



Southeast
Service
Cooperative

Connections

March 2017

Legislator and
School Leader
Forum

P3



Professional
Development

P8



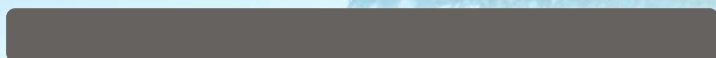
Walking Challenge
Winners

P11



Transformational

Growth



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Shaping the Future
for communities of leaders and learners

10th Annual Legislative Forum and Breakfast a Success

By Amy Grover



Jeff Elstad, Suzanne Riley, Beth Giese and Mark Matuska are pictured with from left, David Senjem, Carla Nelson, Barb Haley, Jeanne Poppe, Mike Goggin, Duane Sauke, Duane Quam, and Nels Pierson.

On Saturday, February 4, SSC and MASA co-hosted the annual Legislative Forum, welcoming over 100 participants. Legislators from southeast Minnesota included Senators David Senjem (District 25), Carla Nelson (District 26), Jeremy Miller (District 28), and Mike Goggin (District 21), Representatives Steve Drazkowski (21B), Barb Haley (21A), John Petersburg (24A), Nels Pierson (26B), Jeanne Poppe (27B), Duane Quam (25A), and Duane Sauke (25B).

Several educational leaders represented our region by presenting key information about successes, issues, trends, and needs. These superintendents shared presentations designed to inform our Legislators about the impacts of existing mandates and the challenges that are being faced that could be supported through legislative action.

- *Long-Term Facilities Maintenance* by Superintendent Mike Redmond of Goodhue Public Schools
- *Streamlining the Board of Teaching and MN Department of Education* by Superintendent Beth Giese of Cannon Falls Public Schools
- *The Basic Formula* by Superintendent Todd Sesker of Faribault Public Schools and Superintendent Matt Hillmann of Northfield Public School
- *Special Education Teacher Shortage* by Executive Director Cherie Johnson of the Goodhue County Education District

- *Teacher Licensure Issues Contributing to the Teacher Shortage* by Superintendent Gary Anger of Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools
- *Shortage of Specialists* by Superintendent Belinda Selfors of Hayfield Public Schools
- *Tax Relief and Debt Service Equalization* by Superintendent Tammy Berg-Beniak of Pine Island Public Schools and Superintendent Mark Matuska of Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools
- *Universal Pre-School* by Superintendent David Krenz of Austin Public Schools
- *Early Childhood Facilities* by Superintendent Michael Munoz of Rochester Public Schools
- *Concurrent Enrollment* by Superintendent Jeff Elstad of Byron Public Schools.

SSC and MASA Region 1 have hosted this event since 2008, with ever-increasing participation by area Legislators, school board members, school administrators, business leaders, and community members. This year, we also welcomed representatives from regional institutions of higher education. A special thanks to Mark Matuska for skillful program facilitation.

"Congratulations on another very successful day. I was glad to observe a spirit of collaboration and cooperation amongst our legislators! I also sensed some understanding and appreciation for the difficult task our legislators are faced with during this legislative session by our superintendents, board members and of all in attendance. Kudos to your staff on being outstanding hosts and for this special event. As always, I appreciate your leadership."
- Chuck Ehler, Superintendent,
Rushford-Peterson Public Schools

This was yet another successful SSC and MASA team effort to bring the voice of our educational leaders straight to those that represent them at the Capital.

After 25 Years, the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership Comes Under the SSC Umbrella

By Amy Grover

Rochester Area MATH SCIENCE Partnership RAMSP

In January of 1991, visionary leaders at Rochester Public Schools, Mayo Clinic, and IBM Rochester recognized the growing needs of students in STEM, and the Rochester Area Math/Science Partnership initiative was born. This public-private venture had the mission to “support continuous improvement dedicated to all students achieving world-class standards in math, science and technology.” The partnership eventually retained its 501(c) 3 non-profit status in 2007.



Dr. Jim Greenleaf, Mayo Clinic representative on the RAMSP Board of Directors for over 20 years, volunteers to help students at Rochester Public Schools.

After 25 years as an independent organization led by a part-time Executive Director and an active Board of Directors comprised of superintendents and representatives of the other partners, RAMSP embarked on an in-depth, self-reflective strategic planning process. Discussions focused on priorities, value to the members, and options for the future success of the program.

It was decided that by embedding RAMSP programming into the fabric of the SSC organization, members would

see added value in mission driven programming and more effective and efficient operations. The Southeast Service Cooperative Board of Directors took the final action to make the consolidation complete on December 26, 2016 and SSC couldn't be more thrilled to publically announce that this next step in the evolution of RAMSP will provide new opportunities to flourish and root itself once again.

SSC is committed to carrying on the RAMSP mission to “promote STEM excellence in our partner schools” with a renewed focus on professional development and workforce development.

RAMSP *members*

K-12 District Partners:

Byron Public Schools
Chatfield Public Schools
Dover-Eyota Public Schools
Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools
Kingsland Public Schools
Pine Island Public Schools
Plainview-Elgin Public Schools
Rochester Catholic Schools
Rochester Public Schools
Stewartville Public Schools
Triton Public Schools

Business Partners:

IBM Corporation
Mayo Clinic
Workforce Development, Inc.

Higher Education Partners:

Rochester Community & Technical College
University of Minnesota-Rochester
Winona State University-Rochester

Want to see your name added to the list?

Contact Sarah Ness, SSC Program Manager
at sness@ssc.coop or 507-281-6678.

