

**Winter
2011**



NEBRASKA
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

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Empowering Students to Imagine ~ Believe ~ Achieve 2010 Counselor Academy

NSCA President Rynette Friesen

The 2010 Academy was an exciting and informative experience with 247 school counselors' signed up to participate. The Academy started off with the Keynote talk of Dr. Trish Hatch. As many of you probably remember, she came to Nebraska several times for the original Counselor Academy's sponsored by Donna Vrbka to talk about the ASCA Model so it was nice to have her back in the area.

Current ASCA President Brian Law gave an inspirational talk on Friday morning reminding us that we need to talk about what we do. All of our stories are important even if we don't think it is big enough to talk about; just like the "bead lady" we make a difference.

Karen Harrington from the Center for School Counseling Outcome Research – University of Massachusetts Amherst gave us valuable information that was collected in our state. Utah, Missouri Connecticut, Rhode Island and Nebraska took part in this study. School counseling programs make a difference. These programs affect positive student outcomes such as higher graduation rates, higher attendance rates, higher math and reading proficiency, lower suspension and lower discipline rates, and improved technical career skills. You will be hearing a lot more about this study.

There were 48 breakout sessions for counselors to attend and from the look of the evaluations, it appears valuable information was gained. New this year was an evening reception in order for counselors to have a relaxed atmosphere to visit and network. We want to thank Metro Community College for this opportunity.

At the general meeting, annual elections were held. Results are found in this newsletter. Dawn Smith, By-Laws committee chair, presented a change of wording to Article III, Section 2. All NSCA members should have received a ballot on this in mid-November. Also, a discussion was held about the recent NCA by-law change.

The Friday luncheon was wonderful. Governor Heineman joined us for lunch and spoke about his P-16 Initiative. He was extremely complimentary of school counselors and teachers and the work we do. He would love to hear from school counselors about any concerns we have. This year we awarded four awards: Outstanding Elementary Counselor – Mary Achelpohl; Outstanding Middle School Counselor – Mary Lincoln; Outstanding Senior High School Counselor – Mary Janata; and Outstanding Supporting Administrator Award – Ken Theile. The luncheon concluded with a drawing for over 30 prizes.

I sincerely thank those counselors that were able to attend this year's Academy. I hope that you left with numerous ideas to continue to empower students to imagine, believe, and achieve. Plans are under way for the 2011 Academy and we hope you return for another fabulous and educational experience.



Left: Mary Janata, Secondary Counselor of the Year; Mary Lincoln, Middle School Counselor of the Year; Mary Achelpohl, Elementary Counselor of the Year; Rynette Friesen, NSCA President

2011 – 2012 Elected Officers

President Elect – Elect
Post Secondary VP
Secondary VP
Middle School VP
Elementary VP

Lori Staab
Laura Gaudet
Vicky Munoz
Angie Kruse
Kristy Clarke

NSCA Board Members

President

Rynette Friesen
17132 Emiline St.
Omaha, NE 68136
402-896-8385
Cell: 402-657-0436

President-Elect

Nancy Bond
10615 Monroe St.
Omaha, NE 68127
402-537-0109
Cell: 402-616-0007

President Elect-Elect

Cheryl Kreikemeier
303 S Farragut St.
West Point, NE 68788
402-372-5876
Cell: 402-380-0590

Immediate Past President

Tracy Post
1420 N. 11th
Beatrice, NE 68310
402-223-4636
Cell: (402) 806-3162

Secretary

Doug Hauserman
4613 N. 148th St
Omaha, NE 68116
402-445-4050
Cell: 402-290-4700
DouglasJ66@gmail.com

Treasurer

Phyllis Trumble
16350 Co. Rd P10
Herman, NE 68029
402-426-5235
Cell: 402-669-6575
ptrumbl@hantel.net

Congratulations! These elected board members will enter their position on July 1, 2011 and serve for the following year. We appreciate everyone that runs for the NSCA board. Elections are held once a year at the general meeting in October. If you have an interest in running for office, please contact Nominations & Elections Chair, Julie Williams.

SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT: ONE DAY WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

WHEN: FEBRUARY 25, 2011

WHERE: ESU#16 – OGALLALA

**TOPICS: 40 DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS
COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS**

PRESENTERS:

**JODI THERKELSEN, MILLARD NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
COUNSELOR**

**NANCY BOND, SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOL COUNSELING,
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

MORE INFORMATION FORTHCOMING!

ASCA Officer Elected from Nebraska

Congratulations Doug Hauserman! NSCA received word that Doug has been elected to serve on the ASCA Board as Midwest Regional Vice President. He was elected by members of the Midwest region and will serve a three-year term starting October 1, 2011. There are thirteen states that make up the Midwest Region: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan. Kathy Goins is the outgoing Midwest Region VP. Last Nebraskan on the ASCA Board was Donna Vrbka in the capacity of Counselor Coordinator/Director Level Vice President. This is a huge honor for Doug and all of Nebraska. We know that he will do a superb job on the ASCA board.

Help Us Help You to Be Informed Professionally!

Information is a key ingredient to being a cutting-edge professional school counselor. Communication with 100% of Nebraska **K-12** School Counselors is our goal. Donna Vrbka at the Nebraska Dept. of Education and NSCA and School Counseling at NDE would like your help, by submitting your work email address.

Simply send your name and school district in an email to:

Katie.Bieber@nebraska.gov

Katie Bieber

Professional Assistant to NE School Counseling at NDE

402-471-3177

NSCA 2010 - 2011 Calendar

February 2011

- ASCA** **February 2-4** School Counselor of the Year Program in DC
- ASCA** **February 4** School Counselor of the Year Gala
- February 7-11** National School Counseling Week

March 2011

- NSCA** **March 1** NSCA Newsletter Article Due
- ASCA** **March 1** Early Bird ASCA Conference Registration Deadline
- ASCA** **March 1** LDI Grant Applications Due
- ASCA** **March 1** Deadline for candidates to submit Nomination packets for ASCA Board
- NSCA** **March 19** Committee Reports and Agenda Items Due to Rynette
- NSCA** **March 26** NSCA Board Meeting
- ASCA** **March TBD** Advocacy and Public Policy Institute

April 2011

- ASCA** **April 1** State Delegate List and Professional Credential forms due to ASCA Office
- ASCA** **April 15** State Reports Due for Delegate Assembly due to ASCA Office

May 2011

- ASCA** **May 1** Advance ASCA Conference Registration Deadline
- ASCA** **May 14** LDI Registration forms due to ASCA Office
- ASCA** **May 14** 2011-2012 Board Rosters and Conference information due to ASCA Office

June 2011

ASCA	June 23-24	ASCA Delegate Assembly
ASCA	June 25-28	ASCA Conference Seattle, Wash.

July 2011

ASCA	July TBD	Leadership Development Institute
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Rights for Noncustodial Parents

[Carolyn Stone, Ed.D.](#)

(Excerpt from article March 1, 2005)

Can you call a noncustodial parent about a social-emotional issue involving his or her child? Can a non-custodial parent have the right to be included in parent-teacher conferences and to receive education records? Is the school obligated to notify the custodial parent before contacting the noncustodial parent?

“Custodial parent” is a term used for the parent who has primary physical custody of a child. Typically the child resides with the custodial parent. “Noncustodial parent” is used for the parent who has the child for a lesser amount of time. Typically the child does doesn’t reside with the noncustodial parent except during the time the noncustodial parent exercises his/her visitation rights with the child.

Unless there is a court order expressly stating otherwise, noncustodial parents enjoy all the same rights as custodial parents. Noncustodial parents can participate in parent-teacher conferences, receive report cards and progress reports and get copies of educational records.

You may contact noncustodial parents and involve them in an academic or emotional issue. In an effort to preserve your relationship with custodial parents, however, you may decide to inform them any time you’ve called a noncustodial parent. This is a judgment call that would depend on the context, history and the student who is experiencing the problem.

Edited from original source:
<http://www.schoolcounselor.org/article.asp?article=771&paper=91&cat=140>

Membership This and That

by Belva Licht, NSCA Membership Chair

It has been so exciting to watch our membership grow and, even more exciting, to see new faces added to our committees and governing board. An organization cannot function without the volunteer help of its members.

