

By-law Changes Proposed for ISCA

At the next annual meeting in November, the ISCA executive board is proposing the following changes to our bylaws. Note that the changes are marked in both *italics and bold*.

SECTION 2. The mission of the Illinois School Counselor Association (ISCA) is ***to provide leadership, advocacy, and collaboration for Illinois school counselors, which results in systemic change to enhance the success of all students in their academic, career, and social/emotional development.***

SECTION 3. The primary goal of the Illinois School Counselor Association is to encourage, enhance, and promote the work of the school counselor as a vital link in the educational experience of students. The major focus is to assist pre-kindergarten through post-secondary students in maximizing their educational, vocational, and ***social/emotional*** growth and development.

The purposes of the association shall be of equal importance:

(Purposes A through H remain unchanged, with the following purposes added.)

I. Acknowledge and advance the changing role of professional school counselors by changing the Illinois school code.

J. Implement a governance model that empowers local members and focuses the work of the association on action.

K. Facilitate mentoring, networking, information and resources, which empowers members to perform at the highest professional level.

Article IV, Section I

A. The Governing Board shall be composed of the ISCA officers ***and the Executive Director.***

Article VII

A. The Executive Committee of the Governing Board shall consist of the President, President Elect, President Elect-Elect, Immediate Past President, and the ICA Senator. The Treasurer, Secretary, ***and Executive Director*** shall be ex-officio members without a vote.

In sum, we are proposing (a) changes to the mission statement to better reflect ISCA's mission and contemporary professional school counseling philosophy, (b) that "personal social" be changed to "social emotional" to be more consistent with social-emotional literacy in Illinois, (c) three additional purposes, and (d) that "Communications Coordinator" be changed in the bylaws to "Executive Director," as that position title changed this past Summer with the hiring of an executive director for ISCA.

ICA Conference



November 10-12, 2005

Wyndham Hotel in Itasca

We hope to see you there!!!

<http://www.ilcounseling.org/registration.pdf>

Dealing with Disaster by Pamela A Castro, MA, NCC ISCA Elementary School Counselor Vice President

I was working on a piece dealing with the issue of accountability for school counselors, and then Katrina came to call in Louisiana and Mississippi. And like post 9/11, we were reminding ourselves that normal could not be the same again.

My father was from southern Louisiana, and I spent many summers down there and had been there during the evacuation for Hurricane Camille. Like many from that area, I had heard the stories and fears of what could happen if a Category 5 hurricane ever hit that area. Now it seemed inevitable. Katrina came and moved through the gulf coast.

How do we deal with disaster, and in our profession, help others deal with it as we try to do so ourselves? Personally, I know the only way for me is to walk through it. But how do we help the children? How do we help all those who want to help and yet feel so helpless or powerless?

Like the aftermath of 9/11, so many have come together and tried to do what they could. The giving and doing meets a need for all of us. There are many kinds of ways to raise monetary donations and many have gone to work selling things, holding car washes, or simply asking for cash donations to various organizations. We need to allow students to have some input into how we will collect the money so they will have an investment in the process. In one community a bake sale was held, while in another a faculty member suggested each student be given the choice of bringing a school supply item or cash. There are other school communities searching to adopt a school to share some donations or giving students pen pals to share experiences through letter-writing.

In my school community, there were several students and staff members beside myself with family in the gulf coast area. We checked in

with one another as well as monitored the students who needed to talk about their concerns. One thing became crystal clear; the media coverage of the disaster coming into our homes was too much for some, especially the children. One of the reminders we need to send to our families is a reminder to turn off the TV and allow some time for the younger members to share their concerns. We do not need to have all the answers, but we do need to model how to support one another.

The most important thing we can do is to LISTEN! There comes a time when victims no longer want to talk about the disaster or what happened. One of the families we have received in our school district evacuated before the storm and has no idea what happened to their home. These students are happy to be here visiting their grandparents.

Our most important job is to listen and help each other move forward.

A Welcome to Dr. Wyrick-Morgan!

