

Cooperative Connection

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Southeast Service Cooperative

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Welcome to Fall 2009

by Suzanne Riley

To many Southeast Service Cooperative (SSC) member organizations, September marks a "welcome back to school". To other members, it is the third quarter of your year of serving communities and constituents, and you are finishing up planning and budgeting for the upcoming year 2010.

For SSC staff, summers are very busy like the rest of the year, and these are the months we each try to fit in vacation time. With our fiscal year starting July 1, indeed May through August have been demanding, filled

with project closures, budgeting, planning, startup of new projects, and improvements to existing programs. You'll read about upcoming activities throughout this newsletter.

We learned a lot this past winter, spring, and summer about the schools, cities, counties, and other agencies we serve. Visits with groups of representatives, along with online and hard copy surveys, provided valuable insights about your challenges, issues, needs, and interests. A common theme ran throughout the meetings and surveys: Deep concerns about

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Specialized support arrives for SSC member cities, counties and other agencies



semi-retired from school work, Mike has been able to begin dedicating more time to his passion of improving conditions for local government organizations.

He is working with SSC to provide assistance to SSC member cities, counties, and other agencies. Capitalizing on his experience with grant writing and providing advice to neighboring cities, Mike's efforts will be concentrated in the two identified areas of grant seeking and training.

SSC member organizations, if you would like assistance from Mike in these two areas or have other ideas about how Mike and SSC might help you, we invite you to contact Suzanne Riley, sriley@ssc.coop, (507) 281-6673, or Mike Moriarty, moriarty@acegroup.cc, (507) 482-6737.

This past spring and summer the staff deliberated with our local government member organizations about their specific challenges and where SSC might or should fit in with assistance and support. Two particular areas of need and interest emerged: staff training and grant seeking for special projects.

Enter Mike Moriarty, who has served many years in the twin capacities of city and school administration. Having

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budget constraints, staffing and time constraints, unfunded state and federal mandates, and the need to cooperate.

However, a common outlook also emerged in the meeting discussions: An extraordinary resolve and fortitude among administrators in discussing the challenges their organizations are meeting head on. The general perspective was, "Here are the problems before us. We

need to figure out how to address them." General consensus was that cooperation and collaboration are the best way to address common challenges.

Our response to what we learned is contained in several documents, all available on the SSC website at www.ssc.coop. These include our Member Visits Evaluation and Needs Assessment Report, the 2009-2010 Annual Plan, and a comprehensive

outline of SSC programs and services, called SSC Member Services 2009-2010.

I hope that you'll find that our commitment to support your efforts is evident in every contact you have with each of our staff and consultants. Contact information for the SSC team members is listed on the back of this newsletter.

Superintendent Mike Moriarty Honored with Outstanding Service Award

SSC recently awarded Mike Moriarty the 2009 SSC Outstanding Service Award.

This award is presented annually to a person chosen by the SSC Board because of the ways in which the individual has met the following criteria:

- 1) how well this person exercises leadership in Service Cooperative endeavors,
- 2) how this person advances the goals and philosophies of the Minnesota Service Cooperatives, and
- 3) this person's outstanding accomplishments and innovative



Mike with his award and SSC Board Chair Mitch Lentz.

practices in the promotion of services delivered through the Service Cooperative.

Mike has been very involved in SSC during all his years as an educator and administrator in southeast

Minnesota. He has actively served on the Advisory Committee since 2002, and has promoted his staff's involvement in almost all SSC programs.

His comments and advice are practical and he often demonstrates "out-of-the-box" thinking. He willingly shares what he knows and what he has experienced to help others think through solutions. His cooperative sense and innovative thinking have also benefited other cooperative organizations in this region and statewide.

City of Preston receives over \$18,000 from SSC Health Pool

Joe Hoffman, City Administrator and Utility General Manager of Preston, accepted a check for \$18,342 on behalf of the City, which represented a claims margin return for unusually low utilization during the 2008 SSC City-County Health Pool plan year.

Suzanne Riley explained that despite common and prudent actuarial practice to base annual claim rates, it's possible that claims will be unusually low in a given year. When this happens, the group's employer may qualify for a partial return of claims premium: the difference between what the plan paid vs. the

amount in the claims fund after the plan year settlement is concluded.

Fully insured programs similarly build conservative claim estimates into their premiums. However, when insured programs experience such surpluses, they are not returned to the group.

A claims margin occurs in the event of a successful claim scenario (a lower than predicted claim year), a unique advantage of the Service Cooperative minimum premium health pool program.



Joe Hoffman accepting the check for the City of Preston.

SSC welcomes Jennifer Nelson to its School Improvement Team



Jennifer Nelson joined the SSC staff as our newest School Improvement Coordinator SSC in June.

Originally from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Jennifer holds a BS in Elementary Education, a Masters of Education and a Masters of Educational Administration.

Jennifer has taught both fifth and second grade as well as basic skills. She has also worked as a Data and Assessment Facilitator, a Student Achievement Specialist and served as a part-time Assistant Principal for an alternative high school.

Having moved from Cottage Grove, Minnesota, Jennifer and her seven-year-old daughter Lauren are getting

settled in their new city, with Lauren stating, "I can tell you are getting used to it here, you are not making as many U-turns!"

Jennifer is very happy in her new role and "feels so fortunate to have such great team-mates." She also shared that she is enjoying "being able to help and support more than just one district."

Jennifer can be contacted at jnelson@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6685.

School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (SWPBIS)

by Heidi Knepper

If you are working hard to create a positive teaching and learning environment in your K-12 school, you are not alone. Schools across the country are struggling with an increase in disruptive environments which directly lead to less time for teaching and learning. Addressing this issue is critical as problem behaviors not only interfere with academic, social, and vocational success, but also represent one of the most common reasons children are excluded from school. If you are a school in Southeastern Minnesota struggling with these issues, School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (SWPBIS) might be just what you are looking for!

Instead of a separate program, SWPBIS is a systematic process within which schools are able to analyze their needs and identify where they need to be for positive teaching and learning to occur. After the discipline needs are identified, practices may be developed or adopted to meet those needs. Often times, SWPBIS is introduced as a universal behavior intervention in

schools implementing Response to Intervention (RtI). Therefore, SWPBIS helps schools to develop a systematic way of:

- Analyzing where discipline problems occur.
- Examining the level of support available in all systems needed to create positive school environments.
- Collecting and analyzing data to facilitate the selection of Best-Practices that fit the needs of the school within each system.
- Developing Best-Practices that consider the function of behaviors.
- Providing an environment that increases social and academic learning.

A collaborative grant proposal written by Southeast, South Central and South West/West Central Service Cooperatives to provide regional School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (SWPBIS) training consistent with the National PBIS center's training, materials, messages and model has



been approved. This training model focuses on providing high quality training in SWPBIS at a regional level. Participating in this opportunity would give your staff access to high quality SWPBIS training and support locally.

Applications for Cohort 5, beginning in August 2009 have already been reviewed and participating schools have been identified. If you are interested in being a part of Cohort 6, please contact Heidi Knepper at hknepper@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6669 or for more information or to schedule an introductory session for your staff.

