

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

THE REPORTER

FALL 2010



**ILLINOIS STUDENTS ENHANCE
THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS**





The Reporter

Fall 2010

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The Reporter is the official publication of the Illinois Association of Student Councils, published quarterly for students, advisors and friends of the association.

Any comments or news items can be emailed to
reporter@illinoisstuco.com.

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Message from the President



Brexton Isaacs
IASC President

Hello Students and Advisors!

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer and is off to a good start with school. I'm sure everyone is hard at work getting their Homecoming festivities prepared, and I hope that goes well for everyone!

I would like to thank you for putting your confidence in myself and the rest of the executive board for the upcoming year by becoming a member school in the IASC. We have a lot planned for the year, and we are very excited to continue to offer a quality program for both students and advisors.

We will continue to offer our workshop program through the year that includes our One Day Drive-Ins, Advanced Workshop and Leader Academy. Advisors will also have opportunities to take part in Advisor-only conferences. Illinois is fortunate in the fact that we have the opportunity to host a national LEAD conference in Chicago and have done so for many years. I strongly suggest that students and advisors look into all of these programs. They are a great experience for all levels of leadership; whether you are a freshman, just getting started, or you are a senior, finishing out your student council career. The skills you learn at these conferences will help you in many walks of life.

My personal challenge for this organization is for the member schools to try and mix it up a bit this year. I think sometimes people lose interest in things student council does because we get stuck doing things the same, every year: doing homecoming the same way as last year, doing the same fundraiser as last year and doing the same service projects. But I want this year to be a year of new opportunities and new experiences, not only for students in student council, but for the other students in your school as well. That's why we do what we do, isn't it? To create opportunities for the students in our school, to create a community atmosphere? Students, here's where you come in. If you really want to see change in the things you do, it's going to have to come from you. Advisors aren't going to, and shouldn't have to, put in extra work if you don't want to see something happen. This is where you need to show some initiative. Show your advisor that you are going to see the project through instead of dumping it in their lap once it gets started; I can guarantee that they will be much more open to trying new things.

Well again, on behalf of the IASC executive board, we are looking forward to working with you. If you are ever in need or have any questions, please contact us and we will be happy to help. Have a great year and good luck in all that you do!

Sincerely,
Brexton Isaacs
Byron High School
IASC President

VACATION?? NO, LEADERSHIP??

By: Sarah DeLong
Sullivan High School

Earlier this summer, my Student Council advisor approached me about attending the IASC Leadership Camp at Millikin University. I eagerly jumped at the opportunity to attend because I was toying with the idea of running for a district office and I have never been one to turn down an opportunity to socialize and meet new people. Finally, July 26th rolled around and I found myself pulling up to Dolson Hall with butterflies in my stomach, not knowing what to expect of the next four days. Little did I know that the IASC Leadership Camp would exceed my expectations in every way and that I would meet so many new people and learn a lot along the way!

I knew right off the bat that the people at this camp were not your average, everyday people; these people were the leaders of their school, just like I am. I knew I would fit in just fine. As soon as I walked into registration I was greeted by warm welcomes and friendly smiles; this lasted throughout the week. The first afternoon of camp we were split into our "clubs". I was put into Club C, and being the only person from my high school, I had no clue who anyone was; within minutes that all changed. We started out by playing a few icebreakers and getting to know each other. Later that evening we had to design a Club C t-shirt and then model it for everyone. This first team building activity brought us all a lot closer and allowed people to showcase their artistic abilities, or lack of in my case. Not all team building activities went as smoothly as the first one, however. The team building exercise that got to all of us was the helicopter. If you have attended the Millikin Leadership Camp, you know exactly what activity I am talking about, and if you have not attended, which I recommend you do, you stand forewarned. We were given a helicopter kit and told to put it together in 20 minutes, but the catch is you do not have any instructions. You could only send a total of five people, one at a time, to look at a completed model for 30 seconds each. These people have to then report back to the group and tell us how to build the helicopter. By the end of this activity, some of us were getting

lippy with one another, others were pulling out their hair, and others had just give up all together; I believe I fell into all three categories.