Kasson-Mantorville Dynamic Duo Receives Award

By Amy Grover

Since 2002, the Outstanding Educator Award of the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership (RAMSP) has recognized K-12 professionals who strive toward the highest levels of excellence within their schools and community, with a focus on initiative and continuous improvement in every aspect of their work.

On January 18, RAMSP and Southeast Service Cooperative hosted the 26th Annual Dinner to recognize the work of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) teachers in the greater Rochester area. Over 70 educators, administrators, higher education partners, and business partners gathered to celebrate the recipients of the 2016-2017 Outstanding Educator award and the six other teachers nominated.

This year's award was presented to the teaching team of **Aaron Davis** and **Chris Otterness** from Kasson-Mantorville High School. Through their commitment to the Industrial Technology program, they continually demonstrate to students the collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking that employers want out of their future workforce. Together, they have created incredible learning opportunities and support for their students, making a significant difference in STEM education and college and career readiness.



From left: Kelly Braun, Aaron Davis, Chris Otterness, and Mark Matuska

Nominated by Kelly Braun, Director of Teaching and Learning, and supported by Superintendent Mark Matuska and family members, both Aaron and Chris accepted this award with humble enthusiasm. This was the first time an educator from Kasson-Mantorville has received this prestigious award, and the first time that a teaching team was honored.

Both Aaron and Chris understand the importance of relationships and build them with each student they encounter. They are passionate; they love their trade; they love learning, and they love inspiring and empowering students to learn new things. Of utmost importance is providing relevant opportunities for the purpose of building skills the students will need as they enter the workforce. Do any of you need to use a software program and 3D printer to design and create an ice auger adapter to fit a drill? Insulate or wire a house? Build a coffee table? Fix a leaky roof? These are projects that Aaron and Chris have

supported students in learning how to do, because they are committed to teaching problem solving and the application of skills in real-world scenarios. Whether it be a project, a student invention, or a genuine relationship, these two are literally in the process of building all day long.

For these reasons, and many more, it was our pleasure to recognize and honor these educators for their drive and dedication to their field with the 2016-2017 RAMSP Outstanding Educator Award.

We would also like to recognize the other deserving nominees, all of whom impressed the selection committee:

- Mr. David Sklenicka, High School Science Teacher, Stewartville Public Schools
- Ms. Debra DeYoung, High School Science Teacher, Rochester Public Schools
- Ms. Deb Sauke, Sixth Grade Math and Science Teacher, Plainview-Elgin-Millville
- Ms. Kari Hak, Elementary Teacher, Byron Public Schools
- Mr. Charlie Swanson, Middle School Science Teacher, Rochester Catholic Schools
- Ms. Deb Donnay, Fifth Grade Teacher, Dover-Eyota Public Schools

Beth Giese Named Administrator of Excellence



The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Beth Giese, Superintendent of Cannon Falls Area Schools, as a 2017 Administrator of Excellence. Giese has received this award in recognition of her leadership, concern for students, and active involvement in professional and community affairs.

Giese's achievements reflect her ability to lead important changes in the educational system. Giese has worked for Cannon Falls Schools since 2001, serving the district as Superintendent since 2011. Giese has led the district through budget reductions of close to a million dollars, all while balancing this with numerous grants and alternate funding sources. In spite of these reductions, new opportunities for students were also created including alternative learning programming, technology initiatives, addition of the World's Best Workforce, early childhood literacy programming, anti-bullying efforts through safe and supportive schools, and a WETC partnership providing courses via interactive TV.

Giese has been recognized among her administrative peers in southeast Minnesota as a progressive thinker who leads efficiently and judiciously. Her friendly and direct professional communication style has led to colleagues selecting her to represent southeast Minnesota in discussing education priorities with legislators. Most recently she testified regarding the special education teacher shortage.

Giese's thoughtful leadership with her staff, school board, and her community through financial challenges, employee relations, and educational programming is testament to her caring and firm administration. She understands deeply how to make cooperative endeavors among staff, throughout the community, across districts and the region. She has demonstrated her dedication to lifelong learning by participating in the AASA National Superintendents Certification Program.

Giese is involved in her community as evidenced by her active involvement in the Cannon Falls Chamber of Commerce and its Executive Board, Cannon Falls Rotary and its Executive Board, Cannon Falls Housing Initiative, and Cannon Falls Education Foundation. She is a veteran of active military service.

Giese is an active MASA member and has served as Region 1 Chair, Executive Board Committee member, legislative forum presenter, and mentor-mentee

program mentor. She is also involved in other educational organizations including the Goodhue County Education District, Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative, Southeast Service Cooperative Superintendents Advisory Committee, and the SSC Personnel Committee. Giese was the recipient of the 2015 MASA Kay E. Jacobs Award recognizing women in their leadership practices.



Beth pictured with Senator Mike Goggin (center) and Superintendent Gary Anger of Zumbrota-Mazeppa (left)

Giese holds two master's degrees, one in K-12 school administration and one in curriculum and instruction from Saint Mary's University. She also has dual bachelor's degrees from the University of Nebraska in elementary education and special education. Giese's educational background is complemented by a 12-year military background, where she was named the 1994 Soldier of the Year.

Each year, MASA recognizes members for their contribution to public education. MASA is a professional organization of Minnesota's school leaders.

