

Cooperative Connection

Spring 2015

Southeast Service Cooperative

Vol XXVI, No. 2

Inside

School Climate Program.....	2 & 3
WLMC News	4
Double Robot Information.....	5
ACA Reporting Deadlines..	6 & 7
YAYA Conference.....	8
Knowledge Bowl.....	9 & 10
Spelling Bee.....	11
Board Actions	12 & 13
Calendar	13
Directory.....	14

Shaping the Future: Minnesota Service Cooperatives 2015 Board Conference

By Kari Kubicek

The Minnesota Service Cooperatives (MSC) host an annual MSC Board Conference that provides opportunities for Service Cooperative board members to learn from each other and from presenters offering insight on diverse topics relevant to individual SC representatives and organizations. The Southeast Service Cooperative Board of Directors and Staff are pleased to host this year's MSC Board Conference Wednesday through Friday, July 8 – 10, 2015 at the RadissonBlu, Mall of America.

This year's conference theme, *Shaping the Future*, is designed around several aspects of MSC's collective work that affect the future of the people we serve and the way we conduct business. *Shaping the Future* will be grounded on the fundamentals of individual and organizational well-being.

The conference kicks off with a social hour on the evening of July 8. The full line up of presenters on Thursday includes: customer service expert Rick Olson speaking on emotional intelligence, Lora Geiger talking about workplace flexibility, and Dr. Amit Sood of Mayo Clinic will explore the real potential to achieve stress free living. Late in the



afternoon, participants will compete in a Mall of America Scavenger Hunt against other teams of conference attendees. Thursday evening will include a dinner and award ceremony to recognize the work of our colleagues and celebrate the work of MSC. The day will conclude with rePercussion, America's premiere drumming comedy duo.

Friday morning will include a Legislative Panel in which our legislative advocates will provide political insights, and Heidi Hagel Braid will end the conference talking about the importance of high quality early learning and its impact on the economy. We are looking forward to sharing this experience with the many individuals who represent and support MSC.



Southeast Service Cooperative
210 Wood Lake Drive SE
Rochester, Minnesota 55904
ph (507) 288-1282
fax (507) 288-7663
www.ssc.coop

Minnesota Cooperatives collaborate on the School Climate Improvement Program

By Kari Kubicek

The Minnesota Service Cooperatives are partnering with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) School Safety Technical Assistance Center (SSTAC) and the National School Climate Center (NSCC), on a School Climate Improvement Program designed to support school climate improvement and bullying prevention efforts throughout the state of Minnesota.

This partnership's goal is to support educational leaders and school communities to engage in an effective school climate improvement process that supports students, parents/guardians and fellow school personnel learning and working together – under the leadership of the Principal – to foster even safer, more supportive, engaging and healthy schools that support school – and life – success.

School climate reform overlaps with and supports a range of improvement efforts that districts may already be involved with, including PBIS, character education, SEL and/or restorative practices. This program is intended to recognize, honor and build on past and current improvement efforts in ways that are integrative and engage students,



parents, and school personnel to be co-learners and co-leaders of the improvement effort, under the Principal's leadership.

Each of the nine Minnesota Service Cooperatives have provided one to three employees to be trained to serve as School Climate Regional Coordinators (RCs) for the State in an ongoing and sustainable manner. This work will involve their learning and working on school climate improvement efforts with a principal and their leadership team over an extended period of time and obtaining training through the National School Climate Leadership Certification (NSCLC) program which includes: an initial two day face-to-face training that took place in April 2015, a one day face-to-face training in August 2015, and up to three more full-day face-to-face trainings by June 29, 2016. This certification will also include up to 30 hours coaching over

a 12 month period (which will include participating schools).

Each region has also been charged with recruiting approximately two school districts and working with these districts over the course of a 15 month timeframe to assess the district's current strengths and potential needs in school improvement efforts, to support the principals and leadership teams in considering focus areas and how to most powerfully make school climate evaluation and engagement strategy, to support principals in working with students, guardians/parents, and school personnel to determine the kinds of systemic, instructional and/or relationship goals that are most important for the school community to work together, and to actively promote these goals being implemented. The deadline for schools to apply to participate in

School Climate continued from page 2

the program was May 22, 2015, and schools will be notified of their selection after June 1.

Information about the MDE/MSD School Climate Improvement Program

The School Climate

Improvement Process:

Current school climate research suggests that the tasks/challenges outlined in the Five-Stage Process Outline shape an effective improvement process. Every school – like every person – is unique. In this program, each Principal and their leadership team decides what tasks to focus on and to what extent. The five-stage process of NSCC can be accessed at the following link: www.schoolclimate.org/climate/stages_tasks_challenges.php.