By Hugh C. Crethar, ISCA Post-Secondary Vice President
Governors State University



I would like to take a moment to introduce our membership to

one of Illinois' new School Counselor Educators, Leann M. Wyrick-Morgan. Dr. Wyrick-Morgan is a new Assistant Professor on the counseling faculty in the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education at Northern Illinois University. She received her B.A. in Communication from Purdue University, her M.A. in Human Services and Counseling from DePaul University, and her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from The University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Wyrick-Morgan's primary counseling experience is with

adolescents and their families, both in the community and school settings. She is a licensed school counselor in Colorado and a former School-to-Career Coordinator and School Counselor at Thompson Valley High School in Loveland, CO. Her initial faculty position was at the University of Memphis where she taught in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research for the 2004-2005 academic year. She is also a Licensed Professional Counselor in Wyoming and Colorado, and a National Certified Counselor. Dr. Wyrick-Morgan is a native of the Western suburbs of Chicago and is a graduate of Glenbard North High School. Her research interests include, school counseling, school counselor training, career development, career/life programs for special needs students, and working

with students of poverty at the middle and high school levels.

We welcome Dr. Wyrick-Morgan to our family of Illinois School Counselor Educators and to ISCA! I am confident that she will quickly contribute to not only counselor education at NIU, but to school counseling throughout Illinois as well.

I hope to have the opportunity to introduce more of our new School Counselor Educators throughout Illinois this year. Please email me at h-crethar@govst.edu if you are a new School Counselor Educator in Illinois. Also, please feel free to refer me to specific School Counselor Educators whom we all might enjoy getting to know.

President-Elect's Message

Roseanne Oppmann MS, NCC, LCPC

I am honored and privileged to serve as President-Elect of ISCA. Wow! I never expected to find myself in this position when I entered my graduate program in 1996. Now, I am already in full swing to take on the challenge of the busy year ahead. This summer was a very motivating and exciting one for me filled with professional development and a lot of networking. I had the opportunity to attend the Delegate Assembly in Orlando, Florida and the Leadership Development Institute (LDI) in Hawaii. I not only learned a wealth of valuable information, but I met many wonderful school counselors from all over the world. I was very impressed with these outstanding

leaders in the profession and their willingness to go above and beyond to share fabulous ideas, information and materials. It is my strong belief that by working as a team we can get so much more accomplished. As professional school counselors, there are many things that we can do together that will help us to stand strong. One of the easiest things we can all do is to encourage other counselors to join our professional organization. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for the valuable information and professional development opportunities that were offered to keep me informed about our profession. Attending ISCA meetings is another great way to get involved. At these

meetings school counselors from all over the state come together to network, share, and learn information about what is happening in our field today. Important decisions are made at these meetings and your input and expertise is needed. This year, I would like to invite you to make a goal to attend at least one ISCA meeting to see what your organization is doing for you as a member. I am confident you will find the experience very beneficial. During this year you will receive a lot of information about ISCA and our profession. Please take advantage of opportunities to get involved so we can learn, lead and leave our legacy together.

President's Message - continued

Amy Thompson - ISCA President

improve communication regarding membership and by renewing through us, we will know you are with us immediately.

4. We will continue to utilize our listserv as a key communication tool and will continue to send INSIGHT bytes bi-weekly during the school year. If you are not on our listserv but wish to be, please e-mail Dan Stasi, our Executive Director, at ilschoolcounselor@yahoo.com and ask him to add your e-mail address to the list. This too will become a "members only" perk in the coming year.

We also have lots of ideas for a legislative agenda. We have always done our best, via CICO (Coalition of Illinois Counselor Organizations) and ASCA, to stay on top of legislative issues in our state. However, it is time to be more proactive – that IS what

school counselors do best. We will work with CICO and you, our members, to demonstrate to Springfield that we deserve support and recognition. We do some very difficult work and we need support, whether it comes by providing funds to allow schools to hire more counselors or by having the state adopt the requirement of School Counseling curriculum in all schools. We NEED to be proactive in order to do what is right for our students.

Finally, we need to acquire and utilize data. We can use it as your School Counselor Association to improve what we do but we can also help you to obtain and interpret data about your own school counseling program. The "No School Counselor Left Behind" program on September 29th is the first major step in providing you intensive training to help us all develop plans for data

collection in order to evaluate and support our work. Among other things, we hope to bring you more opportunities in the coming year to continue this type of work.

