

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

*THE REPORTER*

FALL 2014



**Learning to be Leaders!**





# ***The Reporter***

Fall 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.

Any comments or news items can be emailed to  
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*Visit us on the web:*  
*[www.illinoisstuco.org](http://www.illinoisstuco.org)*

# Message from the President



Hello IASC!

In such a crazy world that we live in, it becomes easy to forget about helping those that are in need. Every year, the IASC picks one service project to encourage all members to participate in. The 2015 State Service Project will be Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC). By working with RMHC, students will have the opportunity to help the families of children dealing with illness. If you and your school would like to become involved, please find more information on [www.IllinoisStuco.org](http://www.IllinoisStuco.org) about the IASC's plan for service or [www.RMHC.org](http://www.RMHC.org) about the actual charity. Here's to a great year and even greater involvement!

Best regards,  
Matt Bourke  
President of the IASC  
York Community High School  
[President@IllinoisStuco.org](mailto:President@IllinoisStuco.org)

# STUDENTS SHINE THROUGH

## 80th State Convention

Illinois Student Council students were able to shine through a great State Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield. Gathering for the eightieth convention on May 1, 2014, students got ready to enhance their knowledge of leadership in a three-day time span. The State Convention started up with an energetic opening session at 7pm sharp! Once the room settled down, the meeting was called to order. The opening session was in full swing and soon the candi-



dates began to give their speeches. After students listened to speeches, they headed to their first session of student-led discussion groups. A total of sixteen students stepped up and led discussions ranging from how to be a leader once motivation wears off, to planning the perfect dance. After the first discussion group, delegates headed back to their room to get some shut eye for the busy day that awaited them tomorrow.

The second day of the convention started with the Second General Session and continued with roundtable discussions and student leadership seminars. A total of eighteen roundtable leaders facilitated discussions allowing delegates to exchange new ideas and thoughts. After the roundtable discussions came to an end, it was time gather back for the Third General Session. During general sessions, we listened some great guest speakers: Dedra Stafford, Mr. Phil, and A'ric Jackson. All three speakers delivered influential and powerful messages in their own way. These fun general sessions came to an end and delegates went off to district meetings. Each district was represented for the first time in years, so if you were at the convention, you helped make history in all our districts being represented.

The banquet dinner took place that evening. It was a big night for many people! Kyle Gordon and Linda Pickett received the Illinois Award, and the Advisor of the Year was Cyndi Sulak. At the banquet, every emotion was shared and you could feel it in the atmosphere. To wrap up the night, a neon lights dance took place in the ballroom and we almost broke the floor. I guess that is what happens when you put so many strong leaders in one room at a time! Concluding the convention Saturday morning, we had the annual t-shirt swap and the last general session. After that, it was time to say good bye to the new friends and take what we learned back to our councils. Those three days flew by; we may have been learning, but it was an amazing learning experience. We need to take what we know, share it with others, and encourage them to come to the convention with us next May to find that same experience. So tell your advisor to sign you up for the 2015 convention for a time that you will never forget!

# UGH THEIR LEADERSHIP

Is your stuco selfie game strong? We want to see what your student council is doing this year! Tweet us @illinoisstuco, or share with us on Facebook!



All 13 IASC Districts were in attendance!

Want to see more pictures from the 2014 State Convention???

Visit [IllinoisStuco.org](http://IllinoisStuco.org) to see all our convention pictures.



# State Convention 2014 Picture



Visit [IllinoisStuco.org](http://IllinoisStuco.org) to view all the photos from the 2014 IASC State Convention

# re Recap



# Meet the 2014-2015

## Matt Bourke, President



Greetings, IASC! My name is Matt Bourke and I will be serving as the 2014-2015 President of the IASC. I am a senior at York Community High School which is in Elmhurst, about thirty minutes outside of Chicago, where I am highly involved in academics and activities. At York, I am a Main Producer of Ytv, the Editor of ThisIsYork.org, an online student newspaper, an Executive Committee member of Model U.N., and an "Invite to Teach" instructor at a local middle school. Recently, my Student Council career has come full circle and I have had the opportunity to become a co-Advisor at the middle school that I attended just four years ago. When I began my high school Student Council career, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to be doing; I lost the race for Freshmen Class President and, after that, my focus on leadership went on the back-burner. That was until the 2012 State Convention when I realized that I wanted it to be me up there, giving speeches, sharing my favorite memories, and having an unforgettable senior year. The reason why I tell this story is because if you ever want more information on leadership, how to run for state board, or just have a general question, please feel free to contact me, I will always respond within a day! I hope to have a great year with the IASC and look forward to meeting as many new faces as I can!