Developing a Minnesota School Climate Network Improvement Community (NIC): Principals and their leadership teams as well as MDE/MSD and NSCC will develop a network improvement community (NIC) that supports each Principal – in partnership with the Regional Leader they are learning and working with – developing Building level School Climate Improvement Metrics – that delineate the strategic goals (school wide and/or instructional and/or relational) that Principals believe are the most important strategic goals to focus on “now”. In addition to specifying goal(s), these metrics will reflect understandings of

the primary and secondary “drivers” or strategies that will most successfully support the actualization of these goals. In partnership with NSCC, the NIC will develop simple metrics that help us all to understand how these drivers are and/or are not helping.

Schools selected to participate in the program will benefit in the following ways:

- Training will be provided for the Principal who is leading the school’s Leadership Development Program.
- Access to the School Climate Resource Center online tool and the metrics. Learning by participation in two Policy Institutes, the first one scheduled for June 15, 2015 and the second will be held one year later in June 2016. The two policy institutes will create a learning community of district teams made up of superintendents/assistant superintendents and school board leadership, in partnership with MDE, NSCC and the MSC.
- Measuring school climate and using these findings to shape action planning: Participating schools will have access to the NSCC’s Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI). The CSCI is one of the nation’s most scientifically sound and helpful surveys that provide immediate feedback on how students,

parents, school personnel and even community members perceive your school’s particular climate for learning. In addition to providing reliable and valid information about what students, parents/guardians and school personnel feel and think about a range of safety, relationship, teaching and learning and environmental issues, utilization of the CSCI is a tool and process that potentially supports engagement.

- Technical and coaching support from the National School Climate Center, the MDE School Safety Technical Assistance Center, and the Minnesota Service Cooperatives.

Please contact Kari Kubicek at kkubicek@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6668 with any questions about the School Climate Improvement Program.

Wood Lake Meeting Center news

By Peggy Merkel

Event Hosting



On April 4th, Wood Lake Meeting Center hosted AM Espresso, a monthly Rochester Chamber of Commerce event. We were very pleased that over 100 people came out to network and see our facility. This year we used our Maple, Willow, and Birch rooms to hold our large circle session and the Spruce room to serve a tasty breakfast and beverages. We would like to thank everyone that attended as well as those that have considered Wood Lake Meeting Center to hold their meetings or trainings.

Videoconferencing

Per Wikipedia: **Videoconferencing (VC)** is the conduct of a videoconference (also known as a video conference or videoteleconference) by a set of telecommunication technologies which allow two or more locations to communicate by simultaneous two-way video and audio transmissions. Wood Lake Meeting Center features videoconferencing capabilities in two rooms, allowing guests to connect virtually with others around the world.

Videoconferencing can be an effective way to do business without the expense and time of

traveling. We've had guests who have used videoconferencing to attend a deposition, job interview, trial prep, or a meeting. Upon request, our staff will run a test prior to your event to ensure a smooth videoconference. Our staff also assists with the set up so the participant can focus on the session rather than the logistics.

Spruce Room



It is truly a pleasure to share Wood Lake Meeting Center! One of our most popular rooms is the Spruce Room. This is the largest of our small rooms holds 15-20 people comfortably. The room features four windows, a SMART Board which doubles as a projector, and the ability to project wirelessly using AirMedia. The room has a rich yellow color to brighten every meeting attendee's day! The most popular use of this room has been off-site team meetings, giving teams time away from the office to focus on what is important to them and their business without interruptions.

WLMC Happenings

We would like to send a "Shout Out" to Pediatric Home Services. In late March, they held a full day conference with 150 attendees and staff. We also broadcasted the session back to their office

in Roseville, where a group of staff attended remotely. This conference pushed us to a new level as we served breakfast and lunch as well as a networking Happy Hour. Consider stopping by Wood Lake Meeting Center on Friday June 19th or Saturday June 20th as Aumann Auctions, Inc. will be holding the Gene Sander Cream Separator and Dairy Items auction. There will also be concessions on hand for the event. As you can see, we continue to diversify how we serve our Wood Lake Meeting Center customers. Please keep us in mind if you or your acquaintances are looking for a venue to hold a meeting, training, or other event.

What are people saying about Wood Lake Meeting Center...

"All the staff were so willing to help us as we needed it. Once again, you went above and beyond my expectations!"

"We will continue to use this facility long into the future. The location is perfect and the size is more than enough for our entire staff. The level of service is fantastic, we could not ask for better."

Contact Peggy Merkel at pmerkel@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6666 to learn more about the Wood Lake Meeting Center, or to reserve space for your organization's next meeting or training.

