



THE REPORTER

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A FAREWELL FROM THE 2019-2020 BOARD

BY SIDNEY ROPP

On behalf of the IASC 2019-2020 Board as a whole, we are truly heartbroken that the circumstances have prohibited us from getting to spend time with hundreds of leaders throughout Illinois this May; this end to the school year is certainly far different from what any of us could have ever imagined. Because this issue of the Reporter was originally supposed to share information about the 2020 State Convention, we have decided to instead use it as a space for each of the 2019-2020 Officers to provide farewells for their respective positions. Thank you, IASC, for making this year great, even amongst the ongoing crisis.

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IASC PRESIDENT

MADELEINE BRASS



Wow, Illinois StuCo, what a year we have had! I can truly never thank you enough for giving me the greatest opportunity of my life: to be your president. It has been a blessing to serve you, work alongside you, and be a part of a greater good with you. Throughout my student council journey, I have had the distinct honor of meeting so many people from across the state: people who will look at the same task as me, but go after it with a different perspective; people who hear the same speech as me, but gain a different lesson; people who are challenged with the same team activity as me, but are ready to approach it in a different manner; people who look at the same world as me and want to add to it, but in a different way. And this diversity of thought is precisely what makes this organization so special. Being able to meet many of you in person, whether at summer camp, a district convention, a drive-in, LEAD, a meeting, or a workshop, has

allowed me to witness the fact that there are countless ways to be a leader, and every single person has vast potential to lead. I'd be remiss if I didn't address the topic weighing on all of our minds: Covid-19 and the cancellation of State Convention. I know Student Council means something different to all of us, and whether you are mourning the loss of student council activities, a sport, a play, a different club, or even just simply being at school, your feelings are understandable. It is incredibly sad that we cannot all be together one last time for our StuCo year. This is not the way any of us wanted this year of Student Council to end. Nevertheless, I would like to say thank you all for making this year what it was; your efforts to promote student leadership and service are truly appreciated. The work you all have done for your schools, communities, districts, and Illinois StuCo deserves to be recognized, and from the bottom of my heart, I am sorry



that the chance to formally do that was taken away. However, please know that nothing can take away the student council experiences, lessons, friendships, and memories we have made. At this point, we may not understand why this all is happening; however, we cannot sit forever and dwell on the negative. Now is truly the time to put our skills in action. All year we have been growing in leadership. We've had experiences through Student Council that have taught us lessons on the value of pushing forward and overcoming. Thus, that is what we must do now. We need to adjust, adapt, and put effort into what we can control. Be the best brother, daughter, student, or just person you can be each day. Be productive, and even have some fun. Serve others! One of the best ways to make yourself feel better is to do something for someone else: write a letter, do the dishes, send a nice video, or play a family game. As we humbly serve, we often find ourselves being fulfilled as well. Most importantly, remember that there is ALWAYS the opportunity to be a leader. Finally, I'd like to leave you with one last thought...The work we've done, the experiences we've had, and the lessons we've learned though the IASC are undoubtedly amazing. However, I hope the 2019-2020 IASC year is simply ONE chapter of your leadership journey—not the end. There is no finish line in leadership, and the perfect leader does not exist; instead it's about bettering yourself every day: making the conscious decision to be more. Whether you are a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or even an Advisor, there are endless ways to expand your leadership skills and abilities. I know that you all have incredibly promising futures ahead of you and your leadership—inside and outside of Student Council. There are always new heights to be reached, new problems to solve, new lessons to learn, and new people to help, and I know you all will be the ones to do it!

Yours in leadership,
IASC President Madeleine Brass

IASC FIRST VICE

KRISTEN COSTA



IASC, this is not how I imagined presenting my farewell to all of you, but I appreciate getting to be able to do it at all. I would like to thank those of you that applied for honor delegate positions, even if you didn't get to present your hard work. I urge you to reapply next year if possible, I believe you all would have made this year's convention an amazing experience. I would like to thank my board members. This is the best group of girls you will ever meet and I can't wait to see how far each of them go in life. I will be cheering each of you on wherever you go. I would also like to thank my advisor, Mr. Kieffer. This year you had a state officer and a district president and I know that wasn't easy. Thank you for traveling and being in my corner all throughout high school.

To the IASC, thank you for allowing me to serve you this year. Even though it may not have ended the way we wanted, I am still so grateful for this experience. I have learned so much and would not have wanted to spend my senior year doing anything else. I encourage all of you to go as far as you can, take advantage of this organization. When it is taken away, you will miss and appreciate it even more. I encourage all of you to make friends, learn, and grow within this organization. These are the friendships that will last. To the class of 2020, we are so strong. I encourage you to continue leading beyond high school. We may not be getting the senior year that we want, but that doesn't change the hard work that we have put in or the experiences we have accumulated.