Mobile Science Lab Program Earns Top Innovator Award

By Amy Grover



SSC's Amy Grover is pictured with Jon Ninas, Mayo Clinic and Jay Kiedrowski, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Southeast Service Cooperative's long-standing Mobile Science Lab program was recently recognized as the recipient of the "Top Innovator" award. Created by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs' Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center, the Local Government Innovation Awards (LGIA) are supported by the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota Association of Townships, the Association of Minnesota Counties, and the Minnesota School Boards Association. The awards recognize the creative and innovative ways that cities, counties, townships, and schools are serving Minnesotans. Through their decade-long history, the awards—hosted in partnership with the Bush Foundation—are credited with setting a 'gold standard' and helping to improve the way local government entities deliver services.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary and support the program's longevity, this year's competition included a new

award to recognize one top innovator project that demonstrated a long-lasting impact.

The Mobile Science Lab project was selected from the pool of all past recipients to receive this special Top Innovator Award for our continued innovation, increasing reach, and meaningful results. The LGIA panel of Humphrey Fellows reviewing the application was impressed with the impact and growth the program has experienced since originally winning an award in 2011. They agreed that the Mobile Science Labs are an innovative and impactful way to ensure that students can see themselves as real scientists and catch a glimpse of their future.

The success of this program depends on a collaboration between education and business partners, including Mayo Clinic, Rochester Area Math Science Partnership, and the funding partners that have helped develop the program, including HealthForce Minnesota, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, Workforce Development, Inc., Winona State University, AgStar



Amy Grover accepting the LGIA Top Innovator Award on behalf of the partners

Fund for Rural America, and Minnesota Agricultural Educator Leadership Council.

With two trailers focused on molecular biology, genomics, and agricultural science and a third trailer focused on food science, the program provides students with real world experiences. The lab's overarching goal is to positively impact students' attitude towards science education, increase student engagement in their learning, and develop a deeper understanding of the relevance of science education for their future.

We are pleased to report that more than 145 high school science teachers from 54 school districts have completed the pre-requisite training, which is offered every other summer by Ross Aleff, a Mayo Clinic research technologist and instrumental leader in the lab's design, deployment, and evolution.

By the numbers

- Number of Students Impacted from the Program10,000
- Percentage of students who have reported the program impacted them positively.....92%

Want to learn more about bringing an award winning Mobile Science Lab to a high school science class near you? Contact Amy Grover at (507) 281-6693 or agrover@ssc.coop.



Southeast
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Professional Development

Learning with impact. Designed for you.

Communicating with Difficult People & Outstanding Customer Service

Back-to-Back Sessions with Rick Olson



By Sarah Ness

Join SSC in welcoming highly recommended and nationally known customer service expert, author, and professional speaker, Rick Olson, to Southeast Service Cooperative's Wood Lake Meeting Center on **Tuesday, March 28, 2017**, for two sessions on communication and customer service. Lunch is provided for those registered for both sessions.

Rick has recently worked in our region with Albert Lea Schools, Byron Schools, Houston County, and Olmsted County. Rick also presented to several hundred attendees at SSC in the last couple of years. Feedback was incredibly positive from SSC members.



Communication... with Difficult People... when Emotions Run Strong... with Your Youngest Workers

Tuesday, March 28
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Fee: \$95.00

How do you communicate with the employee who stirs the pot...or is frequently moody....or acts like a bully in the workplace? How do you communicate when your emotions run strong, opinions vary, and the stakes are high? How do you communicate when the employee is younger than your child? This dynamic, hands on session will arm you with skills and tools to navigate through these communication challenges. Rick's sessions are known for keen insights, real life scenarios, and lots of laughter.

Who Should Attend

Individuals who work with others on a daily basis in business, non-profit organizations, volunteers, and city or county government.

Out of This World Customer Service

Tuesday, March 28
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fee: \$95.00

America says customer service is the worst ever. How can you turn it around and give outstanding service? In this session, Rick will take you behind the scenes to see how the most admired service companies give Out of This World Customer Service. You'll leave with lots of ideas on how to take your customer service to the highest level.

Who Should Attend

This session is appropriate for anyone that has contact with the public or those who provide services/supports to others including office staff, administrative assistants, secretaries, city or county staff, non-profit staff, volunteers, business owners, etc.

Digital Leadership

Presented by: Eric Sheninger

Thursday, April 20, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM

Fee: \$200/person or \$175/person if bringing a team of 3+



The culture of real-world ready schools is based on building a leadership team, establishing a coherent vision for change, developing a systematic action plan, modelling for leaders effective and efficient ways to leverage digital tools to increase effectiveness, and modelling for teachers how to harness tools to support students' learning. Working smarter not harder by discovering natural compliments to the work already being done enhances outcomes. This highly engaging and interactive session will allow leaders to practice using digital tools to create a culture focused on rigor, relevance and engagement.

Learning Outcomes:

- Developing a vision to create a culture focused on rigor, relevance, and relationships that is enhanced by technology
- Supporting teachers in lesson design to develop students' media literacy, digital responsibility, and their skills in using technology while also developing their critical thinking, communication, collaboration, problem solving, and creativity
- Creating structures and supports for engaging learning spaces that reflect the real world environments students will experience
- Increasing capacity for providing effective feedback on instruction
- Enhancing public relations with parents and the community
- Creating your school's positive brand presence
- Building a professional learning plan for faculty
- Leveraging social media to create opportunities for student learning

Who Should Attend: Superintendents, Principals, and K-12 Educators. Districts are encouraged to bring teams to this session.