Healthcare Consumer Tips

A series of good ideas on stretching your healthcare dollars

by Bill Colopoulos

As healthcare reform focuses our attention on the cost of our healthcare, many of us are looking for ways to get more involved with how we purchase healthcare. We are also looking for new ways to ensure that we get the “most bang for our buck” when it comes to healthcare spending. Being more responsible for a greater portion of the cost is only one reason for our new interest in cost. More and more, we are no longer willing to place blind trust in the experts; we want to know what healthcare we need, why we need it, what it costs and why it costs what it does.

All of us need healthcare. To help you and your colleagues learn how to best use it, Southeast Service Cooperative offers a class on healthcare consumerism. Think about scheduling a class at your worksite soon! For more information, contact Bill Colopoulos at bcolopoulos@ssc.coop, or (507) 206-7419.

Common concerns in seeing the doctor

Every doctor visit or medication treatment presents us with choices and responsibilities. Here is a list of some of the common issues we face when we seek healthcare services:

- Why is the care being prescribed necessary?
In most instances, this is a fairly obvious question with an equally obvious answer. But not always. How do we ask our providers for explanations for the care they are prescribing? Are there alternatives? How much care is being delivered and why? What will it all cost?
- The doctor’s prescribed care isn’t working.
No doctor is perfect and sometimes their prescribed care doesn’t work – or meet our immediate expectations. Ask your doctor to clarify what treatments are available as alternatives. Also ask why you are expected to pay for services that did not perform their intended function. In very few other areas of the economy can services fail and still be compensated for. Ask

your doctor why you should be at risk (financially) for his/her failed treatments.

- The side effects of a prescribed drug seem worse than the cure.
Are you cutting back on your prescription because of side effects? Let your doctor know. Perhaps there’s a different medication you can take that’s just as effective without side effects. In any case, let your doctor know what is happening to you.
- The cost of our healthcare is too high.
Check your hospital and clinic bills. Do the dates of service look out of whack? Have you been charged twice for the same procedure, or for a service or supply item never received? By checking your bills, you have an opportunity to fix any errors and perhaps trim your out-of-pocket costs.
- Check with your insurance company.
Insurance policy language is confusing and it is often difficult to tell if your benefits properly reflect your plan’s cost liability. Call your insurer to

make sure; mistakes in coverage are few, but not uncommon. Ask your insurance company to look into billing errors for you.

- You’re considering a “miracle” treatment.
The Internet is full of products that sound too good to be true, and are. Even television ads aren’t always to be trusted. Be skeptical of “secret formulas,” “scientific breakthroughs,” “amazing results,” and money-back guarantees. Consult your doctor before you try any such treatments.
- You’re not satisfied with your doctor.
If you don’t believe your doctor is knowledgeable enough about your condition, consider looking for another physician. You deserve a physician who explains things in a language you understand, listens and encourages questions, and supports you in self-managing your condition. The patient-doctor relationship is most beneficial when there is an effective bond of communication

More health care tips on the next page

between you. Not all personalities mesh; perhaps you would do better – and feel more comfortable – with another doctor.

- A recommended treatment makes you uneasy. Don't rush into important health decisions. Usually there will be time to carefully examine your alternatives. Ask: Why do I need this surgery? Are there any alternatives to this treatment? What are the risks and benefits? Get a second opinion, if necessary.
- You feel out of control. Feeling out of control often has to do with a lack of knowledge. To learn more about your condition and how to self-manage it, contact a respected nonprofit group, such as the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association, to request information. Go to reputable online sites. Ask your doctor for information.
- It's difficult to stay well. You know you should quit smoking, eat better, exercise, but it's just not happening. Do you need more support in making lifestyle changes? Often, your doctor can serve as your number one resource. Many employers now offer worksite health-promotion programs. Family members and friends also can offer support, as well as people going through the same challenges you are. Look into online programs or support groups.

Asking the right questions about costs

"This drug will cost me how much?"

If you've ever been shocked at a pharmacy checkout, it's probably because you didn't ask your doctor about prices in advance. Most patients don't even ask about the cost of medical tests or surgeries that could run into the thousands of dollars.

Prices can vary widely for similar or identical treatments—and there may be a lot you can do to limit what you pay out of pocket.

Here are suggestions to help keep your costs in line:

- Compare drug prices up front. You can see on the shelf how much brand-name aspirin costs next to the store brand. It's the same with prescription drugs: Ask your doctor if you can get a lower-cost generic version. There may even be an equally effective over-the-counter option that can meet your needs at a rock-bottom price—but you'll have to ask.
- Check the price of doctor and hospital services, too. Blue Cross and other insurance companies post these rates online for their members.
- Make sure everyone treating you is covered by your health plan. Your primary care doctor may be on the network of providers, but what about the diabetes specialist your doctor recommends, or the surgical team that's slated to do your hernia repair? It pays to ask. If a hospital or doctor is not eligible for top-dollar coverage, you could get a whopping bill.

- Read your health plan booklet. Some health plans cover alternative treatments such as chiropractic care or acupuncture; or give discounts on health club memberships, bicycle helmets, or other preventive measures. What's more, many plans require you to ask their approval before undergoing certain medical tests or seeing a specialist. If you don't follow directions, you may have to pay the entire bill.
- Be alert for billing mistakes. Some people check every supermarket receipt, but they're more likely to find errors on a hospital bill.

Smart consumers can find big savings here and there—they just need to know where to look.

Sources of Information

Answers to questions about health, healthcare and healthcare benefits can be found at:

www.minnesotahealthinfo.org and www.cdc.gov.

Watch for future parts of this series, including:

- Ask the Doctor Checklist
- Primary Care
- Self-Care, and Rx Tips
- Your Child's Healthcare
- Specialist Care
- Emergency Room

For a copy of the entire series, or to request a seminar for your staff on healthy consumer tips, email SSC's Health and Benefits Consultant Bill Colopoulos, at bcolopoulos@ssc.coop.

SSC welcomes Administrators and staff to a new year

SSC extends a special welcome to these chief administrators, in their new positions, as well as to educators, and other staff new to our member organizations.



Glenn Haupt
Hiawatha Valley
Education District



David Krenz
Austin Public Schools



Mike Funk
Albert Lea Public
Schools



Ron Wilke
LaCrescent-Hokah
Public Schools



Craig Junker
Lake City Public
Schools

SSC continues to support member health promotion with new funding opportunity

by Kari Kubicek

SSC continues to support its member groups in the development and implementation of wellness programming by offering the Employee Health Promotion Support Program again this year. Services offered through this program include the following:

- Local Employee Health Promotion Coordination Training
- Health Fair Consulting
- Biometric Testing
- Incentive Items at cost
- Two to three topical forums
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota's Whole Person Health Support Program*

*items followed by an asterisk are services either not available to Non-Pool Members or available at an additional cost.