Heads up about joining NSCA through ASCA. There is a discount to join through ASCA, however that means that you pay ASCA and sign up for NSCA membership **through** them. Several NSCA members reported that it was a confusing process, so I'll pass on what they learned.

When you join ASCA online, you will complete that entire process before they ask about joining your SCA. SCA stands for State Counselor Association. That means us! Click YES. They will give the state fees and you can go from there. The hardcopy process is not confusing. Just download their membership form on the ASCA website and the SCA fees are on the second page.

Reminder to renew your membership!

At the end of July 2010 we had 367 members. That has since dwindled to 245 members. Renewal letters and forms were mailed, but I know how people forget or the membership form gets buried at the bottom of a pile. Please take this reminder to fill out the form and mail it in. Still can't find it? Go to www.neschoolcounselor.org to download a copy.

Just think... If everyone on the renewal list sent in their membership form, we'd have over 400 members! That would be fantastic!

C.I.A academy at Broken Bow Middle School.

By Chuck Roe
Broken Bow Middle School Counselor

On November 24, we held our very first C.I.A. academy. C.I.A. stands for Character in Action. This is a group in our school that functions much like a student counsel and anti-drug group. I choose to utilize this group for the student leadership team. I found them to be a big help in getting rooms ready and for helping speakers find rooms and needed items. I began the planning of this event in October. In the planning of this, I choice topics that were relevant in our school such as: leadership development, bullying, and dating violence. I also chose to incorporate some career education to make a connection with good decision making and career opportunity. After choosing the date and setting up a schedule I contacted and lined up potential speakers, purposely trying to find as many local experts as possible. I felt this was going to be helpful in keeping expenses down and getting administration on board.

(C.I.A. cont.)

I am blessed by having a great administrator who was on board with the idea right away. I feel that having a solid plan of action in place before I went to the Principal went a long way in getting him on board and excited about the program so quickly. Mr. Kujath even offered to teach a session on leadership that I think was a great benefit to the program and the kids.

The day ran on a shortened bell schedule. I used that schedule to organize my student groups and presenters. We had six groups of thirty with one or two teachers per group to help keep kids organized. To avoid confusion I did not give the students their order of speakers. The teachers took care of this and I feel it worked very well. Each presentation ran for 35 minutes with a five minute break between each session. Our six topics were: Leadership, Dealing with People, Sexting and Cyber-Bullying, What to Expect at Work, Dating Violence, and The Law and Bullying.

Here are some things we did that made the event successful:

1. Got local people involved right away.

This was helpful in promoting the idea to the principal and other members of the staff. It also gave the presenters time to get a great presentation together. All of them went above and beyond expectations.

2. Set up a special twist to the day.

We had a pizza luncheon built into the day. This included my leadership team and all the speakers. We also had all the students of the week and students of the month as well as staff attend the luncheon. Kids were excited and asked about the event all week long.

3. Recognize the presenters.

We ended our day with a pep rally at which I presented the speakers with a certificate of appreciation.

4. Contact the media.

This is our way to let people know about all the great things going on in our school.

5. Organization.

I got all the planning and prep done ahead of time. By taking care of details ahead of time, the day ran very smoothly, and just as I had intended. I had teachers in charge of groups and I went out of my way to make it as easy as possible for them that day.

The results were amazing. Kids were talking about the day and what they learned. Even the teachers commented on learning from the experience. We even saw a new side to several of our students that we may have not otherwise seen if we had not been in this type of setting.

In all, this type of event took a lot of work, a lot of time, and a lot of planning in order to run smoothly. Despite that, it is well worth the time and will be a huge benefit to any school that puts an event like this on.

If you would like to learn more, feel free to contact me at chroe@bbps.org

NSCA Newsletter

24th Annual Elementary School Counselor Conference
Mallet Lodge at Platte River State Park
Louisville, Nebraska
Friday, March 4, 2011 8:00AM to 3:15PM



Catch the Wave-with CREST!