Dyslexia - Signs, Solutions, & Simulation

Thursday, March 30,
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Fee: \$199



Learn the basics of Dyslexia, how to use simple assessment tools and understand why we use them. Also included in this day is a Mini Dyslexia Simulation experience facilitated by staff from The Reading Center. The Mini Dyslexia Simulation will give participants a chance to "walk in the shoes" of and experience what it feels like to have a learning disability like Dyslexia. These exercises help teachers and families better understand how difficulty in reading, writing, and math may impact the way the student feels about themselves and behaves in the classroom. Empathy and knowledge can help you support your challenged learners.

Who Should Attend: K-12 Educators



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Professional Development

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April 22, 2017

www.ssc.coop

Sessions Available

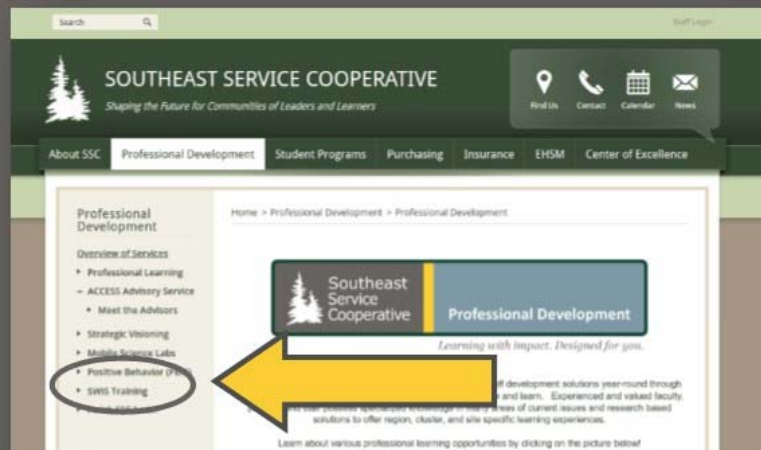
- English Language Learners
- Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies
- Accommodations to Meet Graduation Standards
- Reading Strategies
- Key Warning Signs for Early-Onset Mental Illness

Who Should Attend

Administration & K-12 Educators

Introducing "I Wish SSC Had" Feedback Tool

While SSC's professional learning portfolio spans across multiple categories, SSC is open to feedback and suggestions from our members. Visit www.ssc.coop, click on the Professional Development tab and "I wish SSC had..." link. Your feedback is always appreciated!



Grand Meadow Schools and City of Kasson Win Walking Challenge

Teams walk millions of steps in quest to win

By Nicole LaChapelle-Strumski



Champions of the School District Challenge - Grand Meadow

Over 800 individuals from 31 member organizations recently competed in SSC's popular Member vs. Member Walking Challenge. This was the largest the challenge has been in its six-year history. 16 Southeastern Minnesota School Districts and 15 Local Government Members participated in two separate steps-based challenges.

"Our staff looks forward to the walking challenge each year, and I think the fact that we came in 3rd place last year was an incentive for everyone to try harder. Our new indoor walking track made it easier and fun to get more steps every day. Each week I sent an e-mail to update everyone on our status and sent many e-mails encouraging and prodding everyone to get more steps than they did the week before. I told them that first place was possible and once we moved into second place I pushed them even harder telling them that they could do anything for a few more days and that we could do this. And they did!"

- Cindy Peterson, Wellness Coordinator,
Grand Meadow Public Schools

By the numbers

Number of Steps Taken.....491,983,888

Number of Participants.....805

Number of Groups in the Challenge....31

Winners in the School District Challenge included: **Grand Meadow** – 1st Place, **Lake City** – 2nd Place, **Wabasha-Kellogg** – 3rd Place. The remaining teams, which each received an honorable mention, are listed in the order of their ranking: Zumbrota-Mazeppa, Goodhue, PEM, Mabel-Canton, St. Charles, Lewiston-Altura, Fillmore Central, LaCrescent-Hokah, Caledonia, Byron, Rochester, Kasson-Mantorville, and Medford.

The City of Kasson was the winner in the Local Government Division. The rest of the rankings were as follows: **The City of Albert Lea** – 2nd Place, **The City of LaCrescent** – 3rd Place. The honorable mention placements included – The City of Spring Grove, Goodhue County, Steele County, Fillmore County, The City of Owatonna, Austin HRA, Freeborn County, Mower County, The City of Byron, Dodge County, Workforce Development Inc., and the Rice Steele 911 Center. Linda Rappe, Wellness Coordinator at The City of Kasson, noted that her colleagues were very excited to have won for the third year in a row. Regarding the secret of her team's success, she explained, "Pump them up and tell everyone how close behind the next team is and our people are quite competitive and will literally go the extra mile!"

The contest, which ran the month of January, was based on the number of steps walked by participating members. A trophy was awarded to Grand Meadow School District and the City of Kasson. Certificates were presented to all teams who participated.

Why Do We Pay So Much More For Our Health Care Than Other Nations?

An editorial by Bill Colopoulos

It is widely publicized that U.S. health care costs are higher than elsewhere in the world and that we cannot justify them with superior outcomes. So why do we pay more for our health care services?

Let's examine this question in the context of pharmaceuticals. According to a recent report in Bloomberg News, the prices of many widely prescribed drugs are far higher in the U.S. than the rest of the world.

By the numbers

One month supply of Novartis' leukemia drug, Gleevec, in U.S. \$10,000

One month supply in Germany. \$3,000

The overall savings from reducing U.S. drug prices to the levels paid by others countries could be fairly substantial. However, getting to those lower prices may not be as simple as negotiating lower prices based on the size of our market.

