

2008

2009



I A S C

# The Reporter

Volume 27, Issue II

Winter 2008

PASS IT ON  
AFTER READING THE  
REPORTER, CHECK  
YOUR POSITION OFF  
OF THE LIST AND  
PASS IT ON TO THE  
NEXT PERSON ON  
THE LIST!

- \_ADVISOR
- \_PRESIDENT
- \_1ST VP
- \_2ND VP
- \_SECRETARY
- \_COM. CHAIRS
- \_HISTORIAN
- \_SR. CLASS REP
- \_JR. CLASS REP
- \_SOPH. CLASS REP
- \_FRESH. CLASS REP
- \_OTHER
- \_POST ON BOARD

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## Activities:

**a:** vigorous or energetic action: **LIVELINESS** **b:** natural or normal function: a similar process actually or potentially involving mental function; *specifically:* an educational procedure designed to stimulate learning by firsthand experience **c:** a form of organized, supervised, often extracurricular recreation **d:** an organizational unit for performing a specific function (Webster's Dictionary)

This issue of the Reporter is focused on Activities. Exploring such a broad area is a difficult task this issue has a variety of articles to help your Council. From project ideas, community service ideas, workshops, or information on running for office and participating in a variety of IASC activities, there is something for everyone here!

Student Council itself is labeled an activity at high schools across the state. It is no wonder that Student Council has firmly rooted itself in the planning and execution of activities.

But what is beneath the activities that become the main focus of Student Council? How often do the same school activities get planned? Why do people turn away



from starting new traditions and new activities at school? It may seem difficult or the task is too great. Starting a new activity at school can be hard. However, the rewards are well worth the challenges.

Who is not proud of themselves after successfully organizing a great Homecoming, or perhaps running a successful pep rally? It is Student Council and the various other organizations at your school that are striving to give students a great year at school. We organize these activities for everyone, not just our friends or ourselves.

Look beyond the activities and events you plan. Few opportunities give us the attention of such a vast number of the student body. Do something extraordinary.

**With something to think about**  
— David Pileski, Reporter Editor

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# Activities

## Not *JUST* for Homecoming Week: Pep rally

By: **Katie Kilbridge**  
Lake Park High School

Pep rallies are always a fun activity to plan at any high school. Often times though high schools only have a Homecoming Pep rally. This year consider planning a Winter or Spring Pep rally to recognize a different portion of the student body and to add some fun throughout the year.

### ATTENTION ADVISORS:

Have an opinion or idea on your mind? I know you do! Well instead of keeping those brilliant ideas and thoughts bottled up inside, write for the *Reporter!* Share your experiences and wealth of knowledge with students and other advisors from across the state!

Please e-mail your ideas, articles, or questions to David Pileski at [d\\_pileski@yahoo.com](mailto:d_pileski@yahoo.com). I look forward to hearing from you very soon!

Make sure to receive approval from your principal and advisors. One of the most difficult parts of planning a Winter Pep rally may be having administrators approve your event. You must show that your Council is committed to making a fun event that all members of your school can enjoy. Have some strong ideas to present, but be willing to compromise.

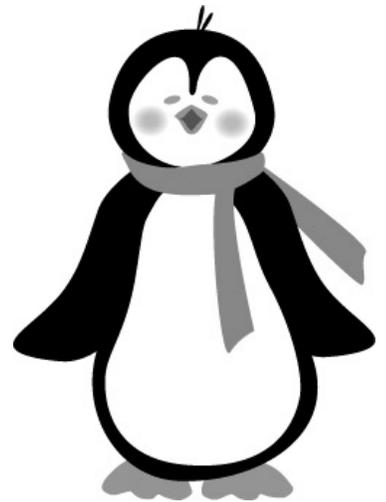
Picking a theme & make a tentative time schedule helps guide the progress. Then before contacting participants, know what you want from each group. Make a tentative schedule so they are well-informed and prepared for what is expected of them. Make a list of all other necessary arrangements for the day that you may not remember when the time gets closer. Constantly be willing to revise your plans because there will always be something unexpected.