Featured Presenter: Betty White

Cost

\$60 Members of NE or IA State Counseling Association

\$65 Non-members

Fee includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 26

Information

Sue Buechler
Jefferson School
402-554-6590 Ext 1009
Cell-402-677-9937
susan.buechler@ops.org

Registration

Kathy Solomon
Omaha Public Schools
3215 Cumming Street
Omaha, NE 68131
402-557-2166
katherine.solomon@ops.org

Agenda

8:00 – 8:45 Registration, Continental Breakfast, & Shopping
8:45 – 9:00 Welcome
9:00 – 11:30 Betty White
-Behavior Management
-A is for Aspergers
11:30 –12:45 Lunch/Time for shopping and networking
12:45 - 1:00 Melissa Saunders – author read
1:00 – 3:00 Betty White
-It's All About Character
-Mental Floss
3:00 – 3:15 Wrap up, Evaluations, & Door Prizes

REGISTRATION PAYMENT NOTE

If your district is prepaying your registration and payment has not reached us by March 3, **personal payment by registrant** will be expected at the conference site on March 4.

Note: Only checks will be accepted for registration. NO BILLINGS TO SCHOOLS. NO CREDIT CARDS CAN BE USED FOR REGISTRATION.

About the Day...

The conference has been purposefully planned at a retreat center. Come in your blue jeans, sweats, or whatever clothing you find most comfortable.

Inclement Weather

Please listen to the radio/television for inclement weather updates. If the Omaha Metro Area schools are closed, the conference will be postponed.

Permits and Cabins

Your fee does not include the required park permit necessary for entering Platte River State Park. One-day passes must be purchased for \$4.00 at the park entrance or office. 13 heated cabins (2 with a fireplace) that sleep 6 are available for rental that Thursday night only at a reduced rate of \$70 or \$77 with a fireplace. Call Platte River State Park for reservations at 402-234-2217. (Regular rates are \$100/110)

Shopping

Folkmanis puppets, specially selected children's **literature titles** from **Bookworm**, and **brain tools** (such as waterwheels and ooze tubes) will be **available for purchase at the conference**. We will now be accepting credit cards, checks, or cash for puppets, books, & brain tools. **Connie Miller** from **Bright Ideas** will also be present for your shopping needs.

About the Presenter...

With 31 years of experience as a professional educator, **Betty White** brings a wealth of experience in working with children and adults. She has served as a Science teacher, a Professional School Counselor, Special Education Counselor, Diagnostician, and Behavior Specialist. Betty began presenting at State Counseling Conferences at all levels as well as numerous school districts and Education Service Centers throughout the state of Texas.

Betty has many years of leadership experience, serving as committee chair, Middle-School Vice –President, President-Elect, President, and Parliamentarian for the Texas School Counselor Association. During Betty's term as President, she helped to develop CREST-Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas, a data driven program design to recognize schools with superlative counseling programs. She has also served as the Chairperson for the leadership conference presented by the Texas School Counselor Association. Betty currently serves as President of Erath County Child Welfare Board and is a member of the Christian Women's Job Corps Board, as well as serving in a variety of leadership positions at First Baptist Church in Stephenville, Texas.



Registration Form
24th Annual Elementary School Counselor Conference
"Catch the Wave-with CREST!"
Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students and Teachers
Friday, March 4, 2011
(Please print clearly)

Name _____ School District _____

School Name _____ School Phone _____

School Address _____

City/Zip _____

Your home phone (in case of inclement weather) _____

Your email address at school _____

Please send \$60 conference fee (\$65 for nonmembers of the state counseling association).

***Make checks payable to: Guidance Professional Development

***Please - No billings or purchase orders. No credit cards.

***If your district is prepaying your registration and payment has not reached

Kathy by March 3, personal payment by registrant will be expected at the conference site.

***No reimbursement of registration money.

*****Send conference registration form and payment to

Kathy Solomon
Omaha Public Schools
School Counseling, Room 365
3215 Cuming Street
Omaha, NE 68131

_____ Please indicate if this is your first attendance at this conference

_____ Number of miles traveled to the conference (one way)

_____ Please indicate if you need a meatless lunch



Conference Highlights





Rynette Friesen
17132 Emiline St.
Omaha, NE 68136

