes a Code of Conduct that includes guidelines for social media. Unfortunately they did need to use that to dismiss a member about 5 years ago when a member posted a racial slur on Facebook and was immediately dismissed. But since the Code of Conduct clearly outlines the consequences, OASC was able address the problem swiftly and without debate.

The Oregon Student Executive Council Application also includes a statement explaining to students and advisors the level of commitment expected of it's members:

*This is an opportunity to take leadership to the next level. Students wishing to run for Student Executive Council should be self-directed, responsible individuals who follow-through with commitments they make. They must also be very positive role models, since this is a highly visible position throughout the state. SEC members must attend **four** Board meetings each year (including the preceding SEC retreat), OASC Fall and Spring Conferences, and at least one session of OASC Summer Camp. Other commitments include membership outreach, OASC newsletter contributions, helping out at regional workshops in your area, and frequent communication with members of the Board. If you are chosen to run for a position at Fall Conference, you, your leadership advisor, and leadership students at your school are required to attend Fall Conference to help support your campaign.*

Additionally, the Oregon Constitution specifies the requirements for officer attendance. An Executive Board member who has one unexcused absence from a Board meeting may be put on probation and two unexcused absences may be cause for dismissal. Using "may be" rather than "will be" in the consequences leaves some leeway for the Association. When one student on the OASC board missed a conference for a family trip, the student President preferred the entire student board discussed what he would need to do in order to make it up.

Lastly, the candidate's parents, teachers and school officials must sign off in support of his/her participation in the OASC Board:
By your signature, the student participant, advisor, and parent agree that he/she shall comply and abide by the terms and conditions of this Code of Conduct throughout the term of your office.

Nevada Association of Student Councils also requires candidates and parents, teachers and school officials to sign contracts indicating that "Violation of this agreement may result in the officer being removed from office." The Nevada constitution indicates that students can be removed from office for misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance. While that may require a vocabulary lesson at the first Board meeting meeting, it covers all the bases.

The Arizona Association of Student Councils hosts a dinner each year for the parents of the new officers. At the meeting the time and travel commitments as well as expectations for the student officers are detailed. It helps the parents understand what their student are working on and why it is important.

A pound of cure

When all that does not work, what do you do with students who are not following through?

In Oklahoma, students not meeting requirements are addressed by the Workshop Directors and Deans. Issues not resolved are brought before the OASC Executive Board with consultation with the home school advisor as needed. In Oregon, major issues are also addressed by the Executive

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work out a solution. Nevada also uses this "heart-2-heart" method. The executive director talks to the student (in person if possible). The concerns are addressed as well as a plan for the student to correct the issue. After "the talk," the officer and his/her advisor are sent a conference summary with notice of possible removal from office.

Tech Corner: Doodle.com

Doodle is an online scheduling tool that will help find the best date and time to meet with multiple people.

Doodle can be a valuable tool for coordinating a large event like a training training as well as a small event like a monthly meeting with the board.

You enter the date and time options for your event and email a link to those who need to attend (or you can use Facebook/Twitter to share it) As each participant selects the dates and times from the polling calendar, Doodle tells you which option works best for everyone.

I use it most to have students sign up for training (the "group limit" function is great when I have limited seating!)

I created a sample Doodle so you can check it out: <http://doodle.com/v5exy8t2vi968vin>

Ginger Snaps: something I love...

Resources for Planning the School Calendar (\$38)

<http://www.nspr.org/content/resources-planning-school-calendar-2013-2014>

This Calendar has a full selection of holidays and historical events along with event descriptions, their cultural significance, and useful contact information and web sites for more information. I order one every year so I don't miss any special celebrations,!
Resources13-14Cover150x197.gif

Guest Author: Scott Backovich

When I was growing up, my family always seemed to celebrate holidays a little... well... differently.

Instead of a typical turkey on Thanksgiving, we would have a family vote to decide what we wanted to stuff our faces with. On Halloween, we would find any last-minute costumes we could get our hands on and hand them out to children who were without an identity for the night.

Holidays were different in our household not to "set us apart" or to make us feel like we went against the grain. Instead, my brother and I were taught that holidays were a rare opportunity to see the world in a different light. Rather than an opportunity to be extravagant, it was a chance to serve those who meant the most to us.

As I got older, I became increasingly familiar with the expectations for Valentines Day (or, as most people labeled it, "Single's Awareness Day"). As my not-so-romantic friends explained, it was a consumer-driven holiday made so that I could reflect on the fact that I couldn't get a girl to go on more than one date with me.

Sounds romantic, right?

Recently, I had the chance to visit home and spend some time with my family. While there, I asked my parents what they had planned on doing for Valentines Day. On cue, my mom looked at me and said "A little something for everyone. I just need to figure out all of their names."

While most people choose to shower love on their significant other, my

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one, they choose to help many.

With Valentines Day (a day so heavily focused on a single individual) around the corner, speaking with my mom caused me to ask a very important question--

Instead of showing affection and care to one person, what if the greatest love we can give is to the many who never receive it?

I'm not saying we have to save the world or give up time with our loved ones. Instead, I'm curious what the world would look like if we started to be aware of everyone—especially those who need it the most.

I'll be celebrating Valentines Day a week early in Disneyland. On the 14th though, I plan on fully embracing *Singles Awareness Day* and serving those who might have been truly singled out.

Will you join me?

For more information on Scott, please visit www.ScottBackovich.com

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.

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