

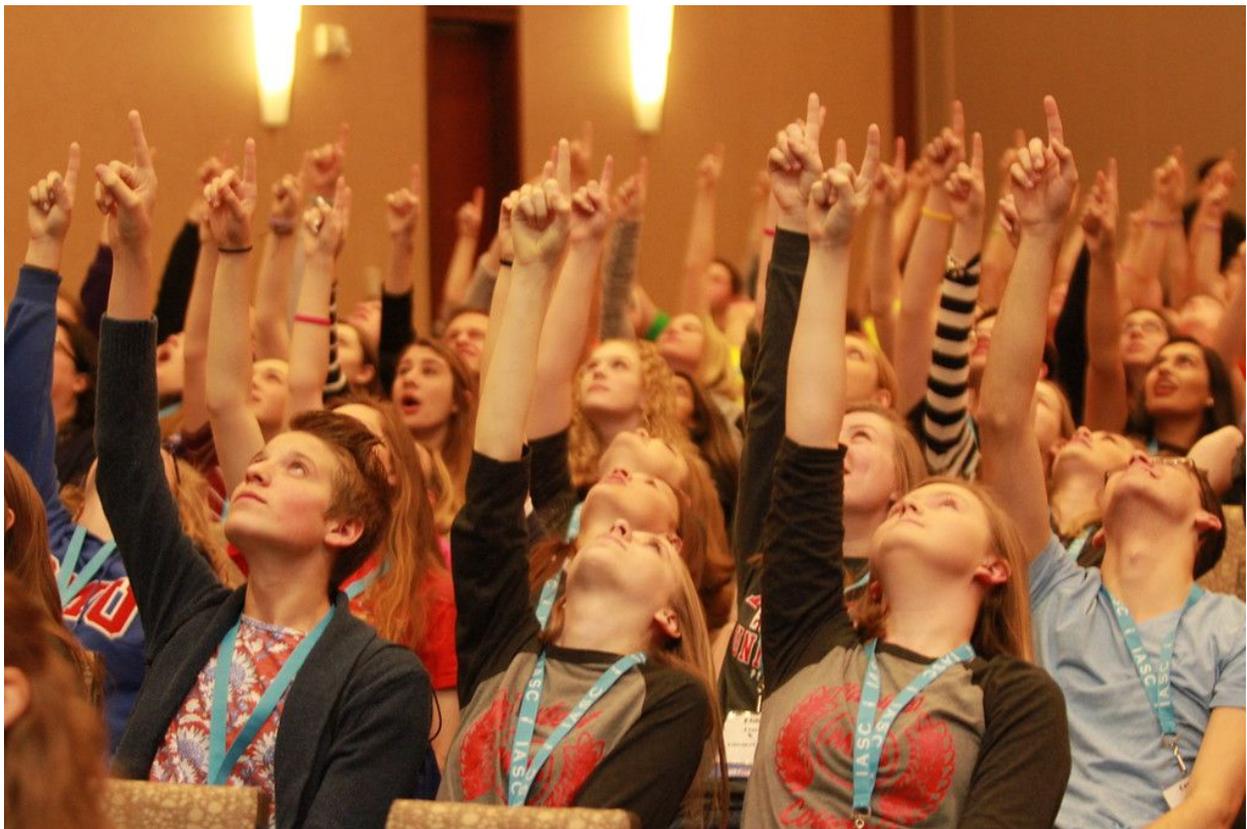
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# The Illinois Association of Student Councils

## The Reporter

November 20th, 2017

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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.org](mailto:reporter@illinoisstuco.org).

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## From the Desk of President Rock

Hello Students and Advisors! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer and is off to great start with school. I'm am sure everyone is hard at work getting their Homecoming festivities prepared, and I hope that event is successful for everyone.

I would like to thank you for putting your confidence in me and the rest of the executive board for the upcoming year. 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 throughout the year – this includes our One Day Drive Ins, Dynamics of Trust, and Advanced Workshop. Illinois is also 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. 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 student council because they get stuck doing the same things every year: homecoming the same as last year, the same fundraiser as last year, the same service projects as last year... But I want this to be a year of new opportunities, and new experiences, not only for student council, but for the other students 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. Convince 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 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 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!