Other countries have shown they are willing to walk away from expensive drugs whose cost-benefit analysis shows the drug to be of questionable value. In the U.S., public sentiment (often reflected in state and federal insurance regulations) require insurers to

cover most drugs; regardless of their cost. For example, there are many new cancer specialty medications that do not cure the disease, but can (in some cases) extend life expectancy. Many states, including Minnesota, require insurance companies to cover these drugs. In most nations with single payer systems, these drugs are often not covered unless the manufacturers agree to dramatically lower prices.

So what can we do?

When deciding whether and how much to pay for drugs, most industrialized nations analyze cost-effectiveness, balancing cost with quality of outcome. If a drug is not cost-effective, then the health system refuses to pay for it. Research by Harvard's Kip Viscusi shows that Americans are less discriminating when it comes to cost-benefit value when deciding whether or not to have their insurance cover a particular medication. Even the hope of a drug extending life is usually reason enough for coverage to be required.

In other nations, it is typical to adopt a relatively low cost-effectiveness threshold, which means prices must be low, or the benefits quite high for the product to win approval. Second, if patients in other nations don't like it when their health system refuses to turn down a drug, they have



nowhere else to turn – the system is basically an insurance monopoly.

On the other hand, if a U.S. insurer refuses coverage, patients might turn elsewhere. The insurer might even face a lawsuit. Facing competition and litigation, U.S. insurers typically cannot credibly threaten to walk away from coverage of health care services.

A flaw in the U.S. health care system from a cost management perspective is that usually the **insurer** bears the brunt of blame - and responsibility - for not covering an expensive health care service. The **provider** of services are generally not held accountable, nor are they even perceived by the general public to be responsible for what they charge.

This perception must change if we are to initiate effective health care reform. The challenge before us is to encourage our providers to compete for their patient's business by the same set of rules that drive the rest of the economy: a balance between quality of service and cost efficiency.

Bill Colopoulos is a health care economist. The opinions reflected in this editorial are his own and do not reflect the opinions of the Southeast Service Cooperative, its groups or employees.

Spelling Bee Champion Crowned

Rochester Catholic Schools 8th Grader will compete at National Bee in Washington DC

By Katie Hartman

Twelve spellers (six from each Regional Spelling Bee) competed in the Final Spelling Bee on February 21, at SSC. These twelve students were narrowed down from 76 students from 37 districts in Southeast Minnesota who participated in the two Regional Spelling Bees on February 7, coordinated by SSC.

Thomas York, an 8th grade student from Rochester Catholic Schools was declared the champion after correctly spelling the word *toponymic*. Thomas also participated in the Final Bee in 2016, where he came in 3rd place.

"It was a terrific event which has given me memories I will treasure for the rest of my life."
- Thomas York, Spelling Bee Champion

Thomas advances to the 90th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee from May 27 – June 2. He won a trip (for himself and one adult) to Washington, D.C. (donated by Southeast Service Cooperative). He also received a first place trophy, *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* (provided by Scripps National Spelling Bee), 2017 United States Mint Proof Set (The Samuel Louis Sugarman Award from Scripps), a one-year subscription to Britannica Online Premium and *Valerie's Spelling Bee Supplement Booklet*. Exceptional spelling runs in the family, as Thomas' father, Michael, advanced to the National Spelling Bee in 1982.

Over the past 10 years, six of those years have resulted in Rochester Catholic Schools students advancing to the Final Bee. Five of those six years Rochester Catholic Schools students have advanced to the National Spelling Bee.

Alizeh Rizvi, an 6th grade student from Rochester Public Schools - Friedell, was the 1st Runner-Up. Alizeh received a trophy, and Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary (donated by Merriam-Webster), *Valerie's Spelling Bee Supplement Booklet*, and a \$100 Barnes & Noble Gift Card.

Laura Gebur, an 8th grade student from St. Mary's Owatonna, was the 2nd Runner-Up. Laura received a trophy, *Valerie's Spelling Bee Supplement Booklet*, and a \$50 Barnes & Noble Gift Card.



Spelling Bee winners Thomas York, Alizeh Rizvi, and Laura Gebur



Other students participating in the Southeast Minnesota Final Spelling Bee were:

Wren Clinefelter

Austin Public Schools, 8th grade

Maggie Bruns

Bloomington Prairie Public Schools, 8th grade

Ava Becken

Northfield Public Schools, 7th grade

Blake Kajewski

Red Wing Public Schools, 7th grade

Reyana Leise

Red Wing Public Schools, 7th grade

Isha Kapoor

Rochester - Bamber Valley, 5th grade

Lukas Singer

Rochester Catholic, 7th grade

Isaac Nerstad

Spring Grove Public Schools, 5th grade

Top Ranking 2016-17 Area Junior High Knowledge Bowl Teams

By Kirsten Kuehl

Sixty-one teams from 18 area districts participated in 2016-17 Junior High Knowledge Bowl. Teams competed in Round Robin competitions in October, November, and December. Each team then competed in the Sub-Regional competitions in January and the top nine teams from each of the three tiers advanced to Regional.

The Junior High Knowledge Bowl Sub-Regional Competitions were held on January 4, 5 and 6 at SSC. The Tier AAA teams were

from: Kasson-Mantorville, Northfield, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, and Red Wing. The Tier AA teams were from: Caledonia, Chatfield, Dover-Eyota, Goodhue, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Pine Island and Rushford-Peterson. The Tier A teams were from: Fillmore Central, Houston, Kingsland, Lanesboro, Mabel-Canton, Southland, and Spring Grove.