Funding Assistance to support local wellness and health promotion activities

In addition to the services listed above, SSC is again offering funding assistance to its insurance pool members designated for supporting local wellness and health promotion activities. Even better, the levels of available health promotion programming awards have been increased by \$250 per funding level for the 2009-10 fiscal year July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010. Funding

amounts are based on the group's size as follows:

At or over 200.....	\$1,750
100-199 Contracts.....	\$1,500
51-99 Contracts.....	\$1,250
At or under 50 Contracts.....	\$1,000

Awarded funds may be used for costs to start a local Employee Wellness Committee, policy development, incentives and prizes, materials, biometric testing supplies, stipends and substitute costs for participants in wellness training and forums, presenters, and other costs directly related to providing a healthy working environment and health promotion for employees. All funded health promotion activities must be primarily directed to staff and may be made available to all students. We particularly encourage activity in which teachers and other staff model healthy lifestyle decisions, including physical fitness and healthy eating.

NEW this year!! Funding for Local Wellness Program Coordination As an added incentive for SSC members to apply for and take advantage of the available health promotion program funds, additional funding is now available to serve as a stipend for the local wellness coordinator or team.

Organizations are eligible for this funding only if they have been awarded funding for their health promotion programming. This funding is in addition to the local health promotion support funding outlined above and is available in the following amounts, based on the group's size (number of contracts in the group):

At or over 200.....	\$1,000
100-199 Contracts.....	\$750
51-99 Contracts.....	\$600
16-50 Contracts.....	\$500
At or under 15 Contracts.....	\$250

By making these services and funding opportunities available to our members, SSC is committed to providing the support needed by our members to offer their employees and their families resources to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. To find out more about the Employee Health Promotion Support Program visit our website, www.ssc.coop, or contact Kari Kubicek, kkubicek@ssc.coop or Nicole LaChapelle, nlachapelle@ssc.coop.

Upcoming health promotion forum spotlights Albert Lea's Vitality Project

by Kari Kubicek

SSC is hosting a health promotion forum through its Employee Health Promotion Support Program on Thursday, October 22, from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The main feature of the forum will be a presentation by Bob Graham, Community Development Director of Albert Lea, outlining the concept of a Blue Zone and the nine principles that a community can adopt to become a healthier place.

Albert Lea was chosen to participate in a Vitality Project sponsored by AARP, Blue Zones and United Health Foundation and serve as a test site to see if incorporating small changes in our everyday lives, such as walking to work, standing instead of sitting, etc., could help increase the lifespan of community members.

Blue Zones

For over six years, Blue Zones founder Dan Buettner, and his team of physicians and demographers studied four "Blue Zones," specific regions whose populations are reaching age 100 at an extraordinary

high rate: Loma Linda, California; the Nicoya Peninsula in Costa Rica; Okinawa, Japan and Sardinia, Italy. These Blue Zones have a sense of community – "an element of happiness and vitality that goes beyond a diet and exercise program." The team identified and studied common threads in lifestyle behavior, diet, outlook and stress-coping mechanisms.

The AARP/Blue Zones Project is designed to replicate elements of these common practices in other communities around the country. AARP's highest priorities are health and economic security for all generations. The joint project is combining AARP's healthy behaviors expertise and Blue Zones' longevity expertise to help Americans live healthier, longer lives.

Why Albert Lea?

Albert Lea was selected as a pilot for this project because of several factors including the size of the community, community leader commitment to support community changes and to help individual

residents make personal changes, Albert Lea's statistically average health conditions for the United States, and its proximity to the Minneapolis-based Blue Zones and the University of Minnesota.

The forum will also include information about SSC's Employee Health Promotion Support Program, funding opportunities for both programming activities and program coordination, and time for participants to work on their own organization's wellness programming. Teams of individuals, members of a wellness committee, or potential wellness committee members are encouraged to attend this forum in order to work together to develop an application for wellness funding.

Visit our website at www.ssc.coop to register for this event. If you have questions about the forum or the Employee Health Promotion Support Program, please contact Kari Kubicek, kkubicek@ssc.coop or Nicole LaChapelle, nlachapelle@ssc.coop.

Education Research Assistant position opening

Southeast Service Cooperative has opened a half-time position for an Education Research and Planning Assistant, whose primary role will be to support SSC's School Improvement team.

Duties will include the following (but not limited to): searching for School Improvement information and resources; compiling and organizing various school data; supporting the AYP School Improvement team with meeting and materials preparation and follow-up for internal planning as well as meetings with schools and districts we serve;

data management; team member calendar management, technology/software support; designing presentation material; and resource materials lending management.

Qualified candidates should have experience in pre-K-12 school/district setting. It is essential that candidates possess high level organizational skills and have a passion for searching out, collecting, and analyzing data. Candidates also need to be software savvy (especially strong with Microsoft Excel and Word); resourceful self-starters; have excellent communication and

interpersonal skills; and be able to multi-task on a regular basis.

Work schedule will be flexibly set to fit both the candidate's and SSC's needs.

SSC is a terrific place to work, and we're looking for just the right person to join our team.

The position has been posted and details are available at www.ssc.coop. The position will remain open until filled.

Mr. Franken comes to Rochester

On Monday, August 17th, a select group of southeast Minnesota area superintendents and educational administrators, along with SSC Executive Director Suzanne Riley and School Improvement Coordinator Diane Schwinghammer, played host to Minnesota's newest Senator, Al Franken, at the Wood Lake Meeting Center facility in Rochester.

Senator Franken was in the area to do some fact finding on issues relating to energy, healthcare, public services, and education. At the meeting, he requested information and opinions on the Federal NCLB legislation. Senator Franken was

particularly interested in hearing opinions from area educational leaders on the "pros and cons" regarding the current legislation, with an eye toward what needs to be further addressed by the US Senate.

The hour long session was by invitation and had been initiated by his office through the efforts of Charles Kyte, Executive Director of MASA. The participants offered a variety of perspectives on many aspects of NCLB, citing the issues and the positive outcomes that have resulted from the "accountability" component of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.



Participating in the session with Riley and Schwinghammer were Superintendents Joe Brown, Don Hainlen, Paul Durand, Romain Dallemond, Bruce Klaehn, Kevin Wellen, Craig Junker, Stan Slessor, Chris Richardson, and Candice Raskin of Mankato State University.

More \$500 art scholarships on the line

For the sixth year in a row, the Freshwater Society of Minnesota, and the Southeast Service Cooperative, will sponsor an art and scholarship contest to provide opportunities for regional senior high students to creatively display and celebrate the beauty of water, lament its environmental degradation, or illustrate its impact on the human condition.

We were happy to announce that Alixandra Biber won one of the scholarships in Spring 2009. Her work was selected from 34 pieces of art judged April 29 at the Regional Event held at the Wood Lake Meeting Center located within Southeast Service Cooperative.

The four semi-finalists advanced to a statewide competition where they competed with semi-finalists from other regions in Minnesota. Once again, southeast Minnesota art students will have that opportunity.

Statewide winners will be announced at

a reception next May at the Gray Freshwater Center, home to the Freshwater Society, in Excelsior, Minnesota. Winners will receive \$500 scholarships. All southeast Minnesota senior high schools are invited to participate in the art contest.