When we got back to our Club C discussion area we were all irritated with one another and not particularly friendly towards each other, but as we began to discuss the activity as a group we began to understand that the activity was designed to make us communicate. As student leaders in our schools, we are used to being in charge and being the leader, but when you're in a group of leaders, communication sometimes goes out the window. This activity in particular taught us that when working with others you have to be patient, and being a good leader isn't always about being the one in charge, it's about learning to co-lead with others. True leaders do not bulldoze over others to get their way, they work alongside them. This was just one of the many leadership activities that really stuck with me throughout the week.

When I look back on my camp experience through the IASC, I can only think of positive things to say. The leadership activities we did really allowed me to grow as a person and made me a better Student Council member. The ideas and different activities we shared during the week were great to bring back to my own council, and I cannot wait to implement some of them. This camp really got me pumped and thinking of new ideas for my own council. I also credit the camp for giving me the final push to run for a District office my junior year. If you have not attended the IASC Leadership Camp I would highly recommend it! It is four days out of your summer and you will learn and grow as a person so much during those four days!

Sarah DeLong is a Junior at Sullivan High School and is Secretary of the Student Council. She attended the 2010 IASC Summer Workshop as a delegate.





BY THE NUMBERS

Days: 4

Student Delegates: 46

Advisor Delegates: 4

Senior Staff: 8

Junior Staff: 9

STUDENTS SPRING INTO LEADERSHIP

**By: Michaela Eichoff
Oakwood High School**

The 76th Annual IASC State Convention hosted by Oakwood High School was a great success. Approximately 87 schools and a total of 822 advisors and delegates were at the Springfield Hilton on May 6-8, 2010 as they joined OHS to “Spring into the Field of Leadership.”

After registration, everyone received a free ticket to visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. At the museum, delegates could see settings of key events in Lincoln's life, including the original handwritten Gettysburg Address and a signed Emancipation Proclamation.

Once everyone was registered on Thursday, the first general session was called to order. This session featured a keynote speech by The “Original” Mike Smith. His speech entertained everyone with his catchy rhymes and life lessons. He reminded everyone to smile every day and get involved as long as it is “not illegal, immoral or fattening, and you might learn something and have a good time.” His fast-talking and fun stories kept everyone laughing and excited.

After the session, there were many discussion groups led by student leaders from across the state. Some of the topics discussed included school spirit, public speaking, school service and setting goals. The purpose of the discussions was to gain new and better ideas that delegates could bring back to their local councils. There were two other sessions of discussion groups held during the convention.

On Friday, the general session featured a motivational media program by Showtime. The program was a video on three screens that taught important lessons by using popular music and movies that are easy to relate to. The video showed the im-



portance of making smart decisions and to not be caught up in peer pressure.

During the convention, the 2010-2011 state officers were elected. The state board was installed into their offices during the formal banquet on Friday night. Following the banquet, Mike Smith led a candle lighting (glow stick) program where student leaders who excelled in leadership in their home councils were honored. This Reflections program showed everyone that we are united as leaders. Also that night, a dance with a DJ was held for all the delegates.

The last day of convention began with a t-shirt swap. Everyone could trade a shirt from their school with a shirt from another school. It was a great and fun way for schools to get new ideas for their student council t-shirts.

At the end of convention, the theme for the 2011 State Convention that will be held at the Westin Hotel in Lombard was announced. The theme is “The New Road to Leadership” and will be hosted by Carlyle High School and Convention Secretary, Sarah Schomaker.

Michaela Eichoff is a Senior at Oakwood High School and is a member of the Student Council.