The Junior High Knowledge Bowl Regional competitions were held on January 18 at the Southeast Service Cooperative in Rochester.

The Minnesota Service Cooperative

Knowledge Bowl competitions are interdisciplinary academic contests for students. Junior High Knowledge Bowl is for students in grades 6-9. During the contest, teams compete in written and oral rounds by answering questions related to all areas of learning, typical of secondary educational programs. Questions test students' recall, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. This competition provides a format for student growth centered around academics. Teams consist of six students (six competing in the written round and five competing in each oral round).

Teams Placing at Regional

Tier A



1st place - Spring Grove 1



2nd place - Houston 1



3rd place - Fillmore Central 1

Tier AA



1st place - Chatfield 1



2nd place - Rushford-Peterson 1



3rd place - Pine Island 2

Tier AAA



1st place - Northfield Maroon



2nd place - Plainview-Elgin-Millville 3



3rd place - Kasson-Mantorville 2

Save the Date for the 30th Annual Young Authors, Young Artists Conference!



On May 16, 17, and 18, over 900 students in grades 3-5 from public, private, and home schools across southeast Minnesota will converge in Rochester for a conference that promotes student enthusiasm and competence in written and visual communication. Students will learn from and work with authors, poets, illustrators, artists, journalists, book crafters, sculptors and others in sessions that expose them to the art and joy of writing and creating.



Our website will be updated as information becomes available: www.ssc.coop/Page/122

Job Vacancies

Intern Opportunity: Marketing and Communications

Bring your creative talents to our marketing and communications team! Learn about working in K-12 education and local government and make a difference in southeast Minnesota communities. We are seeking an intern to work on specific projects, including, but not limited to:

- Design marketing materials (newsletters, brochures, flyers, catalog)
- Create and schedule email campaigns
- Design, implement and evaluate social media communication plan
- Research, build, and update profiles for member record

Visit SSC's homepage at www.ssc.coop to learn more about this opportunity!

Looking to Add or Upgrade a Projector for a Large Venue Space Like a Gym or Auditorium?

If your district is looking to add or upgrade a projector for a large venue space like a gym or auditorium, Tierney Brothers is offering a Chief ceiling mount with the purchase of any Epson Pro G or Pro L projector. This is Tierney's best large venue promotion of the year, and it expires 3/31/17.



These Epson large venue projectors provide the highest brightness combined with advanced features like power lenses and dual lamps in some models. More information about the Pro G series can be found [here](#); and the Pro L series [here](#).

Tierney Brothers can also help SSC Members find the correct projector for your projection size and throw distance.

Also, in case you missed it, Tierney is proud to offer [Lifeline Support!](#) Subscribers receive:

- An unlimited number of support cases via chat, phone, and email
- Access to our live web portal with content tailored to your specific products and needs
- On-demand instructional support, including lesson design and tool recommendations, user groups, and FAWs
- Field service visits at a discounted rate

Learn more - [visit the Lifeline Support page](#).



Mulch Madness is Right Around the Corner...

Certified Engineered Wood Fiber. Landscaping Mulch. Playground Surfacing Material.

Back by popular demand, SSC's 5th Annual Engineered Wood Fiber and Playground Surfacing Material Sale is happening now through October! Engineered wood fiber from Crescent Landscape Supply is perfect for playground and landscaping jobs of all sizes! Crescent Landscape Supply's proven customer service, low cost, and high quality product make this sale unbeatable!

Price: \$20.25/cubic yard (Minimum order 90 cubic yards. Orders smaller than 90 cubic yards will need pre-authorization and may include shipping charges. Email Sarah Ness below for quote.)

Delivery Dates: Must be completed by October 31, 2017.

Download Order Form [here](#). For more information or to place and order contact [Sarah Ness](#), Cooperative Purchasing Manager. Download ASTM Certificates: [ASTM F1292](#) & [ASTM F2075](#).

ROOFING

TREMCO

Tremco delivers unique facility asset management solutions designed to reduce your roofing and building envelope life-cycle costs while extending overall performance.

Member Benefits

- You choose from "best in class" local and certified vendors
- Includes full-time job site inspection and safety plans
- No unforeseen change orders - guaranteed
- Warranty applies to the entire system including labor - from the deck up
- Bonding or financing program information with no cost or obligation
- Free spec development, discounted architectural review & materials with no tax or freight charges

Rest at Ease Knowing We Have You Covered on Updated Fire Codes and Sustainable Facility Upgrades

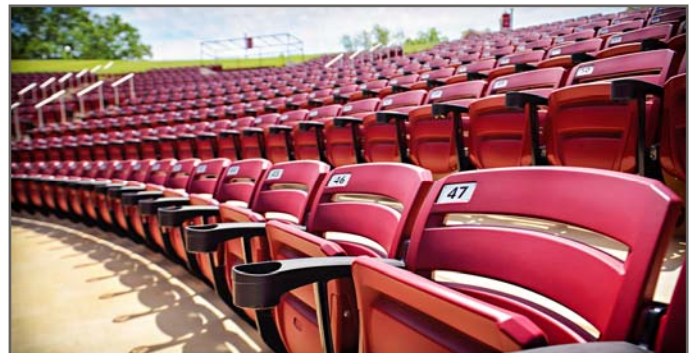
H & B Specialized Products, Inc. has the athletic equipment, wall mats and lockers you're looking for! Lockers are suitable for schools and law enforcement. The wall mats available under this contract meet fire code requirements and the athletic equipment includes: foul poles, gym divider curtains and sports cages in addition to basketball, hockey, soccer, volleyball and other sporting equipment. You can also get discounted pricing on training and maintenance. [Learn more here.](#)



Click [here](#) to access our latest Contract Catalog.