The Water is Life Art Contest gives schools and students an opportunity to convey an important message through their creative talents. High school artists learn about and become involved in preserving our freshwater resources. Expressing meaningful and artistic ways to portray the importance of freshwater was the theme of the fourth annual Water is Life Art Contest and Scholarship Program.

For over 35 years, the Freshwater Society has been a leading public



nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving, restoring, and protecting freshwater resources and their surrounding watersheds. Through its program initiatives in freshwater resource management, groundwater and surface water stewardship activities, public education, conferences, and publications the Freshwater Society has been a catalyst for understanding one of our most important natural resources.

To view some of the art work and activities from the previous contests, please go to www.freshwater.org and follow the links to the Water is Life Art Contest.

For more information about the Water is Life Art Contest, contact Jeanne Prok at (952) 471-9773.

MSC Online Learning Project allows districts to keep both their students and their state aid

by Kari Kubicek

The Minnesota Service Cooperative's (MSC) Online Learning Project is moving into its second year of providing online learning and teaching opportunities to SSC member districts. MSC Online is a collaborative of Northeast Service Cooperative and its member districts; SSC, Lakes Country Service Cooperative, and Resource Training and Solutions.

MSC Online Learning Project is a part time, non-diploma, online learning program that allows districts to offer MSC Online courses to their students without losing the state funding designated for the student while maintaining the student's enrollment in his/her own district. This is extremely valuable in today's online learning environment as several other online learning providers in the state retain both the student enrollment and the majority of the student aid if a student enrolls in their courses.

SSC launched the MSC Online Learning Project last fall and currently has six districts enrolled in the program including: Albert Lea Public Schools, Byron Public Schools, Cannon Falls Public Schools, Northfield Public Schools, Pine Island Public Schools and Winona Public Schools. A total of 26 students from these districts enrolled in 47 online courses offered through MSC Online during the 2008-2009 school year.

Online courses are being offered at both the middle school and high school levels this year in comparison to last year's high school only course offerings. All MSC Online courses meet Minnesota Academic standards and graduation requirements, as well as the national technology standards

for students (NETS-S). All courses are taught by teachers licensed by the State of Minnesota.

The cost for a district to enroll in MSC Online is \$1,950 per year. This fee allows the district access to all of the following:

- Moodle Course Management System (CMS)
- Online courseware
- Free hosting of district-sponsored blended classroom courses, professional development and/or professional learning communities
- Training for up to three individuals in the Facilitating Online Learning course
- On-going professional development for teachers and administrators
- Regional program administration and coordination with the Minnesota Department of Education
- Maintenance of the CMS, including level 2 (program and software) and Level 3 (server) technical support

One of MSC Online's objectives is to build regional capacity through training educators in the southeast region to teach online courses. As listed above, a component covered by the enrollment fee is the training of up to three individuals from the enrolling district to teach online coursework. The Facilitating Online Learning (FOL) course is a three week training that begins with an initial face to face session, followed by three weeks of online coursework, and ending with a final face to face session.



Forty-six individuals in the southeast region have been certified to teach online coursework through the MSC Online learning project. The FOL course will be offered multiple times during the 2009-2010 in order to meet the ongoing training needs of our districts.

Schedule for the next FOL training:

Initial face to face session:

Tuesday, September 29
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Three weeks of online course work:
(additional week included to account for MEA)

Tuesday, September 29 through
Tuesday, October 27

Final face to face session:

Tuesday, October 27
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

More information about MSC Online can be found on our website at www.ssc.coop or visit the MSC Online Learning Project at www.msconline.us. If you have questions, or would like to enroll in this program, please contact Kari Kubicek, kkubicek@ssc.coop, or Nicole LaChapelle, nlachapelle@ssc.coop.

TAH Cohort members take on Minnesota's Iron Range and North Shore

by Kari Kubicek

The fourth year of the Blufflands and Prairies: Southern Minnesota's Place in the Fabric of America's Story project programming began with a four day Summer Institute in early July. This project is part of a four year (2006-2010) federal Teaching American History Grant project awarded to SSC in partnership with Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative (SW/WC), Winona State University (WSU) and the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS).

Programming for the final year of the project will focus on World War II, the Post-War Boom, Minnesota's Political Leadership and the Social Reform Movements of the 1960s and '70s.

Twenty-two cohort members from both the southeast and southwest portions of the state participated in the Summer Institute. The four day event was a marathon bus tour of Minnesota's Iron Range and North Shore.

Day one began with a visit to the Mille Lacs Indian Museum in Onamia for a session on Ojibwe culture and history presented by museum staff. The cohort members had the opportunity to learn about the life of the Ojibwe during each season in the Four Seasons exhibit. After a brief visit to the restored trading post next to the museum, the group continued on to the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids.

At the Forest History Center, cohort members enjoyed exploring the exhibits in the Center's Interpretive Building and listened to Jim Marshall of Blandin Paper Company present on modern forest management. The

cohort members then made their way down to the Logging Camp, a "living history" feature where interpreters, dressed in the clothing of lumberjacks, performed the tasks of actual logging camp workers. The cohort members participated as members of the camp working with the camp cook, company clerk, bullcook (camp janitor), saw filer, lumberjacks, barn boss, blacksmith and the "wood butcher" (carpenter). The evening ended with a log sawing competition amongst teams of cohort members, followed by an authentic lumber jack meal.

The second morning included a bus tour of Minnesota's Iron Range towns such as Hibbing, Chisholm, Mountain Iron and Virginia. Pam Brunfelt, a History and Political Science professor at Vermilion Community College and Iron Range expert, provided facts and anecdotes about the area's history. Dan Leritz, a southwest cohort member who grew up in the Iron Range area, also provided his perspective on the history of the area. The cohort members also spent an hour at the Minnesota Discovery Center (formerly Iron World) touring the center's exhibits.

The group then proceeded to the Soudan Underground Mine Site Park where Minnesota iron mining began in 1883. The park tour included being lowered in an 80-year-old electric mine hoist to level 27, the mine's lowest level at 2,341 feet below ground to explore the historic mining facilities. Traveling to Ely and spending a few hours canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area was the next stop on the itinerary, but due to rain, the group continued



Staff from Forest History Center and Cohort Teri Lehmkuhl talk about the lumberjack meal they are about to serve.

on to Two Harbors for some much needed down time.

The cohort members attended a short presentation on the morning of the third day on the history of tourism in Northern Minnesota by Kathryn Koutsky.

The group then traveled to the Split Rock Lighthouse, a landmark constructed by the U.S. Lighthouse Service in 1910, where they were given a glimpse of lighthouse life in the 1920's.

The next stop was Gooseberry Falls where the cohort members were able to explore the waterfalls, river gorge and Lake Superior shoreline. Carly Hawkinson, Department of Natural Resources staff person, provided a presentation on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and a tour of the old log and stone CCC structures in the area.

After spending a few hours at Gooseberry Falls, the group continued on to Duluth. First stop

TAH Cohort continued from page 10

was a brief time at the Maritime Museum. The day ended with a tour of the Richard I. Bong Veterans' Historical Center, erected to honor Dick Bong, America's leading Ace of all time, and to commemorate and educate the service of all who served.