Thank you IASC,
Kristen Costa
2019-2020 First Vice President

IASC SECOND VICE KENDALL PLUMMER



Well, I had hoped to be giving this speech at state convention this year, but it ended up like this. A virus that tore us apart physically brought us together nonetheless. I have been very fortunate this past year being the Second Vice President. I am very sad to leave this position, but I have gained so much more than what I thought I ever would. I have more strength, wisdom, and drive to pursue my dreams. I leave being motivated for what is to come, and I leave with the joy of knowing the amazing people of my board. All of these amazing women have taught me many different things in life, and I thank them all so much. I have also made so many great connections through student council at my school, with my

advisors, and with so many other people I met at conventions. I couldn't have done anything without my advisor Janet Blade and Sheila Plummer (who is my mom). I also couldn't have done this without the help of my council either. They supported me and helped me with letters and emails and a few breakdowns. For that, I am also so grateful. I am keeping this a little short and sweet, but I do want to say one more thing. "The day you stop learning is the day you start dying." - Albert Einstein. Always be eager to learn more about the people around you, because like Einstein says, the day we stop learning we start dying. We are the future of this country and the future of leadership, and we should never stop learning.



Thank you,
Kendall Plummer
2019-2020 IASC Second Vice President

IASC SECRETARY

PAIGE JULIUS



Hello IASC students and advisors! Never would I have thought that this is how I would be saying goodbye to such an amazing year as your State Secretary. Despite these unfamiliar circumstances, I am still so blessed to have spent the past year serving you all as Secretary. This past year has been filled with so many extraordinary experiences that I will never forget. It has been such an honor to learn from my fellow board members and it has been amazing to form friendships with everyone on the board. From taking minutes at board meetings to attending workshops and conventions, I have loved it all. The bonds that I have created with those on the board and those throughout the IASC are bonds that I will hold in my heart forever.

I would also like to thank the many people that have helped me throughout this journey and that have made it so memorable. First, I would like to thank my parents for supporting and encouraging me to grow and follow my dreams. I am so blessed to have you guys and thank you for raising me to be the person that I am today. To my amazing advisors, thank you for pushing me to take these opportunities and for always being by my side. You always guided me in the right direction and have made my term as Secretary fun and memorable. You both have inspired me and seen potential in me that others may not have, and for that, I am truly grateful. To my council: you guys have made student council so enjoyable and I have learned



so much from you all. I am so blessed to have such a great group of friends that are so supportive and determined. The memories that we have made are memories that will last a lifetime! Finally, to the IASC as a whole, thank you for allowing me to serve as Secretary this past year, and for making my term amazing. I was especially glad to see an increase of honor council book applicants and participation in this program. I am truly sorry that those of you working on your books this year will not be able to receive full credit for your hard work. However, I am still so glad to see the great amount of integrity and dedication that students in the IASC hold. Your hard work makes me excited to see how this generation will impact the world. So, take hold of your dreams, and don't stop until they become a reality.

Thank you for an amazing year IASC,
Paige Julius

IASC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR HANNAH SHEAHAN



If someone told me I would be here four years ago, I never would have believed them. To be honest, before I entered high school and attended my first drive-in workshop, I always thought that student council was no more than you and people from your school. These last four years I have not only found that student council is more than just a school activity, but I've also exponentially grown to a potential I never even knew existed with the help of the Kaskaskia District and IASC. As the first person with the position of Membership Director, I was honored to shape this new position in the IASC, and worked hard to ensure all students in the state of Illinois had the greatest chance of accessing the amazing opportunities that district and state student council can provide. I am a firm believer in the power of togetherness as district and state councils, and truly accredit the IASC to helping me increase my confidence and ability

to lead, while simultaneously giving me some of the greatest experiences and friendships I have had throughout high school. These opportunities would not have been possible without the support of my school, friends, family, and state board. Without my advisor Mrs. Kelli Barbour taking a leap of faith with me, I never could have reached the position I am in today. I want to thank her, along with my principal, Dr. Rodney Winslow, for allowing me to be the first IASC officer in our school's history. In addition to this, I would not be here without my middle school advisor, Mrs. Tammy Frey, who continues to encourage me to follow my dreams, no matter how big, and the Triad High School Student Council for never failing to help me any time I needed their support. To Emma Burton and Benjamin Kelley, I appreciate all your help as well, constantly offering your help despite not being in student council. To Mr.