I am truly excited about the coming year. Through improved member services, we can increase membership. Having more members will lead to more power and control over our work. Through a proactive legislative agenda, we can obtain the support we need. Legislation is powerful. Finally, through data collection and interpretation, we have cold, hard facts to support what we do. There is indeed power in numbers! Join ISCA this year as we gain strength and momentum – we need all hands on deck. Call a leadership team member and find out what you can do!

Submitted Articles:

In the past year, we have been contacted by numerous outside organizations, career and education programs, and others with requests to inform school counselors about a variety of issues and, in some cases, to enlist our support. We are inclined to allow such articles and allow you, the members to determine for yourselves, if these are of value to you. Inclusion of such articles does not necessarily represent an endorsement of any program or organization. If you personally wish to become involved with other groups or programs, then we are glad we are providing such information. Below is an article we received for this issue:

Comprehensive Sex Education

by Jonathan Stacks

The results are in and the findings are staggering: while over 90% of sex education teachers in Illinois want to take a comprehensive approach to sex education, most do not have the curriculum available to cover important elements. Parents, educators, administrators, elected officials, medical and public health professionals, clergy, and community leaders are calling for improved sex education in Illinois schools.

The Illinois Campaign for Responsible Sex Education is addressing this issue. Launched by the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health and Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area, the Campaign has the support of over 80 organizations statewide and is working to change the landscape of sex education in Illinois schools using research, legislation, and community dialogue.

In March, the Campaign unveiled a groundbreaking study conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. The study found that 92% of sex education teachers believe that whether or not young people are sexually active, they should be given accurate information about birth control and safe sex in school. Unfortunately, two-thirds of these teachers omit critical elements of responsible and comprehensive sex education. Over half (52.7%) do not teach about

where to get birth control and health related services, 24.7% do not teach about what action a student can take regarding rape and sexual assault, and 65.7% do not teach about how to use condoms.

When asked why they omit critical elements of responsible and comprehensive sex education, an overwhelming majority (92%) of sex education teachers say that their curriculum has a great deal or some influence on what topics they cover. Over one-third used donated or free materials.

More experienced teachers were more likely to combine the values of waiting to have sex with information on contraception. Unfortunately, almost thirty percent of those teaching sex education were not trained to do so. Of those who have been trained, almost thirty percent feel that they have not received enough training.

In response to the critical need for training and curriculum resources for schools, Senator Carol Ronen (D-Chicago) introduced legislation that would help schools and communities that choose to implement comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education programs. SB 457, the Responsible Sex Education Program, would create a grants initiative through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

The only funds schools can currently access come from the federal government for abstinence-only programs. These programs leave Illinois youth in the dark, unprepared, and unsafe. SB 457 would create a choice, not a mandate, for local school officials.

This is a crucial time for school counselors and other education personnel to raise their voices about the need for providing information to Illinois youth on prevention, STDs, and responsibility. Advocates across the state are speaking to their elected officials and working with their local schools to encourage a more comprehensive approach to sex education. You can join in by signing on to this important Campaign. Your support as a school counselor is crucial. Please contact us if you are willing to get involved. There are many ways you can lend your voice to this important work.

www.responsiblesexed.org
jonathan@icah.org
 312-427-4460 x231.

ISCA Area Representative Reports

Area Chicago Representative Catherine (Katie) Lindskog

As Chicago Area Rep this year, I look forward to finding opportunities to bridge the gap between urban and suburban school counselors, particularly so that we may work together to prepare for the ASCA Conference in Chicago this upcoming June.

As a Chicago Public Schools Counselor, I personally extend the invitation to all CPS Counselors to join ISCA. It is an excellent way to gain professional support and advocacy toward the role you play as a school counselor. In the upcoming months, stayed tuned for information on different ways that you can become more involved and more informed on school counseling in the state of Illinois.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Area 1 (Collar Counties) Representative Curtis Menke menkecurtis@dist156.org

As professional school counselors, we all know the value and necessity of advocating for our students. We give voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. We strive to ensure every student is given an equal opportunity to succeed in the present as well as prepare for the future. Fighting for the needs of our students is an inherent obligation of our role in public education. However, it is also essential we advocate elsewhere as well.