Double Robot is worth a double take

By Katie Schmitt

Do you ever need to be in two places at once? Well now you can with Double Robotics. Cooperative Purchasing Connection has developed a partnership to provide preferential pricing for SSC members on the Double.

What is it?

- Telepresence robot
- Controlled by computer or mobile device
- Mobile device mounted on motorized, telescoping frame
- Audio and visual communication
- Charging dock for 6-8 hour battery life



The Double can be used for students who are home-bound or undergoing hospital treatment. The robot allows them to participate in class, engage in activities like choir, attend school assemblies, and even enjoy lunch with friends. For staff who are working off-

site, the Double provides the opportunity to participate in meetings and have a presence in the work environment. Additionally, trainers, evaluators, and consultants can utilize the Double to provide coaching and observations in the classroom or in the workplace. The Double is a great way to connect without the expense of travel.

For details on buying the Double through the Cooperative Purchasing Connection, contact me at: kschmitt@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6676.

SSC wins Best Places to Work Award for the fourth year in a row!

SSC was recently recognized as a Best Place to Work by the Southeast Minnesota Workforce Investment Board! We are honored by the recognition and proud of our commitment to a positive culture and climate for our staff, and the practices we use to attract and retain employees. SSC won in the "Small Employer" category, which features businesses with fewer than 75 employees.

The "Best Places to Work" awards program was a study commissioned by Workforce Development, Inc. The purpose of the program was to recognize some of the best employers in our local area and provide vital information to companies



about the practices they use to attract and retain employees. Each company participating was required to complete a 40-question survey that allowed their employment practices to be analyzed. Every company participating in the survey will receive a detailed 20-page report detailing the information on

their company and the results of the survey. Companies being recognized received a special award at the Best Places To Work Awards Banquet on April 30, 2015.

The data was measured on such parameters as: turnover, rate of growth, promotion rates, employee evaluations and feedback, percentage of employee injured, diversity of management, benefits offered, training expenditures, paid days off and increase in pay.

Workforce Development, Inc. has been bringing the "Best Places to Work" program to Southeast Minnesota for the past seven years.

Employers: It's time for hard-headed planning to meet your ACA reporting deadlines

By Bill Colopoulos



A recent survey by Price Waterhouse Cooper revealed that less than 10% of employers are adequately prepared for managing and reporting their ACA compliance information due early in 2016. 16% said they have not even begun to consider how they will meet their filing requirements.

The penalties for filing late are severe: \$100 per day per form filed late to a maximum of \$1.5 million – plus interest. Needless to say, employers cannot risk failing to report on time. They need to take steps now to ensure compliance with the reporting due dates.

Basic Compliance Steps for Employers

Before employers can report, they have to know what they are reporting and the scope of their reporting responsibilities. This boils down to taking three basic steps:

1. Determine your status as a small or large employer

Before you assume the employer mandates apply to you, test whether you are an “Applicable Large Employer” (ALE) for 2015 by calculating the number of full-time and full-time equivalent employees you had during any six month consecutive period in 2014.

2. Follow the employer mandate rules (ALEs only)

Applicable large employers must determine eligibility and affordability per the ACA’s employer mandate rules.

In 2015, ALEs with 100 or more full-time and full-time equivalent employees must offer ACA compliant health coverage to 70% of their full-time employees (30 + hours of service per week). This number increases to 95% in 2016 and beyond. ALEs with 50 – 99 full-time and full-time equivalent employees are not required to comply until 2016, but are still subject to the ALE reporting requirements for 2015.

3. Submit calendar year filings for 2015 (all groups)

All employers, regardless of whether or not they are ALEs must submit coverage reporting for the entire 2015 calendar year; regardless of their health plans’ renewal dates. Small employers must complete the reporting process under IRC 6055 using IRS forms 1094-B and 1095-B. ALE employers must complete the reporting process under IRC 6056 using IRS forms 1094-C and 1095-

C. (see the rules applicable to full and part time employees)

What about measurement periods and affordability?

This task has been the main focus of most groups; especially those who anticipate that they are ALEs. Applicable large employers must offer minimum essential coverage of affordable, minimum value to all full-time employees (determined by their choice of measurement period and affordability safe harbor) by their renewal date in 2015 or face potential penalties under Section 4980H (a) and (b).

But completing the measurement period and affordability calculations is only a first step in completing the reporting process. IRS reporting requirements stipulate that employers must report the eligibility and coverage status of their employees – all of them – for the entire 2015 calendar year; regardless of their health plan renewal date.

What does this mean? It means that the measurement and affordability calculation is only one of several data elements you will need to complete the reporting process. Payroll records alone will not provide a comprehensive reporting solution.