LEADERSHIP AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

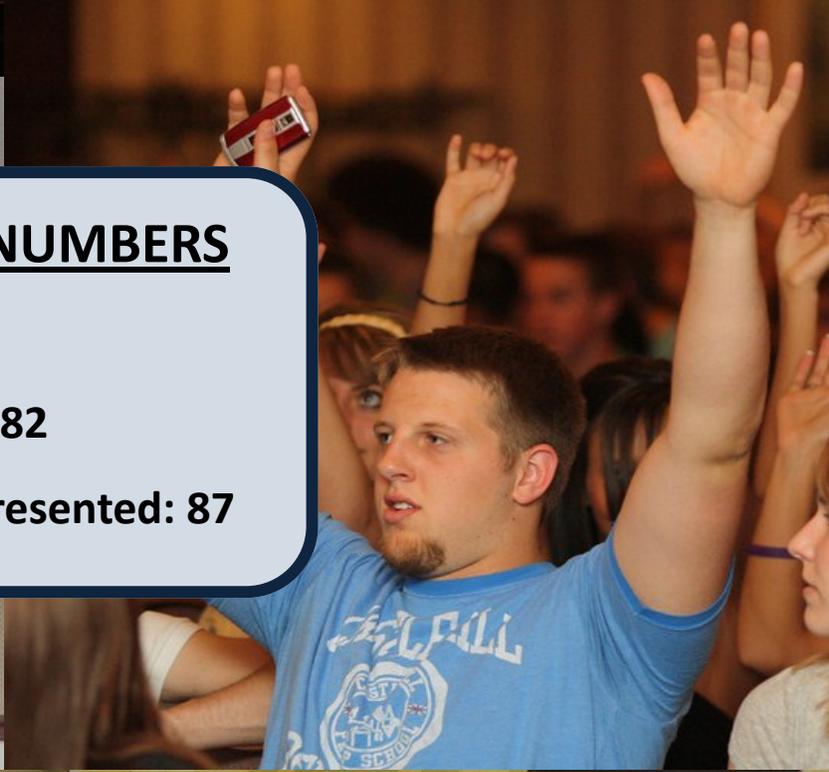


BY THE NUMBERS

Days: 3

Attendees: 882

Schools Represented: 87



Want to see more pictures from the 2010 State Convention???

Visit IllinoisStuco.com to see all our convention pictures.



Meet the 2010-2011



Brexton Isaacs, President

Hello everyone! My name is Brexton Isaacs, and I would like to thank you for choosing me to be your 2010-2011 IASC President. I am a senior at Byron High School, which is up in northern Illinois, and I have been active in leadership for many years. In my high school, I am the Yearbook Editor-in-Chief, Senior Class President, Mission Statement Club President and founder, a Freshman Mentor, as well as a few other things. I have been involved in student council since I was in 6th grade and have been interested in student council outside of the school district ever since I ran for District Representative in 7th grade.

When I entered high school, I had every intention to simply be a general member in Student Council, until the opportunity arose at State Convention my freshman year to apply for IASC Webmaster. I didn't get this position, so I tried again the following year, this time for IASC President. Again, I lost. I figured "third time's a charm" so I ran a third time for IASC office, my second campaign for President. Well you already know the outcome, and that's how I became your 2010-2011 IASC President. I look forward to working with all of you this year.



Jacob Henry, Vice President

Greetings IASC, my name is Jacob Henry, and I am proud to be your Vice President for this year (I was elected First Vice-President but was appointed by the board to fill some of the Second Vice President duties). When I am not feeding turtles, I am normally working on something council related. I am also involved in the Boy Scouts of America. I am the Trading Post Manager for a local scout camp. Inside of school I limit myself to Yearbook and Student Council. Last year I was Kickapoo District Webmaster. This year I decided to devote a hundred percent of my time to the state and the Vice President-ly duties. I am, however, acting as a consultant for both my local and district boards.

If you have any questions at all, I can be reached at jhenry@illinoisstuco.com or on Facebook. In closing, remember however crazy you get when you are stressed in leadership, there is always the guy that is seeing a striped flamingo on his desk. You aren't alone. Live up some endeavors, make a difference, and rock some leadership!

1 Executive Board



Karen Martinez, Secretary

I was born in Mexico and moved to the states when I was seven years old. I have moved four times until we finally stayed in Elmhurst where I live with my mom and dog, although I also have a stepdad and two step brothers, making me the middle child. Inside and out of school I am involved in numerous activities including York Ambassadors and NHS, but I am also a football manager and I play tennis once in a while. I love working with the community and being involved with people. I volunteer at the Elmhurst Historical Museum as well as at a senior home where I visit with seniors. Student Council has been my interest since I joined Kids Leadership in middle school, and my dedication to Stuco has grown ever since. I plan on attending George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia next fall where I will study Political Science – Immigration and hopefully be an intern for the government.