Yours in Service,  
Kathleen Rock  
Byron High School  
IASC President



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## Meet the 2017-2018 Executive Board

### Anne Grasse, Assistant Communications Director

Hey guys! My name is Annie Grasse, and I am your 2017-2018 Assistant Communications Director! I'm a senior at York High School where I've been a member of StuCo for four years, also holding the position of York Communications Chair. Outside StuCo, I am the President of Model UN, a member of National Honor Society and French Honor Society, captain of the Girls Golf Team, and a Freshman Mentor. Outside of school, I work at a golf camp for kids, play and tutor fifth graders in the viola and also intern at a local non-profit organization. Outside of extracurriculars, I am a caffeine addict (I have three cups coffee a day) and a proud mom to my cat, Georgie. I am so excited to be the Assistant Communication Director this year, and can't wait to meet many of you this year as I grow our social media outlets and organization! Hope to see many of you soon!



### Tanner Allen, Convention Secretary

Good day, fellow IASC members! My name is Tanner Allen, and I am your 2017-18 Convention Secretary. Outside of Student Council, you can find me making sandwiches at the local Subway, practicing for an FFA competition, or memorizing lines for the upcoming musical. I am also involved in NHS, Science Club, History League, and Tazewell County Youth Board. Inside of our local StuCo, I am on our Homecoming Committee, and lead the Convention Committee that is



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hard at work preparing for the 2018 State Convention. A goal for my position this year is to create a seamless and nearly paperless convention. Have an amazing year with all of your Student Council endeavors!!!

## Connor Davis, Treasurer

Hey, IASC! I'm Connor Davis, the 2017-2018 State Treasurer!

I'm currently a senior at Collinsville High School where I participate in clubs like National Honor Society, Class Executive Board, Math Honor Society, Kahokstrong, and my favorite, of course, Student Council! In my spare time (which is rarely ever lol) I like to spend tons of time with my friends, watch too much sports on TV, or hang out and binge watch *The Office*. Student Council, and more importantly, IASC, has

played a huge role in my life and it's a passion for me. It has shaped me into who I am today. This year, I'm ready to raise the roof on membership numbers and have a record breaking year as well as participate in an amazing service project. I can't wait to dive in and have a blast with my amazing board! But for now, peace out homies!



## Brianna McAloon, Second Vice President

Hello everyone! My name is Brianna McAloon, and I am your 2017-2018 Second Vice President! I am a senior at Lake Park high school. In addition to Student Council, I participate in activities such as National



Honor Society, varsity soccer, and an anti-bullying club at my school called Stand for the Silent. When I'm not spending time at Lake Park (which I agree with Conner is a small window) I enjoy spending time with family and friends and love to get outside and have new adventures. I'm honored to be serving on the executive board this year. My goal is to make the Hall of Ideas one of the best exhibits at state to showcase all of your awesome creativity and service the best way possible! Keep working hard this year. You all

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make a difference in the lives of people around you, so keep doing amazing things! Can't wait for this year's Convention!

## Gatlin Miller, Secretary

Greetings, IASC members and advisors! My name is Gatlin Miller, and I am serving as the 2017-2018 State Secretary! I am currently a junior at Mt. Vernon Township High School, which is located nearly an hour east of the great city of St. Louis. Outside of Student Council, I am involved with many other activities, including Future Business Leaders of America, Speech & Acting, Youth & Government, Philanthropy Club, National Honors Society, and National Thespian Society. I am also a member of the Illinois State Board of Education's Student Advisory Council and the Cedarhurst Youth Ambassador Program. I love to perform in my school's theatre productions, as well as spend quality time with family and friends. I also enjoy watching movies and binge-watching series on Netflix. However, what I value most is my relationship with God, as I love to serve Him and build His Kingdom. My Student Council journey has been very long, yet very enjoyable every step of the way. My freshman year I was elected Class President, and ever since, I have loved Student Council! I have taken on many leadership positions throughout the past years, and this year I am proudly serving as my class secretary, Executive Board Secretary, and IASC Secretary, as mentioned earlier. I have many goals for this year on the state level as I would love for this year to truly be the best yet. I would love for our membership to rise above past records, and see communication increase for a more unified state. I'm hoping as State Secretary I can work to accomplish these goals, as well as many more! I hope to see many of you soon and always



remember: This is OUR time!!