## Beretta Phelps, First Vice President



My name is Beretta Phelps, and I am a senior at Sullivan High School and of course I am the 2014-2015 IASC First Vice President. A couple fun facts about me is my birthday is July 24, 1997, my favorite animals are sheep, and I love leadership. I am also involved in my high school's student council, where I serve as the President, the varsity girls golf team, and FFA chapter where I serve as the chapter's Historian. Outside of school I love hanging with my friends shopping and watching movies. This summer I was lucky enough to attend the NASC convention and meet stuco members from all over the world including friends from Canada and Puerto Rico as well as learning skills to enhance my leadership. My goals as the IASC 1st VP include not only increasing honor delegates but increasing the quality of DGL's and roundtable discussions at the State Convention. I plan on attending college in the fall of 2015 at whatever school is lucky to have me and study Political Science where I will hopefully learn the knowledge necessary of fulfilling my dream of becoming the governor of the State of Illinois. Most of all I am outgoing and easy to get along with and love a great sense of humor. If you ever need anything regarding the IASC or you just want to talk feel free to get ahold of me via email [sullivanstuco2015@gmail.com](mailto:sullivanstuco2015@gmail.com) or via Facebook (Beretta Phelps), or even via text message, 217-294-0301, I would love to hear from stuco members from throughout the State of Illinois.



# 5 Executive Board

## Alec Helm, 2nd Vice President



Hey everyone! I'm Alec Helm, eighteen years old, and a senior at Waterloo High School in Waterloo, Illinois. I feel so honored to be the 2nd Vice-President of the IASC because it shows that you can do whatever you put your mind to! Throughout this year, I hope to become familiar with the schools and hard-working individuals in our beautiful state of Illinois. As far as my hobbies and interests go, I love anything that has to do with music and theater. I am an active member of the Marching Band, Concert Choir, Drama Club, and Speech Team at my high school. I never feel more at home than when I am performing in front of an audience. Student Council, my favorite of all the extracurricular activities, has inspired me to continue pursuing leadership. After graduation I plan to attend Loyola University Chicago where I will double major in Political Science and Theater in the hopes of becoming a lawyer and running for political office. So keep your eyes open folks, I may be a United States presidential candidate one day! I hope that everyone decides to become more involved in everything leadership this year, and I am more than excited to see all the new ideas to come. Thanks for your time guys! See you soon!

## Addy Shaw, Secretary



Hi there! My name is Addy Shaw from Columbia High School and I'm so excited to be your 2014-2015 IASC Secretary. Between student council and NHS, I love spending my free time coaching kids ages 3-7 basic soccer skills. I look forward to seeing all of the great activities you implement in your schools through the creativity of the honor council book!

# Kelsey Jeffries, Treasurer



One of my favorite quotes is, "If your dreams don't scare you, they're not big enough." The future is a daunting concept. It's unpredictable. I've always dreamed big, and that's led to my fair share of doubt and fear. I continue to push my limits because my fear motivates me. I was afraid to run for the IASC state board; I didn't want to fail. I realized, though, that if I didn't try, I would have already failed. My fear wouldn't control my actions. I wanted to make a difference so I faced failure. I worked hard and prepared myself to be the best state treasurer I was capable of becoming. I dedicated my time and effort to bettering the IASC. All of it was motivated by my fear of failure, but I made it real by working hard to make my big dream a reality.

# Trey Riley, Convention Secretary



Hello IASC member schools. I am Trey Riley, and am proud to serve as your 2014-2015 IASC Convention Secretary. I go to Mount Vernon Township High School, an hour east of St. Louis, and about five hours away from Chicago. Our school is around 1300 students. We are part of the Little Egypt District of Student Councils (LEDSC). I serve on our Executive Board as Vice President, and have served on our LEDSC district board as Treasurer and Liaison. I enjoy playing guitar with our local church, attending our school's various games and activities, and exploring the outdoors. I look forward to meeting every one of you this year through our State Workshops and, of course, the 81st annual IASC State Convention.

# Skylar Flynn, Assistant Communications Director



Hey guys, my name is Skylar Flynn and I will be serving as your 2014-2015 Assistant Communications Director. I have been involved in student council since my freshman year. Every year I have stepped up to the challenge of taking on more responsibilities within my student council and now I have chosen to go beyond that and serve on the state board. I attend Wilmington High School and am a current senior. Not only am I involved in my student council, but I am a part of National Honors Society, Interact Club, basketball, and soccer. When I am not busy with school activities, I love to bake, sew, and hang out with my friends and family. I take part in many activities, but everything I do I take full pride in and give one hundred and ten percent. I can't wait to see where this year will take us!





# 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. Each fall, the IASC holds 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.

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.

The IASC also offers the Dynamics of Trust Workshop, which is a low ropes course that focuses on aspects of different aspects of team building. This workshop, held on November 1, is a great opportunity for student council members, executive boards, district boards, or any group of student leaders.

More details and registration for all workshops are available online at [www.IllinoisStuco.org](http://www.IllinoisStuco.org).

Date	Location	Workshop
October 21	Price of Peace Church, St. Joseph	Drive-In Workshop
October 21	Mt. Vernon Township High School, Mt. Vernon	Drive-In Workshop
November 1	Lake Williamson Center, Carlinville	Dynamics of Trust
December 6	Kelly High School, Chicago	Drive-In Workshop

# Congratulations!



**Congratulations to Kyle Gordon from Collinsville High School for being named a 2014 recipient of the Illinois Award.**



**Congratulations to Cyndi Sulak from Saint Charles North High School for being named the 2014 Advisor of the Year.**



**Congratulations to Linda Pickett from Columbia High School for being named a 2014 recipient of the Illinois Award.**



# The IASC is Everywhere You Are

Join us on Facebook and

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upcoming events, registration

deadlines and more.