The final day of the trip began with an architectural tour of Duluth led by Michael Koop from the State Historic Preservation Office. The group was then treated to a content session led by Doug Ohman, a Minnesota photographer and public speaker whose photographs are featured in the "Minnesota Byways" series, which includes Barns of Minnesota, Churches of Minnesota, Courthouses of Minnesota, Schoolhouses of Minnesota, and Cabins of Minnesota, all published by Minnesota Historical Society Press.



Cohort member Jen Hansen takes in the beautiful Hibbing High School auditorium.

The final leg of the trip included a stop at the Northwest Company Fur Post in Pine City where the cohort members learned about how the seasonal living of the Ojibwa changed when Europeans arrived in the early 1800s. The activity

packed four day trip ended late in the evening for several of the cohort members as they made their way home.

Asked how the historic site visits and the grant project experience has made them better teachers, one cohort member responded, "These trips bring the experience to life for us. The grant has made a tremendous change in how I teach and how I present information. Children in Minnesota owe you a big 'thank you'!"

Planning for this year's project programming is being finalized. If you have questions related to the project, please visit the project website at www.blufflandsandprairies.org or contact Kari Kubicek at kkubicek@ssc.coop or Nicole LaChapelle at nlachapelle@ssc.coop.



SSC has partnered with Knowledge Delivery Systems to provide K-12 educators with award-winning online professional development opportunities. This is a convenient and cost effective way to earn continuing education units or graduate credit. Courses can be applied towards state license recertification, salary increase, and career advancement. KDS specializes in timely content in areas such as differentiated instruction, classroom management, and special education.

Using the KDS eLearning Classroom Platform, teachers can instantly access web-based, self paced courses in a diverse assortment of educational topics produced by nationally acclaimed educators, including Carol Ann Tomlinson, Jay McTighe, Susan Winebrenner, Todd Whitaker, Clifton Taulbert, Debbie Silver, and many other renowned lecturers.

Courses feature streaming video lectures with synchronized PowerPoint slideshows, discussion forums, pre- and post-assessment activities, printable resources, online note taking, and cumulative coursework portfolios. Each course is approximately 10 contact hours (self-paced) and costs only \$55! To learn more, please visit www.kdsi.org/ssc or contact Amy Grover at agrover@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6693.

2010 Kids Creating Community Content contest

Submissions are now open for the 2010 Kids Creating Community Content contest. Visit <http://kc3.cilc.org> to view the program details. Please note the new dates and the three informational webinars offered this fall for teacher sponsors interested in participating in the contest.

SSC is now providing Moodle space!

Available at a low cost to SSC members, SSC's Moodle site can host district-sponsored blended classroom courses, professional development and/or professional learning communities. To find out more, please contact Kari Kubicek at kkubicek@ssc.coop.

Spelling Bee registration for 2010 begins

Schools planning to participate in the 2009-10 Regional Spelling Bee must register with Scripps.

Your \$99 registration fee includes:

- Study words for students
- Pronouncer guides
- Rules
- Certificates
- Schools registering with Scripps are also eligible to receive a free one-year subscription from Encyclopedia Britannica Online Student Edition for use as a prize in your spelling bee program.
- and much more!
(see www.spellingbee.com)

Enroll by September 30, and Encyclopedia Britannica will double your bonus. All schools enrolled by September 30, 2009, will receive TWO free one-year subscriptions to the Britannica Online Student Edition.

Deadline:

The deadline for enrollment in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee program is October 16, 2009.

A late enrollment period is offered from October 17, 2009, through December 18, 2009. All schools enrolling during the late enrollment

Visit the Scripps National Spelling Bee website at: www.spellingbee.com	
2009-2010 Dates to remember:	
Deadline to register with Scripps.....	October 16, 2009
Deadline to register with Southeast Service Cooperative	November 20, 2009
Regional Spelling Bees	February 16, 2010

period will be subject to an additional late enrollment fee of \$75 per school.

The Great American Spellcheck is a fundraiser to offset costs incurred by the school. Find more information about the Great American SpellCheck at www.spellingbee.com. This fund-raising program erases the objections that you (and your students' parents) have to traditional fund-raisers. It's a fund-raiser that:

- 100% of the money raised benefits your school,
- involves no students knocking on the doors of strangers and
- is rooted in academics

Students study grade-specific word lists and collect pledges from family and friends for every word they spell correctly in the Great American SpellCheck. Students improve their spelling skills and your school enjoys the financial benefits!

Districts also pay the Southeast Service Cooperative \$95/student that participates in the Regional Spelling Bee. The deadline for registration with SSC is November 20.

Information will be sent to schools in September. Contact Kirsten Kuehl at kkuehl@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6670 for more information.



Thank you to McNeilus Steel, Inc. and KM Telecom for co-sponsoring the final Spelling Bee. Their generosity allowed us to send a student from southeast Minnesota to the National Scripps Spelling Bee. (See page 12 for an article by Laura Galbus, who represented Kasson-Mantorville and southeast Minnesota at National.)

Save money through recommissioning

by Tim Puylear, IEA

Building recommissioning is an effective way to cut energy costs while improving the indoor environment. A study released in July, 2009, by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory shows that the median whole building energy savings for existing buildings from recommissioning is 16%. This represents a typical payback time of 1.1 years.

Recommissioning in schools is allowed to be funded under Health and Safety at intervals of no less than five years. Xcel energy

currently has a program that will pay up to 50% of the cost of recommissioning to a maximum of \$15,000 for Xcel customers.

Since approximately 24% of a buildings electricity usage is due to fan and pump motors, the HVAC system is an excellent area to implement improvements. Reducing the average speed of a fan or pump by 50% would result in a 12.5% energy savings for that piece of equipment.

Protecting the environment through reductions in green house gas emissions has become a higher

priority to many building owners. Due to the energy savings of the recommissioning process the associated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions come at a negative cost. The study by Lawrence Berkeley Nation Laboratory shows that the median cost of conserved carbon is -\$110 per tonne. In other words the school is getting paid to cut carbon and protect the environment! There has never been a better time to start saving money through recommissioning.

Tim can be reached at timp@ieainstitute.com.



Every speller's dream, my trip to the National Spelling Bee

by Laura Galbus

Most people would say I'm a natural speller. The basics just come easily. I spell by visualizing the word before I spell it. I won my first school spelling bee in 6th grade. That year, I made it to the district bee.

The next year, I won school, district, and then made it to State, where the new environment psyched me out, and I got out in the first round.

This year, I accomplished every speller's dream and made it to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. I had started out, as every year, in the classroom bee, which I won.

I then won the school bee and moved on to the district bee. I studied the Scripps Spell It! pamphlet intensively, and felt I knew the book left and right, learning about 1500 words. However, I only placed 4th and barely made it to the next bee.

Wondering how I could have only gotten 4th place, I focused on the harder derivations like Slavic and French. At the regional bee, I felt more confident, especially after realizing that almost all the words in that particular bee were from that booklet. Eventually, it came down to me and one other student.