Have You Met “Stadium Steve”?



Seating for athletic events is now available at discounted pricing through CPC! “Stadium Steve” and his company Seating and Athletic Facility Enterprises (SAAFE) offer Interkal telescopic seating, installation, maintenance and repair services. Members can also save on outdoor aluminium bleachers and I-Beam grandstands from Southern Bleacher Company and pre-fabricated press boxes from ProBuild. [Get more information here.](#)



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Wood Lake Meeting Center...

Three Years Later

By Amy Grover




Back in February of 2014, the Wood Lake Meeting Center re-opened after being remodelled and expanded. Several new meeting rooms were added and the entire space was re-engineered for functionality. Both the interior and exterior of the facility were completely re-designed with business in mind. With ample, free parking, convenient access to major highways, top of the line technology, and fantastic staff, we created a quiet, comfortable, and professional environment.

Three years later, and our vision of “meeting the needs of customers by establishing and maintaining meaningful relationships” has become a daily practice. We remain committed to being the premier meeting space in southeast Minnesota, guided by the principle that *our customers are our central focus*. Driven by attention to detail, professionalism, and high standards, Wood Lake Meeting Center continues to exceed expectations for customer service, event coordination, and facility management.

Since our grand re-opening, we have booked over 1,400 rentals and have exceeded our revenue goals each year. This business is in addition to all of the meetings, trainings, and events that other Southeast Service Cooperative programs and

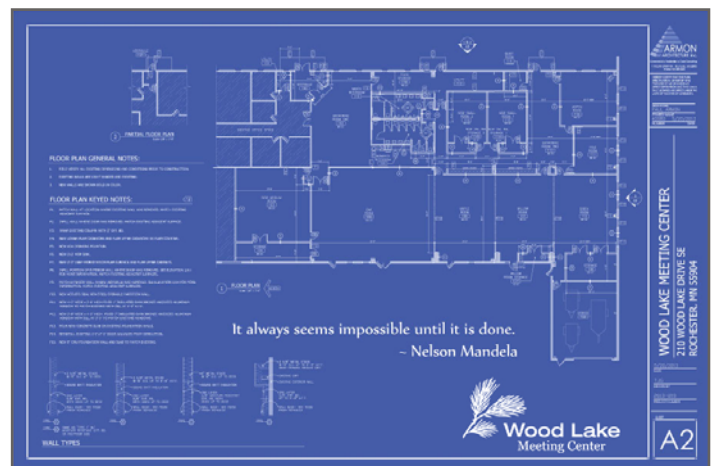
services rely on the space for. We have been able to keep our rates inclusive and affordable, but most importantly, we have cultivated relationships that have yielded loyalty, retention, and referrals. Customers know that they will be getting the absolute best service every time.



Contact Wood Lake Meeting Center Coordinators Christina Bokusky or Donna Dickison if you're interested in renting space for a meeting or event!

They can be reached at (507) 281-6666 or info@woodlakemeetingcenter.com.

Don't forget that SSC members receive a significant discount on rental fees!



OSHA's Final Rule to Protect Workers from Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica

By Angie Radel

OSHA has released its long awaited final rule on protecting workers from exposure to respirable crystalline silica. The rule marks the agency's first updated regulation for silica since 1971.

FINAL RULE LINK: <https://www.osha.gov/silica/index.html>

WHAT IS RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA?

Silica is a common mineral found in many naturally occurring materials and used in many industrial products and at construction sites. Materials such as sand, concrete, stone, and mortar contain silica. Silica is also used to make products such as glass, pottery, ceramics, bricks, concrete and artificial stone. Industrial sand used in certain operations, such as foundry work and hydraulic fracturing (fracking), is also a source of exposure.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF SILICA EXPOSURE?

Inhaling very small ("respirable") silica particles, causes multiple diseases, including silicosis, an incurable lung disease that can lead to disability and death. Silica may also cause lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease.

WHAT WORK ACTIVITIES CAN EXPOSE AN EMPLOYEE TO SILICA?

Silica dust is generated by high-energy operations like cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling and crushing stone, rock, concrete, brick, block and mortar; or when using industrial sand. Activities such as abrasive blasting with sand; sawing brick or concrete; sanding or drilling into concrete walls; grinding mortar; manufacturing brick, concrete blocks, or ceramic products; and cutting or crushing stone generates respirable silica dust.

In a school district, common activities with potential for silica exposure include (but are not limited to) hammer drilling into masonry walls to hang items, hammer or core drilling into concrete sidewalks for handrails, and grinding masonry walls or concrete floors to smooth/level them. Silica exposure is also a potential concern during ceramics projects in art classrooms.

WHAT ARE THE OSHA EXPOSURE LIMITS FOR SILICA?

OSHA has established a Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) of 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and an Action Level of 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for an 8-hour work shift.

WHAT ARE EMPLOYERS REQUIRED TO DO?

OSHA requires that employers:

- Conduct personal air sampling to document employee exposure levels where silica exposure may be at or above the action level.