Ask coaches and other organizations if they would like to participate. Never assume that a club or organizations will want to participate. Seek out coaches and advisors and ask for their interest. Explain what you would like from their group well in advance and encourage them to have their teams or groups promote the event. While you can focus on one particular aspect like a sports team, make sure everyone understands that all teams and organizations will be recognized for their commitment and achievements.

**ADVERTISE!!** If students and staff are unaware of the upcoming event, they will be left confused and uninterested. Have school announcements, pass out flyers, and display posters throughout the school. The more coverage, the better. And don't forget to send an e-mail to the school staff.

During the rally, many unexpected bumps will appear so be ready to solve those problems. Assign duties to members of your Council prior to the "day-of," but review responsibilities immediately before starting. Make sure that you are sticking to your time schedule and keep the crowd's attention by playing games during empty time or having cheerleaders help rile them up. Be aware that you will probably run into numerous problems. Remember to stay relaxed and make do with what you have. It's okay to change your plans if something doesn't work right.

Don't forget to **HAVE FUN!!** You and your Council should be very proud of your hard work and effort. Not every group can get this far!! Relax for a moment. Write down feedback from students and staff so you will have it for next year.



*Planning a Winter Pep rally can help boost school spirit during a normally slow time!*

# Touching Lives, One Penny at a Time

**By: Chad Webster**  
IASC President

Community service is important in our society. Many people would not know the meaning, usefulness, or importance of charity without community service. Serving in your community addresses many grass root problems that fall through the cracks of government and social agencies. Community service is critical to bettering our society.

As we all know Illinois has been struck hard this year by natural disasters. We have a responsibility to help our Illinois neighbors out! The IASC plans a yearly service project. This year's service project will be a Penny Drive for the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross responds immediately to more than 70,000 disasters per year, including house or apartment fires (the majority of



the disaster responses), hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous materials spills, transportation accidents, explosions, and other natural and man-made disasters. This year, Illinois has been hit by several natural disasters, including tornadoes, severe floods, and a mild earthquake. The purpose of the Penny Drive is to encourage students from across Illinois to collect pennies to help support the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross has been there for the people of Illinois, and students across the state can show them that they appreciate this by participating in the Penny Drive.

After speaking with the Rock River Chapter of the Red Cross, one of several chapters across the state, I learned that they are excited to work with us on this Penny Drive to be conducted by student councils all over the state. I have a contact person from the Rockford area that

I will work with to help organize this event. The money raised will be distributed among the different regions of Illinois, thus allowing the money to stay local. I believe we can work on a press release and marketing plans to get the word out about this community service project. In talking with the Director of the Rock River Chapter, I was told that 1 local elementary school held a fundraiser to help with the earthquake in China and raised \$1000 – one elementary school! Think of the possibilities with student councils from across the state joining together to help the American Red Cross.



# Be It Resolved . . . Resolutions Simplified

**By: Jay Mann**  
IASC President's Advisor

*Whereas the Illinois Association of Student Councils (IASC) works to promote proficiency in parliamentary procedure, to recognize the exemplary work of student councils across the state, and to actively seek the voice of the students of the state of Illinois, be it resolved that the IASC will take active measures to reinvigorate the Resolutions Committee at the annual IASC State Convention.*

The above statement is a classic example of a resolution. A resolution, as defined by Robert's Rule of Order, is "a written motion adopted by a deliberative body. The substance of the resolution can be anything that can normally be proposed

as a motion." In essence, a resolution is a statement of action that, when approved, gives specific direction to the governing body. Our governing body would be the Illinois Association of Students Councils Executive Board.

There are two types of resolutions: non-binding and substantive/procedural. A non-binding resolution is one that addresses issues not likely to be made as motions by the executive board and/or those that would not become a part of the governing documents (i.e. IASC Constitution or IASC By-Laws). The most common non-binding resolution is a complimentary one that recognizes the efforts of an individual, school, local student council, or District for its service to the IASC. An example is provided below:

*Whereas the Anywhere High School Student Council graciously hosted the January 2009 IASC Leadership Workshop, be it resolved that Anywhere High School should be duly commended and thanked for a job well done.*

This complimentary resolution is the most common type of resolution submitted, discussed in committee, and voted on by the general body at the most recent IASC state conventions.