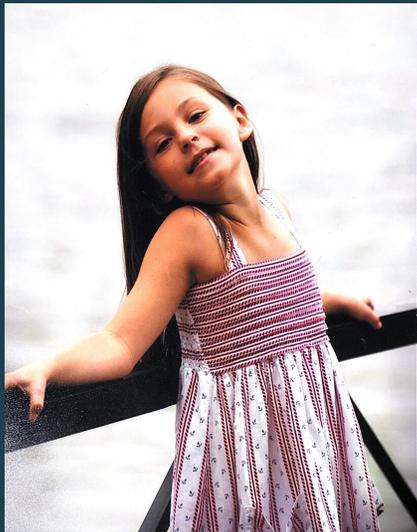


Clark, Mr. Gordon, and the Advisors and helpers on the State Board, thank you for being such fearless, kind, and inspiring leaders. I have learned so much throughout the year, and that is all thanks to your great work. To my debate coach, Mr. Kenneth Rodgers, I am grateful your understanding as I missed debate tournaments for State Board Meetings, always encouraging me to create my own path. To my family, thank you for standing by me, not only this year, but throughout my life, as I went on this journey, supporting me through it all. Finally, to my amazing fellow board members- there is no group I would rather serve with, and it was such an amazing experience to be part of this board together. I have made some amazing friends in all of you, and truly believe we are all going onto our next destinations to do great things. This experience has been surreal, and I never expected it to end this way. That being said, I would not change it for the world, as I continue to believe everything happens for a reason, and in the end we will all come out stronger. At the end of this year, I will graduate from Triad High School and continue my education at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville this fall, but I will never forget the amazing memories and opportunities being your 2019-2020 IASC Membership Director has offered me. To the members of the IASC, I am grateful you have allowed me to serve you this past year, and to all those who wish to be on the State Board, always go for it- you will not regret your decision!

With Love,
Hannah Sheahan

IASC CONVENTION SECRETARY

ANNA GRACE WEIL



Dear IASC,

Although this is not how I wanted to do this, sharing my gratitude for you all is beyond necessary and deserved. I can remember sitting at the 2017 State Convention Banquet as a young freshman without a clue that I would soon be a part of making it happen. Serving this organization has helped me grow as both a leader and person. The IASC has given me a priceless gift: the belief that I can truly change the world for the better. However, this organization is nothing without the remarkable people running it; therefore, this farewell is for you. My fellow board members, you are all such empowering young women. Each of you is destined to do amazing things and I am so thankful to have served on this

board with you. Mr. Gary Clark, boy am I going to miss you. I will never forget our mini road trips to Springfield or all of the much-needed life advice you have given me. Your bright energy is contagious and you are such a big part of the IASC's success. Mr. Gordon, I don't even know where to begin with you. For starters, thank you times 1 million. You have gone above and beyond for me countless times. Thank you for believing in me and reminding me that I am strong. You are my inspiration and have made so many of my dreams come true. Student council members, I am so sorry that you did not get to witness the magic come to life at this year's convention. Thank you for the privilege to serve as your

Convention Secretary this past year. It would not have been possible without my supportive family and fellow student council members at Collinsville High School. Please stay safe and healthy during this uncertain time.



Sincerely,

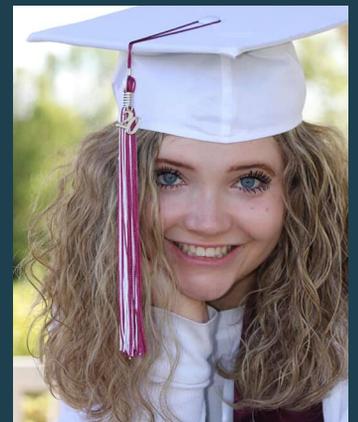
Anna Grace Weil

IASC PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR SIDNEY ROPP



I think it's important that, while reflecting on Student Council and my time in high school as a whole, I take a few moments to be vulnerable. This past fall was honestly a challenging time for me, as I was overwhelmed with feelings of anxiety and sadness about what came after senior year. I have been very blessed to attend a high school where I truly feel like I belong, filled with incredible individuals and endless opportunity, and the idea of leaving something I love so much, leaving some of younger students who I grew so close to, leaving a teaching staff that I wholeheartedly felt so supported and appreciated by, leaving the extra-curriculars, comfortable environment, engaging classes...it was undoubtedly a difficult reality to adjust to. However, as the year progressed,

I quickly came to terms with my inevitable graduation from Tremont High School. While this is partially attributable to my college selection, which is one that I absolutely adore and feel is a perfect fit, a big portion of my comfort about life post-high school comes from the skills I have acquired during my years on Student Council. This organization has taught me so much about myself, from my leadership style and dominant personality traits to an understanding of how I work best with others. I am absolutely confident that what I have learned will continue to aid me in all of my future endeavors, which has brought me so much peace throughout this transition. With that being said, I couldn't be more appreciative or thankful for the people who I have gotten me to where I am



today as a student, leader, and person. I have the most amazing parents and sister, who have supported and loved me unconditionally through every stage of my life, and my Student Council advisors and fellow members are some of the most encouraging people I could have behind me. I also owe a huge extension of gratitude to the many IASC advisors and directors who work tirelessly to make our events a reality, often investing their time behind-the-scenes and without recognition. Finally, I am also so incredibly excited for the 2020-2021 State Board to have the opportunity to pick up where we left off; the Happily Ever After theme is so special, especially to me personally, as my family and I have made annual trips to Walt Disney World since I was eight years old. I have had the privilege of getting to know many of the officers who now make up the Executive Board at various IASC functions, and I am certain that they all will do a phenomenal job in their respective positions. Thank you so much IASC for all of the friends, memories, and happiness you have brought me, and I cannot wait to see where the future takes me and the six other phenomenal women I have had the honor of serving alongside this year.

Thank you so much again,

Sidney Ropp

2019-2020 IASC Public Relations Director