- Utilize dust controls when exposures exceed the PEL.
- Establish and implement a written exposure control plan.
- Offer medical exams every three years to employees exposed at or above the action level for 30 or more days per year.
- Provide training on silica exposure and controls.
- Keep records of employees' silica exposure and medical exams.

Please go to: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3682.pdf> for further details on OSHA requirements. Information for this article was obtained from the U.S. Department of Labor and OSHA websites.

For questions regarding this or other OSHA regulations, please contact:
Angie Radel
Regional Manager
IEA, Inc.

SSC Upcoming Events

March

Senior High Knowledge Bowl Sub-Regionals

March 8, 10, 14 & 16

Board Meeting

March 15

Senior High Knowledge Bowl Regionals

March 20

SAC Meeting

March 21

MASA 1 Winter Session

March 22

Title I, II, and III Overview

March 28

Communication ... with Difficult People ... when Emotions Run Strong ... with Your Youngest Workers

March 28

Out of This World Customer Service

March 28

LGAC Meeting

March 30

Dyslexia Signs and Solutions

March 30

April

SAC Meeting

April 18

Eric Sheninger Presents: Digital Leadership - Changing Paradigms for Changing Times

April 20

Save Your License Saturday

April 22

Board Meeting

April 26

Teaching and Learning Strategies that Work for English Learners

April 27

May

Supporting Student Number Sense through Differentiated Instruction

May 9

Math Across the Curriculum: A Deeper Look into Predicting

May 9

Supporting Student's Algebraic Reasoning through Differentiated Instruction

May 10

Math Across the Curriculum: Cause and Effect Relationships Across Content Domains

May 10

Systematic Problem Solving and The Metric of Urgency

May 9 - 11

Foundations of Personalized Learning

May 16

MASA 1 Spring Session

May 11

Young Authors, Young Artists Conference

May 16 - 18

SAC Meeting

May 23

Board Meeting

May 24

Check www.ssc.coop for newly added workshops and events.

SSC Board Actions and Information

In addition to routine fiscal and routine business actions, the Board took the following actions in recent meetings.

November

- Accepted the draft 2015-2016 audit report. Passed a resolution agreeing to participate in a statewide health insurance pool bid for plan years beginning in 2018 for Cities, Counties and Other Government Agencies, as well as School Pool groups for medical plans, as well as Medical Spending Account administration (including VEBA, HSA, and cafeteria plan administration), with the selection of vendors in the statewide bid to be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of each of the participating Service Cooperatives.
- Accepted the application of the City of Faribault for SSC membership and for participation in the Local Government Health Pool joint powers agreement effective January 1, 2017.
- Confirmed the hiring of Miranda Schornack as SE/Metro RCE ELL Specialist/Advocate effective November 9, 2016 at 50% FTE until May 2017, when her FTE is expected to be increased to 100.

December

- Accepted the 2015-2016 final 2015-2016 Fiscal Audit Report, 2015-2016 Annual Report 2016, and 2016 Board Elections report.
- Appointed Brian Grudem to serve the remaining one year in his term, despite no longer being an active School Board member.
- Accepted the succession planning policy and procedure document for the first reading, to be

reviewed prior to the January Board meeting.

- Accepted the terms and conditions of the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership Transfer of Assets agreement and directed SSC Board Chair Carol Cravath to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board of Directors.

January

- Opened the vacant SSC Board position and directed staff to invite nominations of an active school board member from the SSC membership.
- Determined officers for 2017 - Carol Cravath was declared Chairperson, Brian Grudem was declared Clerk, Theresa Arrick-Kruger was declared Vice-Chairperson, and Mary Blair-Hoeft was declared Treasurer.
- Accepted the official publication designation and the 2017 and 2018 Board meeting schedules.
- Awarded a contract to Ledegar Roofing in the amount of \$162,100 for SSC facility roof replacement.
- Authorized the Executive Director to dedicate up to \$75,000 of health insurance reserves and/or operating funds to contribute toward shared statewide collaboration design planning and development.
- Chairperson Cravath made the following committee appointments:
 - Finance Committee: Carol Cravath, Mary Blair-Hoeft, Tess Arrick-Kruger, Brian Grudem, Lynn Gorski
 - Personnel Committee: Carol Cravath, Mary Blair-Hoeft, Tess Arrick-Kruger, Lynn Gorski, Beth Giese (SAC), Ed Harris (SAC)

- Policies Committee: Brian Grudem, Mike Christensen, Karla Bauer, Tess Arrick-Kruger, Rob Mathias, Don Leathers
- By-Laws Committee: Mike Christensen, Karla Bauer, Rob Mathias, Don Leathers, (appointee to be named)
- Canvassing Committee: Brian Grudem, Lynn Gorski

February

- Appointed Bree Maki of the Lewiston-Altura School Board to fill the vacant term on the SSC Board through December 31, 2017.
- Adopted the proposed Succession Planning policy and procedures effective immediately.
- Approved a contract with CESA 10 to provide OSHA walk-through services to existing SSC member service users; this contract will be expanded as the square footage of inspection space expands.
- Approved the hiring of David Thompson in the position of Facilities Management Specialist to begin July 17, 2017 at 50% FTE at compensation within the SSC wage and benefit guidelines.
- Awarded a contract for third party administration of spending and VEBA accounts for members of the SSC Health Insurance Pools to SelectAccount effective January 1, 2018.
- Awarded a contract to Crescent Landscape for engineered wood fiber (mulch).

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