The other type of resolution, known as substantive/procedural resolutions, is less often seen but incredibly significant. These resolutions, when adopted by the general body, become a guiding directive for the IASC Executive Board to follow in the coming year and beyond. A

*(Continued on page 5)*

"The drive in workshop was a phenomenal experience. It taught me how to be a more efficient StuCo member and leader within my school. Now-I can't wait to get more involved in the IASC!"

— Ashley Walker  
Ramsey High School

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"The IASC provided me with numerous leadership opportunities as well as help me to come out of my shell and be more outgoing. In college, the ability to be outgoing helps immensely as it makes it much easier to get to know the new people around you."

—Tyler McDowall  
2006-2007 IASC Webmaster

"The IASC has equipped me with skills, such as leadership, to handle almost all challenges that I am face. From diversity to tolerance of other's views, I am able to adapt and work well in any environment."

— Jessica Rumbledt  
2007-2008 IASC President

# Workshops Drive Past and More Approaching

**By: Krystal Rhodes**  
*IASC 1st Vice President*

We're on the move! The year is off to a great start for the IASC, and it's only going to get better. So far, the IASC has been host to multiple one day drive-in workshops across the state that gave participants the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. Hands-on training in parliamentary procedure, situational leadership, and teambuilding provided students with an in-depth look at the processes that structure Student Council.

The IASC is already revving up for its next function, the Advanced Workshop, which will be held January 24 and 25 at Lake Williamson in Carlinville, IL. Our new location is sure to spice things up as our delegates are given the opportunity to learn more about their personal leadership styles through hands-on activities and small group discussions. Registration forms for the Advanced Workshop are currently available. Make sure to fill yours out so you can join the IASC in helping make better leaders.

# Student Council: After High School

**By: Kavita Saluja**  
*2006-2007 IASC President*  
*University of DePaul Student*

Greetings IASC! My name is Kavita Saluja and I am the retired 2006-2007 IASC President. I am currently a sophomore at DePaul University and I am a double major in Finance and Accounting. My experience with Student Council has been the most memorable of high school.

I have learned so much from the IASC and within my own Student Council. Whether it was public speaking skills, to teambuilding, to even learning about myself as a leader, I have been able to develop as a great person and leader through my experiences with the IASC.

For example, the Advanced Leadership Workshop at Allerton was a tremendous experience. I attended it three times while I was in high school. This is a weekend experience where you learn about yourself as a leader. When I work on projects with people, I think about Allerton and what I

learned about myself as a leader. I was the "peach," meaning I need to get my work done properly, but I still know when to step back and let someone else take control. I was always taught that a good leader is a good follower. That phrase was finally put into the test when I worked on a final exam project with five people I did not know. We had to schedule time to meet outside of class, put all of our thoughts into one project, and yet manage to get along and get the job done. There were times where I was the one organizing the entire project, and then there were times when I had to step back and go with the flow. Either way does not matter, just give your opinion and thoughts and see where the ideas take you.

The best part about my high school experiences is that I still keep in touch with my friends from Student Council. I love making plans to go visit them across the state or having them come visit me. It feels great to share old memories and

make new ones. Just that one common ground of Student Council has led to some everlasting friends. I remember when I went to the Leadership Workshop at Millikin University. I had no intention of becoming close friends or even bothering to keep in touch with these people. Now, five years later, the people I met at that workshop are some of the closest friends I have in my life. I encourage you to take advantage of these great opportunities. Go out and run for district board, state board, or even within your own school board. I challenge you to attend these workshops and get out of your comfort zone and meet new people. All you have to do is be yourself and the best part about StuCo is people accept you for who you really are and the potential you hold to do great things within your life. ...