Promoting our profession must be a priority for school counselors. In this age of high stakes testing, budget cuts, and the ever-increasing number of risk-factors for students,

it is of critical essence we have the necessary tools and resources. Standing firm as a united front is the best chance we have to support our profession and prove our worth as indispensable members of educational teams.

We have many capable leaders willing to put forth the effort needed to work towards achieving our many goals and aspirations. However, it is vital we have the support of all members of our profession. Encouraging other school counselors to participate in professional organizations is an ideal means of bridging this gap. Be diligent as we seek to increase our membership. We all possess the means to advocate for others in our charge. Refocusing our aim to advocating for school counseling can only aid our schools, our profession, and most importantly, our students.

ISCA Leadership Meeting

October 15th, 2005
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prosser Career Academy
2148 N. Long Ave
Chicago, IL 60639
All members welcome!

ISCA Strategic Plan 2005-2008

1. Acknowledge and advance the changing role of the professional school counselor by changing the Illinois School Code and advancing legislation.
2. Adjust, communicate, and advance the Illinois Developmental Model and bring in alignment with SEL Learning Standards and Standards for School Counselors.
3. Promote the value and efficacy of the professional school counselor as an essential part of all schools.
4. Facilitate networking and professional development and provide information and resources which empower members to perform at the highest professional level.
5. Respond to the developing needs of Professional School Counselors

Executive Director Outlook

- Dan Stasi



Executive Director Daniel Stasi

I am thrilled for the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of ISCA. In my role as Executive Director of the Coalition of Illinois Counselor Organizations for the last six years I have had frequent contact with the ISCA leadership. They have been and continue to be a wonderful group of people to work with. I have always admired how active ISCA members have been as a part of ICA. In addition school counselors have been strong advocates

for legislation that affects all counselors. I think my experience with IMHCA and CICO will help in my role at ISCA. Besides composing this newsletter I will be assisting the ISCA leadership with membership recruitment and planning of the ISCA Spring Conference. I look forward to meeting many of you at the ICA conference in November.

Now, you get homework to do! All of you have extensive contacts

with other school counselors in your work settings or with students wanting to become school counselors at your universities. You are the best person to promote the benefits of ISCA membership. Tell them why you are a member and why it is important to you to belong. Share our application from our web site and encourage them to join.

www.ilschoolcounseling.org

Where Are the School Counselors?

IEA/NEA 151st convention 2005

By Andrew Franklin - West Aurora High School

I attended the IEA/NEA 151st convention as a delegate to the 2005 Representative Assembly through region 40 on March 3-5, 2005. Most of the School Counselors in the state of Illinois have to pay Union dues to the Illinois Education Association/National Education Association. The IEA is in the process of change and is open to proactive movement within the Union. I was curious about the process of the Union and was interested in investigating what the Union could do for School Counselors. My findings were shocking but very promising.

I was nominated as a delegate and was very excited about the opportunity to investigate the Union with the intention to see what could be done for School Counselors. I was impressed on the organization of IEA; it ran like a well oiled machine. I first attended a meeting on support staff and quickly found that it was about Secretaries and Para-professionals, not School Counselors, so I went to the new members meeting. At the new members meeting I noticed the correlation between ISCA and IEA, we both have trouble attracting new members. At this point I was interacting and asking more questions about School Counselors and I was not

getting much feedback. I felt that no one really knew about us. I was soon to find out why.

I then went to our region 40 meeting and started to learn about the process of doing business. I learned how to implement New Business items and Resolutions and how to work the HUGE assembly. I had no idea on how HUGE until I walked into a room that held 1200 delegates with two 30 foot projection screens and an endless view of chairs and tables. Soon I was immersed with stacks of paper work with many different sections of the Illinois Education Association Legislative Platform. I leafed and leafed through the papers looking for anything supporting School Counselors and to my surprise WE ARE NOT WITHIN THE PLATFORM AT ALL! Where have we been? Were we on the platform in the past? Where are the School Counselors?