Eric Mortensen- Treasurer

Hello to all! My name is Eric Mortensen, and I am the 2010-2011 IASC Treasurer. I am a senior at Belvidere High School and consider myself to be very active. I am involved in activities ranging from football, DECA, National Honor Society, the fine arts, etc.; however, I consider Student Council to be my passion. I love what it represents and what it can accomplish not only for a school, but also a community. In the past two years, I have served on both my school's and district's Executive Boards. This year as State Treasurer, I have the pleasure of communicating with the 13 districts and more than 800 schools that compose the IASC. I look forward to learning about what makes your school and district stand out from the others, so much that I plan to travel to as many IASC districts as possible. In addition to having the honor of serving on the State Executive Board, I am also my Council's president this year. Already this summer, I have realized something very important, something that has always been told to me, but I hadn't understood it to the fullest in the past: Leadership is a journey, not a destination. I believe that the experiences that the IASC has to offer can benefit anyone, from a freshman, to a senior, or even an advisor.



Sarah Schomaker, Convention Secretary

Hello, my name is Sarah Schomaker, and I am your 2010-2011 Convention Secretary. I am a senior at Carlyle High School where I am involved in many clubs. I am the president of my student council, and I am in National Honor Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Spanish Club and Tech Prep. I love softball: I am a member of my school team and a select summer and fall team called the Dazzlers. I have one older sister and one younger sister who are absolutely the best! In my spare time you can find me on Facebook, reading a book or watching T.V. I also spend a lot of time with my friends!

Since I am this year's Convention Secretary, it is my job to get everyone to our convention May 5-7, 2011 at the Westin Hotel in Lombard! Our theme this year is "The New Road to Leadership." We hope to do many exciting and new things this year, so get your student council to come and enjoy our convention!

FALL WORKSHOPS

Once students begin heading back to school and the leaves on the trees begin to change colors, so does the mindset of the IASC. Traditionally, the IASC has held a series of one-day “drive-in” workshops designed to provide a variety of leadership training including the basics of parliamentary procedures, identification of leadership styles and communication skills, among others.

Beginning in 2009, the IASC began to take a different approach to these workshops, offering certain topics at select workshops, rather than trying to incorporate all leadership aspects into one workshop. This format has worked well, according to Workshop Director Lorie Demry, and the same format will continue with our 2010 workshop offerings.

These workshops are offered at various locations across the state; they begin at 9:00 AM, and end by 12:30 PM, with a light snack offered in the late morning.

More details and registration are available online at www.IllinoisStuco.com.

| Date | Location | Topics |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| September 28 | Fairview Heights | Project/Event Planning, Leadership Styles, Communication |
| October 21 | Belvidere | Leadership Styles, Communication, Team Building |
| October 22 | Elmhurst | Group Dynamics, Communication |
| November 10 | Mount Vernon | Leadership Styles, Communication |

ADVISOR FLY-IN



Advisors looking for a different type of professional development need look no further than the Illinois Association of Student Councils. November 5-7, the IASC, in conjunction with The Alliance for Student Activities, is hosting an Advisor Fly-In Workshop at the Embassy Suites hotel in Rosemont. This workshop is specially designed to allow attendees from across the country to fly into Chicago's O'Hare Airport on Friday, attend the conference and fly home on Sunday.

A series of workshops will be presented on leadership class curriculums, grading systems, using media in leadership training, and much more. These workshops take place from Friday evening through Sunday morning, with a break on Saturday night to allow you to spend the evening in downtown Chicago for shopping and networking.

The workshop itself costs \$150, although the hotel costs will be slightly more. Make plans today to join the IASC and some of the most respected student leadership speakers including Mike Smith, Andy Costanza, Gary Clark, Lyn Fiscus and Ann Postawaite at this workshop.

More details will be available later this fall online at www.IllinoisStuco.com.



The IASC is Everywhere You Are

Join us on Facebook and

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upcoming events, registration

deadlines and more.