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# So My Student Wants to Be an Officer... and Not Just Locally

**By: Ms. Sheila Fleming**  
*York HS StuCo Advisor*

Now what do I do? The good news for you, Advisor, is that you should not have to do very much. If you have a student who has started asking questions about how to get on the state board, first determine whether this is a student you can trust to follow through on the work she starts. She cannot run for district or state offices without your permission and your accompanying her onto the boards. When you've decided that you two will work well together, tell her to focus first on your IASC district. I have worked with several IASC Executive Boards over the past decade, and have found that the vast majority of state officers served first as district officers. This experience helps to prepare them for what lies ahead on the state level. Does your district have a website? That's the place to start.

Let your student do all the "legwork." She should begin by investigating the various positions available on your district board, and deciding which of these positions best fits her talents. Next, she can contact the district board member who currently holds that position and find out how to go about attaining it for next year. The elections is probably held at your district's convention in the spring

(with the exception of Eastern District). Your local StuCo may want to help her campaign—but you should probably check with your district's Executive Director about any rules regarding "pre-campaigning."

Congratulations! You now have a district officer. Your job as advisor still should be pretty easy. You may have to proofread her reports for board meetings, and will likely have to attend those meetings and drive her to them. (Make sure to check your school district's rules about driving students in private vehicles!) But that's about it...for now.

On those drives to and from meetings, your student may start asking about how to run for the IASC Executive Board. If you are willing to take this next step with her, my best advice now is to make sure she has all the leadership training available to her. She needs to attend a Drive-in Workshop (offered several times each fall, in various parts of the state), and definitely the IASC Convention. Furthermore, she might want to attend the IASC Summer Leadership Camp, IASC Advanced Workshop, IASC Leadership Academy, NASC LEAD Conference, and NASC Convention. Don't panic!! You do NOT have to attend all of these with her. Some require supervision from you; others do not. For details, check with

[www.illinoisstuco.com](http://www.illinoisstuco.com) and [www.nasc.us](http://www.nasc.us).

With all of this training under her belt, your student is probably ready to run for a state office. The IASC 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Advisor-at-Large generally sends early information about state offices in November, with reminders to follow after the first of the year. Deadlines are very important, so your candidate needs to watch the calendar closely! Once the paperwork is done, you and your candidate will have an interview together at the state convention at which time you will be asked to commit, along with your student, to four weekend Executive Board meetings during the school year, and possibly several other workshops or events. At this stage, you will have to sacrifice more time than you did on the district level, but as a veteran of the Executive Board, I promise you that it will be time well-spent. Not only will you have the chance to see firsthand the amazing work these eight student board member can accomplish, but you will also find yourself with the opportunity to work with other wonderfully dedicated adult advisors like you.

So remember, if your student starts hinting that she want to run for the board, there's nothing to fear. While the student will do most of the work, both of you will reap the rewards.

## The People's Power Found in Resolutions: continued

substantive/procedural resolution, in essence, is a mandate to the Board to take action on a particular issue, problem, or opportunity facing the IASC. Such resolutions often lead to changes in the IASC Constitution and/or By-Laws in the years that follow their passage. An example of this type of resolution is also provided:

*Whereas the IASC successfully hosted a Constitutional Convention in November 2008 and the voices of students across the state led to significant and lasting changes to the IASC Constitution, be it resolved that the IASC Executive Board*

*should plan such a convention every five to seven (5-7) school years when financially and logistically feasible.*

As you can see, such a resolution, if supported by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the IASC delegates at state convention, can have a lasting, significant impact on the work of the IASC and its continued efforts to address the needs of student councils across the state.

Now that you know more about resolutions, their structure, and their purpose, I challenge you to return the Resolutions Committee to the significant work it was first intended to complete. Only you

as a representative of a local student council can work with your home council to submit resolutions, non-binding and substantive/procedural alike, to the IASC for discussion by the Resolutions Committee at the 2009 IASC State Convention in Chicago this May.

