

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

THE REPORTER

WINTER 2015



**STUDENTS ENHANCE THEIR  
TRUST IN LEADERSHIP**





# ***The Reporter***

Winter 2014

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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.

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# Message from the President

Season's Greetings, IASC!

I hope finals went well for those that have taken them! During this time of giving, I implore your schools to begin or continue working with the 2015 IASC State Service Project: Ronald McDonald House Charities. More information on the IASC's work with RMHC can be found on our website. Whether it's collecting pop-tabs, volunteering your time, or finding other ways to help, I hope each school can work with a Ronald McDonald House!

Another way to get involved with the IASC in the coming month is to propose a constitutional amendment. A form will be in your school's mailbox in the next few weeks. Also, don't forget about creating your Honor Council Book which will be graded and displayed at the 81<sup>st</sup> IASC State Convention, May 7-9, 2015. With so many different opportunities to get involved, I hope each of your schools take advantage of them! As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time, day or night.

*Respectfully,*

**Matt Bourke**

President of the IASC

York Community High School

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P.S. I hope to see you all at the Advanced Workshop, January 16-18!

# DYNAMICS OF TRU

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**By: Kyle Weise**  
**Oakwood High School**

Before the Dynamic of Trust workshop, I never fully knew how to use the leadership skills I have learned over the years in student council. At the workshop, I saw how a small group of people reacted when given a problem. There were people that 'put one foot forward' and took on the role of being the leader during the activity. The rest of the group listened to the leader(s) when they gave an idea to try, then they worked together to complete the problem at hand. There were at times when some people wanted to quit the activity and move on to the next one, but the rest of the group told them not to quit and just to try again. Also, there was a lot of positive input into suggestions to make completing the activity quicker, faster, or both.

What I took away from the experience was that there were no wrong answers when trying to solve a problem and that a group makes solving problems a breeze. Working in a group, you get new ideas you might not have thought of if you tried to solve the problem on your own. Also, I learned that if you get stressed out on a problem, just take a step back, take some time to breathe or to change the subject for a short period of time and come back to the problem later.

The overall time at the Dynamics of Trust workshop was one of fun and pure enjoyment. My time at the workshop will be an event I will never forget; I developed new friendships, and strengthened the old ones. With all that said and done, I cannot wait until the Advanced Workshop where I can make more memories, learn more leadership skills, and develop more friendships.



# JUST EXPERIENCES

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**By: Ariana Kelley**  
**Shiloh High School**

I had an excellent experience at the Low Ropes Course in Carlinville, Illinois. On this day I had lots of fun and made many new friends. As the day progress and as we completed each obstacle, we began to come closer than just casual acquaintances. It was as if we had known each other for a long time. I guess this is what happens when you are standing with only centimeters between you and someone you met five minutes before. I would recommend this amazing experience to everyone. I hope to meet more friends next year at this event.



# State Service Project



## Pop Tabs

Our State Service project this year is collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charity. If your student council has not started this fundraiser, I encourage you to do so. It's a great way to help many children and their families and it is very easy to start. All you have to do to start is provide a box or any container and start collecting pop tabs. After your collection drive you can drop them off in a collection container. These collection containers are in the shape of a house at schools, committee and city groups, and other local organizations in your area. You can also contact a Ronald McDonald House near your to ask about getting your own house for collection at your school. Another way is to create and decorate your own collection container. This year at the state convention, all schools who took part in the state service project can display their creative container designs. Student Councils will also be able to bring in the tabs they have collected over the year to be weighed at convention through a partner of RMHC.

## Keep the Cans

In conjunction with Rexam, a company called United Scrap Metal recycles aluminum cans for charity. Anything recycled from, or on behalf of, the charity, USM donates all of the funds back to RMHC. If you would like more information on this and would like to receive a collection box on behalf of Rexam, please contact Matt Bourke at [President@IllinoisStuco.org](mailto:President@IllinoisStuco.org).

## Volunteer Weeks

Local Student Councils will be able to sign-up at their local RM Houses during a week once a month if they so choose. Students will be able to work with families or cook a meal, as well as connect with kids of the families staying in the houses. This is a great opportunity for schools that only have time to give.

# Fun Ways for Your Student Council to Start a Drive!



## Pop Tab War

Split up in homerooms or by grade level and see which group can bring in the most pop tabs in a certain period of time. You can add incentives like ice cream parties, candy, or extra credit for the group that brings in the most!