Finally, after the judges had given me the green card for the word "ensconce," they announced I was the winner and would be advancing to the Scripps National Spelling Bee. It didn't really hit home, so I just politely smiled and accepted my awards. Then I met up with my parents, who had been in the audience biting their nails and then crying, to happily answer questions

for the interviewer from the Rochester Post-Bulletin.

The next day, I began studying the Consolidated Word List, which consists of several thousand words. I studied the words I was unfamiliar with in a notebook for 3-4 hours every day for about three weeks.

The first day of the National Bee I was led to room of computers. I sat down to listen to fifty words, and type in my best guess on the spellings. I was feeling half confident about the computer-generated test.

In the first oral round, I was asked to spell "initiate." I-n-i-t-i-a-t-e and I sat down to a round of applause. The next round was not so pleasant. I was the first speller in that group, and I was a little nervous. I also learned that I had overlooked a crucial study guide that had been emailed to all the spellers. The pronouncer spoke a French word into the microphone, just what I had been fearing the most!

When he first said "mouseline," it sounded like a funky way of saying "muslin," so I asked for the definition. Because he used "muslin" in the definition that told me that it was NOT the word. Knowing it was a French word, it probably ended in 'e.' A little unsure, I spelled it out m-o-u-s-e-l-i-n-e. After being informed that the correct spelling had two S's, I thought, Duh! Mousse. Like the food. That's French, right? I was very disappointed in myself, but also proud that I had only missed it by one letter.

By now, I knew that I probably hadn't made it to the next round. Considering I had only gotten the easy oral word right, and that I was pretty 50-50 on the test, I was



hardly crestfallen. It was so much fun anyway, I got to see Washington D.C.'s historical sights, meet kids from other states and countries, and experience the aura of this level of spelling.

I have learned so much through studying for spelling: not only increasing my vocabulary, but learning how interesting the English language is, and how none of these words are actually OURS, they've been borrowed from other countries. So to bring kids of different nationalities together with a common passion and knowledge of spelling is somewhat symbolic of the compiling of the words we use (or maybe don't use) today.

Laura is currently a ninth-grader from Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools.

2009-10 Knowledge Bowl schedule set



by

Kirsten Kuehl

Coaches from southeast Minnesota will meet on September 21, at 4:00 pm at the Southeast Service Cooperative, to discuss and plan for the 2009-10 season.

Coaches were polled last spring and dates have been set for both Junior and Senior High Knowledge Bowl.

In 2008-09, 32 districts participated in the program; 56 Junior High teams and 96 Senior High teams. Over 800 students in the region challenged themselves in this statewide academic program!

Five teams of senior high students advance to the state competition in April at Cragun's in Brainerd.

The Minnesota Service Cooperative Knowledge Bowl competitions are interdisciplinary academic contests for students. Junior High Knowledge Bowl is primarily for students in grades 7-9. Senior High Knowledge Bowl is for students in grades 9-12.

Contact Kirsten Kuehl at kkuehl@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6670 for more information.

2009-10 Dates Junior High Knowledge Bowl

Round Robins

October 8-9 & 12, 2009

November 2-4, 2009

December 2-4, 2009

Sub-Regionals

January 6, 2010 (Tier A)

January 7, 2010 (Tier AA)

Regionals

January 26, 2010 (Tier A)

January 27, 2010 (Tier AA)

Senior High Knowledge Bowl

Round Robins

December 15-16 & 18, 2009

January 11-13, 2010

February 1-2 & 9, 2010

Sub-Regionals

March 17, 2010 (Tier AA)

March 18, 2010 (Tier A)

Regionals

March 24, 2010 (Tier A)

March 25, 2010 (Tier AA)

State

April 15-16, 2010

Young Authors, Young Artists Conference planning for 2010 begins



On May 20-21, 2009, students from schools in southeast Minnesota participated in the annual Young Authors, Young Artists Conference.

Students in grades 4-6 gathered in Rochester and learned from authors, poets, illustrators, artists, journalists, book crafters, and others in sessions that exposed them to the art and joy of writing and creating.

Twenty different choices were offered and students chose three sessions when they registered (first come, first served). Adult chaperones attended with students and were able to enjoy the sessions as well.

When chaperones and teachers were asked what the best part of their day was.....Answers included:

- seeing all these young minds explore the possibilities of their creativity
- opening was great. Kids were very enthusiastic about everything.

- Watching my students interact with other students, watching them work and move independently and express their creativity
- I got wonderful, creative ideas that can be used in the classroom.
- It was exciting for students to have published authors and illustrators as presenters!



The 2010 Young Authors, Young Artists Conference will be held at the Heinz Center
Rochester Community & Technical College on May 19 & 20, 2010
Mark your calendars now!

Area teachers start agriculture consortium

by Heidi Knepper

This past summer, teachers of agriculture, food and environmental sciences formed a consortium led by SSC with funds secured by the Minnesota Agriculture Education Leadership Council (MAELC).

MAELC granted funding to SSC for the first year of the three-year plan, with the possibility for continued funding at the conclusion of one successful year.

The following elements of our three year plan will be implemented this year:

- A teacher professional learning network will be established
- Inventories and analysis of current resources and critical assets will be established
- Work groups will have identified and developed at least three lesson units with a STEM emphasis that can be shared
- A plan will be in place for continued development of common courses/lesson units/

resources

- Pilot teacher trainings will have been conducted and evaluated with recommendations for modifications
- Pilot student courses using distance learning will have been conducted and evaluated with recommendations for modifications
- A web page will be fully developed and updated on a regular basis
- Draft structure will be under review by advisory group, including policies, procedures, scheduling and agreements
- Plans will be established for year 2 and 3 activities, timelines, outcomes.

This summer work groups have been established and have begun work to ensure successful completion of our year one goals.

If you have questions, or your district is interested in this grant opportunity, please contact Heidi Knepper at hknepper@ssc.coop or (507)281-6669.

Southeast Minnesota Agriculture Education Consortium School and Higher Education Partners:

Blooming Prairie
Byron
Fillmore Central
Glenville Emmons
Kingsland
LeRoy-Ostrander
Owatonna
Pine Island
Plainview Elgin Millville
Southland
Stewartville
Riverland Community College
Southeast Service Cooperative

H & S online trainings keeps them coming back for more

by Dick Riley

As we move into another year for Southeast Service Cooperative's Health and Safety On-line Trainings through Clarity Net, more districts and government agencies are joining. What started a couple years ago as a fledgling effort has grown to be an important part of the training for many of our SSC members' staff.

Utilizing over 1,200 courses initiated by our members, we have surpassed the 1,500 mark for course requests. By far, our three most popular offerings are:

- Bloodborne Pathogens for School Employees
- Hazcom for Schools
- The Right to Know
- Sexual Harassment: You Make The Call

Last year's addition of bus driver courses has also given our program a boost.

Schools and counties currently using our On-line H & S Training are:

- Austin Catholic Schools
- Austin Public Schools
- Cannon Falls Public Schools
- Dodge County
- Dover-Eyota schools

- St. Mary's Catholic School in Owatonna.

With their Board's approval pending, Rochester Off Campus High School is all set to join our ranks of satisfied users.