I do believe that all school employees, including Counselors, have to pay IEA/NEA Union Dues each and every year. Currently Support Staff (Secretaries, Para-professionals), Maintenance, Bus Drivers, School Nurses, and Teachers are all on the platform. NOT SCHOOL COUNSELORS. We are not getting our money's worth! I am not willing to pay hundreds of

dollars to the Union without representation!

Here is the plan. The Union is very open to having us part of the family. They want to support us. It was suggested to do the following:

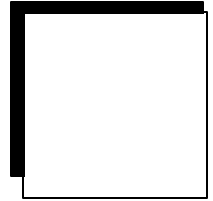
1. School Counselors need to run for delegate positions within their region, as I did.
2. School Counselors need to form a committee for School Counselors (as we do within the ISCA) and address our needs within our Union.
3. School counselors need to plan, propose, implement, and attach New Business and resolutions to the IEA legislative platform.
4. School Counselors need to come together at the IEA/NEA Convention next March of 2006 and present our platform amendments. I CAN TEACH YOU!

I feel that when our leaders within the Illinois School Counseling Association and myself get together we can be represented with respect within the Union that we support every year. It is time that School Counselors are represented. I will give you an update in March of 2006.



**Illinois School
Counselor Association**

P.O. Box 144
DeKalb, IL 60115



Time Sensitive Materials

Calendar of Events

September 29, 2005	ISCA/ICA Workshop Concordia University "No School Counselor Left Behind"
October 15, 2005	ISCA Leadership Meeting - Chicago Prosser Academy
November 10-12, 2005	ICA Conference Itasca Wyndham
November 23, 2005	LPC / LCPC Licensure Application Deadline for April 2006 exam
January 21, 2006	ISCA Leadership Meeting - York High School Elmhurst
April 2006	Day on the Hill - Springfield (date to be determined)
April 7, 2006	ICA Retreat - Rend Lake
April 21, 2006	ISCA Spring Conference Elgin Community College
June 24-27, 2006	ASCA Conference - Chicago

ISCA *Insight*

The Newsletter of the Illinois School Counselor Association
a state chapter of the American School Counselor Association

Fall 2005 Issue

• email: ilschoolcounselor@yahoo.com • <http://www.ilschoolcounselor.org>

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Power in Numbers

by President Amy Thompson



Amy Thompson

As I sit at my typewriter and consider all of the things I want to say as the new President of your School Counselor Association, it is hard to know where to begin. As you probably read in Anne Kuntz's last, "Message from the President," we really have

been able to accomplish a great deal in the past year. However, in some ways, the entire leadership team knows we can do even more. And so, this article will focus on the future – our future!

The Leadership Transition

Meeting in August was full of energy and ideas. We re-vamped our Strategic Plan, contracted with an Executive Director, and developed several task forces, among many other activities. The Strategic Plan appears in this issue of the INSIGHT and our new Executive Director will introduce himself to you in his own article. I want you to know about three key initiatives for the coming year: Improving member services, creating a legislative agenda, and collecting and using data to evaluate and demonstrate value.

We have many plans to improve member services:

1. Three printed INSIGHT's every year. We have heard from many that they prefer to receive their INSIGHT via hard copy. Therefore we will still e-mail notification via our listserv that the INSIGHT is available for download on our website

AND will mail a hard copy to all paid members.

2. Improving our website. Make us one of your "favorites" in your web browser. Check out the message board and look for announcements about legislative issues and professional development opportunities. Some parts of our site will become password

**"...three key initiatives for the coming year ...
Improving member services, creating a legislative agenda, and collecting and using data to evaluate and demonstrate value."**

protected in the next year. There are many things we want the general public to know but some of the information and opportunities, should be considered "privileged information". It is your leadership team that makes these possible. Your dues support our efforts and therefore, some things should be for "members only".

3. You can renew your dues directly through us. By visiting our website, you will find a current membership form that can be printed and mailed directly to our new Post Office Box. P.O. Box 144, DeKalb, IL 60115. We will work diligently with ICA to

(continued on page 2)