## Pop Tabs cover the Tab

Instead of charging admission for games and school events have spectators pay with a certain number of pop tabs to get into these programs. This will not only increase the number of pop tabs collected but also make the community aware of what your school is doing for a service project.

## Can the Principal

If your student council is collecting cans along with pop tabs, this is a fun way to get student involved. The objective is to collect so many cans and pop tabs to overflow the principal's office so he can no longer be in his office. Make sure to neatly box up the crush cans and pop tabs to make it easier to bring to a collection place.

We want to know how your school is running their drive! Let us know with pictures at #IASC and #IASCServiceProject on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram!



# Getting to Know

Kyle Gordon was a recipient of this year's 2014 Illinois Award. Mr. Gordon currently serves as student council advisor to Collinsville High School, and is also the Treasurer's Advisor, and Associate Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Student Councils. Upon winning this award Mr. Gordon felt very proud to have been included in winning such a prestigious award. In the past some of his mentors, including Lorie Demry, Gary Clark and the late Hank Clark, have been recipients of this award and to Mr. Gordon it was a true honor to be included in the company of these folks.

Winning this award came as a total surprise to Kyle Gordon but after hearing about his past accomplishments and his dedication to student council it is no shock that he was a recipient of the 2014 Illinois Award. Mr. Gordon has received the following awards: Emerson Award Winner in 2012, the 2013 National Warren E. Shull Student Council Advisor of the Year, and he was the first to receive the IASC Advisor of the Year Award in 2013. Winning these awards shows how others react and acknowledge the hard work that Mr. Gordon puts into student council, not only at the local level, but also at the district, state and national levels.

Mr. Gordon has been working hard with student council for a total of seventeen years, which is truly amazing! With all these accomplished years put into student council, great memories and wisdom follow. Mr. Gordon's favorite memory with student council was hosting the 2005 NASC National Conference in Collinsville. Mr. Gordon then shared his knowledge with us as he says, "I think Student Council can play a vital role in all schools. Giving students a voice is a wonderful way to include all students and help them create a school climate that is positive." It is no wonder that Mr. Gordon is the advisor of the largest Student Council in the country with a total of 425 members. He does not believe elections should be a part of Student Council. He feels that if you have a student that wants to be involved in helping your school or community, elections should not prevent students from serving.

Mr. Gordon has done so much with his student council, and I am sure he will continue to go above and beyond with his work. Well done on being a recipient of this year's 2014 Illinois Award and we all look forward to seeing what you will continue to accomplish in the years to follow!

# v...Kyle Gordon



In upcoming issues of *The Reporter*, make sure to look out for “Getting to Know Linda Pickett,” a winner of the 2014 Illinois Award and “Getting to Know Cyndi Sulak,” 2014 Advisor of the Year!



# ADVANCED WORKSHOP

Registration forms for the 2015 Advanced Workshop are now available. The workshop will be held January 16-18, 2015 at Lake Williamson Center, in Carlinville, IL.

Advanced Workshop helps students explore values and how they impact our lives and leadership styles. It also offers a high ropes challenge adventure. Registration will be limited so don't delay in sending in your form. Students must have attended previously attended either the IASC Summer Workshop, or a Drive-In Workshop in order to be eligible to attend Advanced Workshop.

Cost of the workshop for IASC members, with registration due by **January 7, 2015** is \$160.00 per delegate.

Non-Members or registering after January 7, \$185.00 per delegate.

Get all the details at <http://reporter.illinoisstuco.org/2014/11/advanced-workshop-registration-available/>.

# CALL FOR AMENDMENTS

All member schools are invited to review the constitution and handbook, and submit any changes you believe are necessary by February 2, 2015.

Every proposed amendment will be reviewed by both the IASC Executive Board as well as the Constitution Committee. The amendments will be posted on the IASC website two weeks prior to the convention. All proposed amendments will be discussed at the 81st IASC State Convention and will require two-thirds vote for constitution amendment passage and a simple majority vote for bylaw changes.

All amendments must be submitted on the official IASC Amendment form, and must be submitted to IASC President, Matt Bourke, no later than **February 1, 2015**.

More details are available online at <http://reporter.illinoisstuco.org/2014/12/iasc-seeks-constitutional-amendments/>.



# The IASC is Everywhere You Are

Join us on Facebook and

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upcoming events, registration

deadlines and more.