All resolutions must be submitted to Chad Webster, IASC President, by the **February 1, 2009 deadline**. Resolutions forms, as well as Constitutional Amendment forms, can be found on the IASC website ([www.illinoisstuco.com](http://www.illinoisstuco.com)) now.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jay Mann, IASC President's Advisor, at [jmann@district100.com](mailto:jmann@district100.com).

## SPOT LIGHT

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## Illinois Valley: Busy Year Full of Action

**By: Chloe Li**

*Illinois Valley District President*

For years, Illinois Valley District, or IVD, has strived to serve our district as both student leaders and role models for others. Through struggles and triumphs, IVD has managed to stay alive.

This year, the IVD Executive Board's main goal was to get more schools in the district. We invited schools to our Fall Workshop, which was held on November 21, 2008 at the 4-H Center in Macomb, Illinois.

IVD was trying to invite the other

schools to participate in our Fall Workshop, and we are also currently organizing a community service project--making care packages for soldiers.

Illinois Valley District's Spring Convention is to be held on April 17, 2008 at Western Illinois University's Student Union in Macomb, Illinois. This is to be held in the heritage room.

IVD's Executive Board encourages all district schools to participate in IVD's activities.

Thank you to all who helped make the Illinois Valley District of Student Councils possible.

## Northcentral Hitting the Ground Running

**By: Neil Vohra and Melissa Lukasiewicz**

*Northcentral District President and Treasurer*

The North Central District of the IASC started off the year with a hole in one as the board bonded and planned the year over a game of miniature golf this past summer. At this meeting, not only did we set a goal to increase membership, but we decided to

focus on increasing involvement of all member schools. The NCD will work throughout the year to accomplish these goals by ensuring efficient communication between the board and schools. The North Central District would like the entire district to be very cohesive.

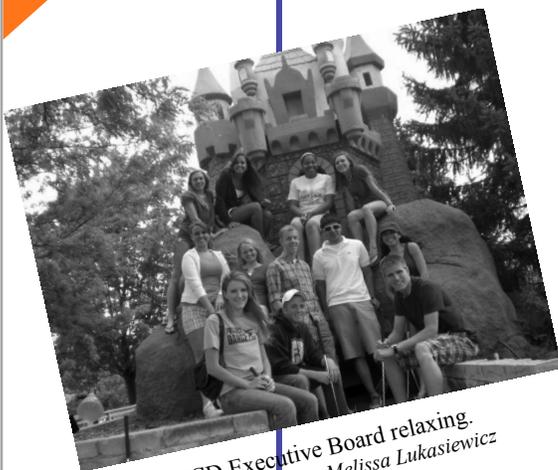
The NCD offers a number of opportunities for member schools to become involved in the district, allowing the students

to exchange ideas and helping the NCD grow in strength. So far this year the four Area Representatives for the district have each held their first of two workshops this year focusing on a variety of topics, from parliamentary procedure

to peer pressure. In addition, the NCD President, Neil Vohra, held the New Member Workshop in September to introduce new schools to the district, explain the procedures of the district, and focus on leadership and commitment within student councils.

The NCD, one of the only districts to host two overnight workshops, will be hosting their Winter Retreat at George Williams College in early December. The theme this year, "Back to the Roots", has sparked a lot of excitement. The Retreat will be focusing on creating a more relaxing atmosphere to grow as leaders, and network with people all over the district. The Winter Retreat secretary, Lauren VanDiggelin, has many unique events planned for the attendees including a bonfire, owls (a team building activity), a candle-lighting ceremony, and other outdoor activities encouraging people to grow as leaders and to have a good time.

Following the retreat, each Area Representative will hold their second Area Workshop and the president will conduct a self-supporting leadership workshop. Following these events will be the Spring Convention at Lake Lawn Resort marking the conclusion of what we are sure will be a great year! For more information about events throughout the year visit the NCD website, [www.freewebs.com/northcentraldistrict](http://www.freewebs.com/northcentraldistrict).