## Mark Maddock, First Vice President

Hi IASC Students, my name is Mark Maddock. I'm your 2017-2018 Illinois State First Vice President. I look forward to the year ahead and getting to work with you all. *The Office*, dogs, and US politics are some of my favorite things! Outside of school, I work at my local water park as a lifeguard, and politically, I volunteer frequently. At school, I volunteer with NHS and in the office at my school, and participate in Spanish Club, Drama Club, Student Assistance Program, Special



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Needs Student Assistance Program and Maroon Platoon. Feel free to follow my personal account @markmadd and talk to me about anything student council! See you all this year!

## Kathleen Rock, President

Hello everyone! My name is Kathleen Rock and I would like to thank you again for choosing me to be your 2017-2018 IASC President. I am Senior at Byron High School, which is up in Northern Illinois and I have been active in leadership and student advocacy for many years. I am President of Byron High School Student Council, President of National Honor Society, President of my Class, Illinois-Eastern Iowa Key Club Division 13 Lieutenant Governor, Illinois State Board of Education Student Advisory Council Chairperson, and Chairperson of the Byron High School Principal Advisory Board. I have been an officer in student council since 6th grade. I was the Liaison and Vice President of the Northwest District as well as a Credentials Committee Member, and I was selected as the Chairperson of the Constitution Committee before I ran for State Office. Student Council has been an integral part of my High School experience. I have met friends from all throughout the state and I have continued to grow in my leadership, all thanks to endless opportunities provided to me by my Advisor, Mrs. Kari Ebens and the IASC. I am so grateful that I have been able to take advantage of all of the opportunities that the IASC offers and I am eager to give back to this great organization this year as state board president. I look forward to working with all of you this year and if you ever need my assistance for whatever reason, please shoot me an email or give me a call! I hope everyone has a great year!



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# The 83rd State Convention



The 83rd Annual IASC State Convention, hosted by York HS, once again brought new ideas and allowed for students across the state to showcase their leadership from May 3rd through May 5th. This amazing conference began with an energetic speech from one of the four inspiring speakers who talked that weekend stressing the leadership which each person held. Afterwards, the IASC heard speeches from each of the nominees running for a position on the State Board. Afterwards, delegates dispersed into roundtable monitor groups to discuss more intimately about their schools and programs. During this time, ideas were shared and friends were made. Following

these groups, the delegates headed back up to their rooms to catch a few hours of sleep, for there was still a full two days left.

The following morning was filled with knowledge as students shared different innovative ideas during the discussion groups, which touched on ideas ranging from Homecoming to participation in different Student Council Activities. Throughout the day, students met new friends from throughout the state and listened to inspiring messages from our speakers; these messages described how to create your own legacy and help be a positive change for your school. We ended day two with a wonderful banquet full of emotions as the new Executive Board was installed and the retiring Executive Board reflected on the year past. Following the banquet, there was only one thing left to do: Dance! Delegates let loose on the dance floor in typical IASC fashion as they celebrated the newfound ideas they had with the new friends they made.

With the 83rd State Convention drawn to a close, it is time to think about the 84th State Convention, hosted by Midwest Central HS, taking place in Springfield from May 3rd to 5th. This convention will be filled with inspirational speakers, innovative ideas, and knowledge on how to further leadership. We encourage everyone to come back, and to invite other schools to convention!



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## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mrs. Kari Ebens of Byron High School for being named the 2017 Advisor of the Year!



## Workshop Corner

Millikin-- During July, the IASC held its annual summer camp in Millikin University where students learned more about their leadership and grew in their journey to become the best leaders possible. From laughing along with A'ric Jackson who led the session, to discussing real issues facing our world today, these leaders took home valuable information that they will use for the rest of their lives. Keep your eyes out for next summer if you're interested in attending!

Region 5-- This past August, the Executive Board attended the Region 5 Summit in the Quad Cities. This event filled weekend taught the board valuable ideas as each state presented different activities ranging from communication to leadership. As the board met new friends from different states, they also brought home knowledge that can make the State better

## Upcoming Workshops:

Advanced Workshop--January 12th, the IASC will be hosting the annual Advanced Workshop in Lake Williamson Center Carlinville, Illinois. This workshop will consist of a high ropes course, and will be a day full of leadership and knowledge. Registration is due December 8th, we encourage you to apply.