Sound interesting to you? Contact Dick Riley at driley@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6666 or for more information, a course list and costs to obtain this service from SSC and Clarity Net.

Electrical Safety and NFPA 70E Arc Flash Training
Tuesday, October 6, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Rochester students make their mark at National History Day competition

by Kari Kubicek

Each year, more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide, participate in the National History Day contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in a national competition each June held at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Conflict and Compromise in History was the 2009 History Day theme and required students to view history through multiple perspectives as more often than not, events in history reflect both conflict and compromise.

Five Rochester Public School students qualified to attend the 2008-09 Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition. Hanna Cody, Maria McGlinch, Carrie Schweyen, and Megan VanDeVoorde of Century High School took fifth place in the senior group performance category with their performance: "Where a Woman Shouldn't Be: Nellie Bly and the Insane Asylum." Their performance focused on the impact of stunt



The team immediately after receiving their Outstanding State Entry Award at the awards ceremony: Hanna Cody, Megan VanDeVoorde, Carrie Schweyen and Maria McGlinch.

journalist Nellie Bly on asylum reform, opportunities for women, and the field of journalism. They also received the Outstanding State Entry award for the senior division. This is the second year in a row that these four girls participated and advanced to nationals as last year they placed tenth. The girls developed this year's project completely outside of class time.

The other Rochester student who was a national qualifier was Laura Cattaneo, a seventh grader at Friedell Middle School who was one of only about a dozen students chosen nationally to present her exhibit at a national museum. Her individual exhibit focused on Jane Addams and Hull House, and the reforms that Addams' work initiated in the city of Chicago and around the nation in the early 20th century. She presented her exhibit, "Jane Addams and Hull House: A Legacy of Social Reform," at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Laura also completed this project completely outside of class time.

Jessica Ellison of the Minnesota Historical Society History Day staff

stated, "This is a great success for Southeast Minnesota. It is very difficult to get to nationals in Minnesota, considering the number of participants and the high level of quality, and these five girls truly showed initiative and dedication by taking on a project this in-depth,



Senator Amy Klobuchar with Laura Cattaneo. All the Minnesota students were able to meet Sen. Klobuchar while in Washington.

completely on their own time."

History Day services for the southeast and southwest regions of the state are provided by the Minnesota Historical Society through SSC's Teaching American History grant project, Blufflands and Prairies: Southern Minnesota's Place in the Fabric of America's Story. Further information about the project can

2010 History Day Theme
Innovation in History:
Impact and Change

Watch for dates of
Fall 2009

History Day workshop

Collaboration = success in math and science

by Heidi Knepper

Southeast Service Cooperative and St. Mary's University hosted the first training days for the Southeast Minnesota Math & Science Teacher Partnership, a program made possible through collaboration between Southeast Service Cooperative, St. Mary's University and the Minnesota Department of Education, August 4-5 and 10-12, 2009.

The August 4-5 sessions were focused on the content that is required for teachers who are expected to instruct in grades 9-12 Data Analysis and Probability. The August 10-11 sessions focused on Lesson Study and how that will apply to job embedded professional development for the involved participants. On August 12, Professional Learning Community (PLC) leaders from each participating site had a day long training preparing them for the exciting work of leading their PLC's through the Lesson Study process this year. These leaders will have technology based follow up training, as well as one more face to face meeting during the grant year.

At the conclusion of this cohort, each participant in the academy will have experienced two Research Lessons, utilizing the Lesson Study

Participating Districts
 Goodhue
 Grand Meadow
 Lake City
 Mabel Canton
 Plainview-Elgin-Millville
 Red Wing
 Rochester Off Campus
 Charter High School
 Southland

process. This process includes a group of instructors preparing a single lesson collaboratively, which is then observed in the classroom by the Lesson Study group and other practitioners, and analyzed during the group's debriefing session.

Through the research lesson teachers become more observant and attentive to the process by which lessons unfold in their class, and they gather data from the actual teaching based on the lesson plan that the group has prepared. Widely viewed as the foremost professional development program, lesson study is credited with dramatic success in improving classroom practices. By utilizing the Lesson Study process with the MSTP cohort, we hope to provide the participants with job embedded, high quality professional development that they can continue

far beyond the conclusion of the grant.

The conclusion of this learning experience will include time for all participants to share their experiences with the Lesson Study Process and the experience of meeting as PLC's, which was new to some and a continuation of current practice for others. The sessions will also include mini-modules on topics related to the Minnesota Academic Standards for mathematics in grades 9-12, focusing on the benchmarks that fall within the Data Analysis and Probability strand. There is also an Instructional Team for the Southeast Math and Science Teacher Partnership creating a Training Module for grades 3-6 and 7-12 educators based on the science of engineering. We hope to move forward with this module in 2010-2011 based on grant funding, if you would like more information, please contact Heidi Knepper at hknepper@ssc.coop.

Upcoming MSTP Cohort
 training dates-
 November 11, 2009
 April 8, 2010



an Internet connection. You will have access to applicant data online with tools that simplify the selection process such as searching and sorting for candidates with specific qualifications, sending automatic reference checks, making internal notes, and communicating with multiple applicants simultaneously!

Furthermore, listings of available jobs can be directly embedded into your website so that the information is always up-to-date. For pricing, more information, or to schedule a demo, please contact Amy Grover at agrover@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6693.

Thanks to a new statewide partnership, SSC member districts can now enjoy substantial discounts on AppliTrack, a web-based job applicant tracking and recruiting system that can help you identify and hire the best candidates. AppliTrack automates much of the process of accepting, screening, and archiving employment applications. With AppliTrack, you can post, collect, search, sort, and evaluate a candidate's credentials from any computer with

Recent Board meeting actions and information

May 2009

- Accepted the request of Byron Public Schools to enter into the School Health Pool as a joint powers agreement member, effective September 1, 2009.
- Hired Jennifer Nelson in the position of full-time School Improvement Coordinator effective June 15, 2009. (Employment became effective June 22, 2009.)
- Approved maintaining service fees for the 2009-2010 year at the current levels and established a participation fee for non-members for cooperative purchasing access at \$25, consistent with other MSC Service Cooperatives.
- Appointed the following administrators to the SSC Administrative Advisory Committee for new two-year terms July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011:
 - Area 1 -- Darrin Strosahl, Kingsland
 - Area 2 -- Steve Sallee, Southland
 - Area 3 -- Gary Kuphal, P-E-M
 - Area 4 -- Todd Sesker, Cannon Falls
 - At Large -- Stan Slessor, Red Wing
- Honored Superintendent Mike Moriarty, Caledonia Public Schools, with the 2009 Southeast Service Cooperative Outstanding Service Award.

June 2009

- Authorized annual memberships in several organizations.
- Approved a consulting contract with Learning Curve Consulting at the rate of \$360 per day (proportioned by hours) for a number of days set by staff and contingent on the grant contract funds available, renewable annually with a 30 day termination clause.
- Received an update report on the organizational review.
- Accepted the 2008 CCOGA Health Pool settlement report and pursuant to SSC policy on management of the Health Insurance Pools, credited calculated excess claims funds to the following group: City of Preston for \$18,342 (maximum average one month group premium).
- Accepted the request of St. Charles Public Schools to enter into the School Health Pool as a joint powers agreement member, effective September 1, 2009.
- Accepted the notification of Lyle Public Schools of withdrawal from the School Health Pool effective July 1, 2009.