NCD Executive Board relaxing.  
-Photo provided by Melissa Lukasiewicz

# DISTRICT

## Blackhawk Winter Workshop Success

**By: Tara Vandygriff**  
*Blackhawk District President*

This year the Blackhawk district is working extremely hard not only on increasing membership, but also on making our district closer-knit than years past.

We got off to a great start with our winter workshop on Monday, November 17. Student Council members from Kewanee, Riverdale, Rock Island, UT, United, and other schools gathered in Kewanee for a fun filled night. We started with a pasta dinner, and then split up into integrated groups for a hectic scavenger hunt that sent us all over the high school.

After bonding over this activity we congregated in the auditorium to hear the key note

speaker, Mrs. Missy Vail-Frakes speak on goals and planning for your future. She educated all students, from freshman through seniors, on how to be a highly successful student, how to set

achievable goals, and ways to prepare yourself for the next step in life. The night was a fabulous way to kick off this year in the Blackhawk District.

Now we have Hospitality Night in January to look forward to, and then our district convention in March. The board and their advisors are exceptionally excited for this year, and can't wait to see what the other districts have been up to at the State Convention in May.

We plan for success in our district, and we hope that all of the other districts are doing well.



**Congrats!**

The Eastern District had there annual convention November 18th where they elected there new Executive Board.

**Congratulations:**

Jeff Frost  
 President

Lindsey Downs  
 Secretary

Kate Ponds  
 Treasurer

Beth Bauman  
 DSL

E-mail YOUR news to  
[d\\_pileski@yahoo.com](mailto:d_pileski@yahoo.com)

## Following the Clues to Northeast District

**By: Caitlin Clamente**  
*Northeast District President*

Each year, the Northeast District holds a Hospitality Night. This year, the NED Executive Board is planning a game night at Ridgewood High School. This special event ties into the theme of our 2009 Convention, "Following the Clues to Success," which is a murder mystery.

Student Council members are invited to participate in this event. The evening's agenda will include playing an assortment of board games

and team-building activities. This evening will help many students from different schools to get to know each other and share ideas.

Our hope is that this event will convince more schools to become members of the Northeast District.

In addition, we are asking each school to bring a new or slightly used board game and each student to bring a nonperishable food item, to donate to a local charity. Students always have fun at this event!



# Student Council Beyond High School: Continued

Continued from page 4

I can honestly say, I am outgoing because I challenged myself to step out of my comfort zone and do something that was different. Up to this day when people ask me about my biggest accomplishment, I still say, "When I ran for IASC President and won." These memories will last forever. Be sure to make some good ones for yourself. You will look back at all of this and it

will bring a smile to your face. Take advantage of these opportunities and workshops, become a Discussion Group Leader and face your fears. When you overcome them, it is the greatest feeling!

Have a great year IASC. My heart will always be with you.

## What is happening in your Council?

Throughout the school year, look for ideas for local councils or district events! Please send updates with what is happening with your district, community service, fundraisers, or other unique projects at your Council to share with other schools around the state!

E-mail YOUR news to:

[d\\_pileski@yahoo.com](mailto:d_pileski@yahoo.com)



618-580-7667

[www.illinoisstuco.com](http://www.illinoisstuco.com)

## SAVE THE

# D A T E

### 2008-2009 Dates

**ADVANCED WORKSHOP:**  
January 23-24, 2009 Location: Lake Williamson in Carlinville, IL

**STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
February 7-8, 2009 in Bloomington, IL

**LEAD CONVENTION:**  
February 27—March 1, 2009 in Lombard, IL

**OFFICER TRAINING:**  
April 18, 2009 in Bloomington, IL at the IHSA Headquarters

**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:**  
April 18-19 2009 in Bloomington, IL at the IHSA Headquarters

**STATE CONVENTION:**  
May 7-9, 2009 at the Hilton Chicago

**NATIONAL CONVENTION:**  
June 27-30, 2009 in Colorado

THERE IS MORE TO COME! PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS! PLEASE GO TO [WWW.ILLINOISSTUCO.COM](http://WWW.ILLINOISSTUCO.COM)