# Where are they Now?

## Matt Bourke

2014-2015 President of the IASC

*What are you currently doing?*

I'm currently a junior at the University of Missouri studying secondary language arts education. My goal is to come back to the Chicago suburbs to teach English/journalism and hopefully advise a student council one day!

*What are some of the skills and lessons that the IASC has taught you?*

Where do I even begin? I've been able to work with a few leadership groups throughout college and every time I've been able to go back to lessons I learned in the IASC. There are workshops that I attended during state and district conventions, as well as national conferences where I learned and strategies that I still use. The IASC taught me a lot about group development and how to work with newly-formed groups, a skill vital for working within any student leadership organization.

*How have the skills you've taken away from IASC helped you after you've left the organization?*

One of the best skills I learned from the IASC was how to find opportunities for growth and development. With so many opportunities offered throughout the state and country, my involvement with the IASC taught me to hunt out new ways to better myself and improve my school.

*What is your best memory from the IASC?*

Though I have countless fond memories of the IASC, one of my favorites is calling to order the 2015 IASC State Convention during my presidency. It was such a surreal experience to watch all of the work the convention hosts and executive board put forward come to fruition and be enjoyed by the state of Illinois. I'll also always remember when we were sitting in the January board meeting and, as Ms. Fleming (my advisor) was reading through a permission slip for edits, she just said, "What's a banana-accredited institution?" It turns out our convention secretary had left his computer unattended and that was the result! We got "Banana Accredited" shirts that year for our executive board.

*Do you have any advice for current students of the IASC?*

Take advantage of all of the opportunities the IASC gives you! You'll be a better student, a better leader, and a better person because of the camps, workshops, and conventions you attend!



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# Austin Dean

IASC President 2012-2013

*What is your current occupation?*

I am the Press Secretary & Digital Director for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman.

*What are some of the skills and lessons that the IASC has taught you?*

When I became President it was the most surreal moment of my life at that point in time. I'm from a small rural town in central Illinois where there were fewer than 100 total students in my entire high school. When I was a freshman I wasn't allowed to join Student Council because the Advisor at the time said I wasn't, "student council material." Two years later, I was elected state President and had an entire world of opportunities, connections, and friendships open up to me. I share that to explain that the biggest lesson the IASC taught me is that if you have a dream and a vision, you can do anything. I truly believe that and IASC was the organization that proved it to me. That dream isn't only centered around running for positions and hoping to get elected, but around causes within our schools and communities.



*How have the skills you've taken away from IASC helped you after you've left the organization?*

Networking and the gift of gab are two of the most important skills that IASC gave me, being able to make connections that can later on in life help rally around a cause that you have. Life is all about the people we meet and interact with. The shared experiences that we have tell the narrative of who we are as people. This is hard for people like myself who are introverted but, over time, you develop skills and tricks to help you overcome those fears and anxieties.

*What is your favorite memory from the IASC?*

I know every student council member wants to make this claim, but I truly had the greatest student council advisor that I could ever ask for. She believed in me and went on this crazy journey with me on behalf of our state. My times with her were filled with laughter and lessons that have helped mold me into the man I am today. All of my time with her was truly the greatest gift and most treasured I have within IASC.

*Do you have any advice for current students of the IASC?*

Seek to understand, then to be understood.



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## Local Feature

Trivia Night-- On October 25, 2017, York Student Council hosted Trivia Night for the local community. The cost was two dollars per student and five dollars per adult. People could make teams of whoever they wanted as long as they were from four to eight people. We had eight teams come out and play eight rounds of trivia. It came close at the end between two teams, but the students-dad team came out victorious. The winners received gift cards to a local restaurant and "trivia winner" t-shirts.

-Stephen Chornij, York High School

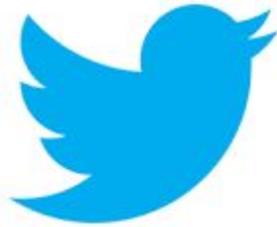


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# The IASC is Everywhere You Are!



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