- Contracted with Creative Benefit Consultants, LLC for one year from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 with reduced responsibilities and contract fee maximum of \$60,000.
- Approved participation in contracts with Lindquist and Vennum, Bill Strusinski, and Capitol Hill Associates for lobbying services during the 2009-2010 year not to exceed \$25,000 in cost.
- Established the 2009-2010 service/rental fee for the Mobile Science Lab as follows:
 - Districts with < 1,000 students: SSC Members \$50, Non-Members \$75
 - Districts with 1,001-1,999 students: SSC Members \$100, Non-Members \$125
 - Districts with > 2,000 students = SSC Members \$150, Non-Members \$175
- Adopted the proposed 2009-2010 budget.
- Appointed Superintendent Chuck Ehler of Rushford-Peterson to the SSC Administrative Advisory Committee to complete the last year of the Area 1 term (through June 30, 2010) currently held by Mike Moriarty, Caledonia.

July 2009

- Authorize the Executive Director to open a new position of AYP School Improvement Coordinator and fill the position as quickly as possible, contingent upon verification of sufficient grant contract funding.
- Accepted a grant from MAELC for \$27,600 for the year 2009-2010 to coordinate a project for agriculture, food, and environmental sciences teachers.
- Approve a contract with Iowa State University to provide the educational leadership series, "School Leadership in the Digital Age" during the 2009-2010 year for \$20,300.
- Accept a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education in the amount of \$105,794 to conduct a Math and Science Teacher Partnership professional development project.
- Accepted the report on the City/County Health Pool bid and awarded the contract for the health plan carrier effective with the January 1, 2010 plan year. Awarded contract for medical, pharmacy and other administrative services to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Awarded the administration of account-based services to SelectAccount. Referred the stop loss level recommendation to the formula committee and request that the

staff and committee consider the actuary's recommendation to increase the level from \$75,000 to \$150,000 and explore ways to ensure the stop loss level is adequate for both the pool and for individual groups.

- Scheduled a special Board meeting for Wednesday, August 19 at 4:00 PM to act on the City/County Pool Year 2010 rates and recommendations.
- Authorized the Executive Director to enter into an arrangement with South Central Service Cooperative and CO Brown Agency to facilitate participation in a property/casualty and liability pool by SSC member organizations.
- Authorized the Executive Director to contract with Michael Moriarty for consulting assistance in the development and delivery of services to local government members for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
- Rescheduled the time of the August 26 meeting to begin at 5:00 pm.

August 2009 Special Meeting

- Accepted the resignation of Bettie Lechtenberg effective immediately, and the Board expresses its appreciation for Bettie's service on the Board; additionally, request the Chair and Executive Director to recommend a process for filling this vacancy.
- Accepted the recommendations of the City/County Health Pool Formula Committee and staff for rates and stop loss level for Plan Year 2010.

Board Meeting Calendar

SSC Board Meetings:

Wednesday, September 23

Wednesday, October 28

Monday, November 30 (fifth Monday)

Wednesday, December 23

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Note: Completed SSC Board of Directors meeting minutes are available on the SSC website at www.ssc.coop.

Calendar

September

Monday, September 14
12 Noon
Schools and Economic Development
Discussion Forum

Monday, September 14
12 Noon - 1:30 PM
Tax and Levy Certification Workshop

Monday, September 14
4 - 7 PM
PowerPoint 2007 Webinar

Monday, September 21
4:00 - 5:30 PM
Knowledge Bowl Advisor's meeting

Wednesday, September 23
5 - 8 PM
SSC Board Meeting

Monday, September 28
4 - 7 PM
Digital Storytelling

Tuesday, September 29
4 - 7 PM
SMART Board Basic Training

Wednesday, September 30
8 AM - 11 AM
An Introduction to NWEA

October

Thursday, October 1
9 AM - 3 PM
School Leadership in the Digital Age

Thursday, October 1
4:30 - 8 PM
An Introduction to NWEA

Tuesday, October 6
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Electrical Safety Training and NFPA 70E
Arc Flash

Monday, October 12
4 - 7 PM
Word 2007 Webinar
Tuesday, October 13 & 20

4 - 7 PM
Moodle Training Series

Thursday, October 22
9 AM - 12:30 PM
Health Promotion Forum

Tuesday, October 27
4 - 7 PM
PowerPoint 2007 Webinar

Wednesday, October 28
5 - 8 PM
SSC Board Meeting

November

Monday, November 2
4 - 7 PM
Outlook 2007 Webinar

Tuesday, November 3
4 - 7 PM
Excel 2007 Basics Webinar

Thursday, November 12
9 AM - Noon
Leading Significant Change: Planning,
Implementing, and Sustaining

Monday, November 30
5 - 8 PM
SSC Board Meeting

Don't miss out on these
incredible professional
development opportunities!

**Leading Significant
Change: Planning,
Implementing and
Sustaining
with Dr. Doug Reeves**

Three-part interactive
state-wide video conference
Thursday, November 12
Friday, January 8
Thursday, February 18

Participants will learn to delve
deeper into the process of leading
significant change. Dr. Reeves is
the author of more than twenty
books, he has twice been named
to the Harvard Distinguished
Authors Series.

**School Leadership in the
Digital Age**
With Dr. Scott McLeod/CASTLE
Technology Team

Three full-day sessions:
Thursday, October 1, 2009
Wednesday, February 3
Wednesday, May 5

Scott McLeod is a nationally-
recognized academic expert on
K-12 technology leadership issues
and an Associate Professor at
Iowa State University. Participants
will be led through a 3-session
journey on educational leadership
in the 21st Century.



SSC is a 2008 Recipient of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

Cooperative Connection is a publication of the Southeast Service Cooperative, published four times per year for members, associates, and the general public.

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nlachapelle@ssc.coop

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 Monday - Friday
 8 AM - 4:30 PM

For up-to-date news, visit
www.ssc.coop



Southeast Service

Cooperative
 210 Wood Lake Drive SE
 Rochester, MN 55904
 ph (507) 288-1282 - fax (507) 288-7663

Southeast Service Cooperative direct dial phone numbers, e-mails, and 800 #...

- Call toll free, 1-800-657-6996, then an option:
- 1..... Cooperative Purchasing
 - 2..... Dental Reimbursement
 - 3..... Staff Development
 - 4..... EHSM
 - 5..... Student Academics & Conferences

We want to be there when you call, so try dialing us directly at the numbers below. Our voice mail system allows you to leave a detailed message if the person you're calling isn't able to answer right away. If you don't know who you need to talk with, dial (507) 288-1282 and one of our staff or our auto-attendant will direct you from there.
 To send a fax dial (507) 288-7663.

SSC Staff

name	phone	email	service area
Suzanne Riley	(507) 281-6673	sriley@ssc.coop	Executive Director
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