Data Requirements

The data employers need to satisfy all of their reporting requirements will come from three basic sources:

1. Payroll records and employer timesheets – Payroll systems and employer timesheets are

ACA Reporting continued from page 6

two data sources employers will need to rely upon to track and report their hours of eligibility information and affordability data.

2. Employer HR eligibility offer records – Employer HR systems must also be prepared to track and provide records of coverage offers so that the employer may verify that it has offered coverage to all eligible employees.

Health plan administrator coverage records (census/list bills) - Each employer's health plan is a source of coverage information necessary for filling out either IRS 1095-B Part IV (for small group) or IRS form 1095-C Part III (for ALEs).

What employers need to do NOW

- Identify all of your data sources and proceed with your plan for steps A, B and C.
 - Make sure your payroll records will allow you to measure eligibility and affordability. It's important to be able to maintain payroll data records that can be used to substantiate every eligibility determination you make. Record keeping will be critical.
 - Create and maintain the necessary personnel records in order to:
 - Provide and track issuance of eligibility offers; declinations and acceptance for employee and dependent coverage. It is also a good idea to provide notification of affordability status of the coverage offer that is made to each full-time employee.
 - Have documented personnel policies that support your ACA-compliant eligibility and contributions policies.
- Document and supplement payroll records with any hour equivalency formulas you may use in lieu of actual hours tracked by payroll. These must be recorded in your personnel policies along with substitute timesheets you must maintain for these employees – unless payroll can do it for you.
 - Large employers only must keep personnel records for each employee (all W-2 employees) that will substantiate the coverage, transitional relief and affordability coding needed for form 1095-C Part II.
 - Create a distribution plan for your employees' 1095 returns. Hint: These forms must be distributed to employees in the same timeframe as they receive their W-2 forms.
4. Find out what plan coverage information will be provided by your health plan administrator that you will need to complete the employee returns.
 - Make sure plan information will be provided in a complete format that can be easily transferred to the IRS 1095 forms; preferably in a single report format per employee.
 - Make sure employee-specific plan information will be sent to you in early January 2016, since you must complete and distribute the 1095 forms to your employees no later than 1-31-2016.
 - Make sure to obtain and record the social security numbers of all employees, spouses and dependents.
 5. Decide whether you will file your tax forms on your own or seek outside help. While you will need to be actively involved in gathering and collating your

data, whether you choose to file your forms yourself is another matter. Filing is a complex process; you may wish to hire a tax professional to assist you; just as you might do with your personal income taxes.

Make sure you have a clear understanding of how your ACA tax filing service will work; what data they will want and how they will want it formatted. Be sure to understand when they will need to receive your data in order to meet your filing deadlines.

Summary

Employers are responsible for gathering, collating and measuring ALL of their employee data; for those that are eligible for coverage and those that are not. Additionally, employers must also report coverage data in great detail for those employees and their family members who are covered under their health plans. And they must be able to track and verify every coverage offer, whether it is accepted or not, for employees and their dependents.

Large employers must follow the reporting rules and form instructions under IRC 6056. In doing so, they will satisfy the reporting requirements stipulated under IRC 6055 (the individual mandate reporting requirements). Small employers must only meet the reporting requirements under IRC 6055.

For more information, please contact Bill Colopoulos, (507) 281-6690, bcolopoulos@ssc.coop

Bill is Southeast Service Cooperative's Health Benefits Consultant.

798 students attend conference

By: Katie Hartman

The Young Authors, Young Artists Conference was held on May 19, 20, and 21, 2015. 798 students and 117 adults experienced a day of learning, with a lot of fun included.

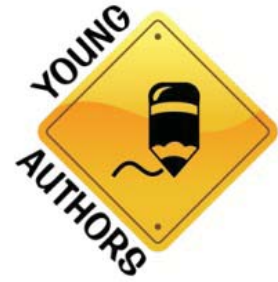
Students in grades 3-5 from public, private and home schools across southeast Minnesota gathered at the Heinz Center Building at Rochester Community and Technical College campus for an exciting opportunity to learn and work with professional authors, poets, playwrights, composers, lyricists, illustrators, novelists, journalists, book crafters, and others.

SSC's annual Young Authors, Young Artists Conference promotes student engagement in the areas of written and visual communication, and is often an out-of-classroom experience that students remember for an entire lifetime. The conference has been held for over 28 years.

Session topics range from character development to book arts to watercolor artwork to storytelling.

Presenters were a mix of individuals who have presented at the conference in the past and several individuals who were brand new to the conference.

The conference will be held again in May 2016. We also have conference for students in grades 6-8 that will be held in October 2015.



Five Knowledge Bowl teams advance to State

By Kirsten Kuehl

102 teams participated in Senior High Knowledge Bowl during the 2014-15 season. Twenty-nine schools from across southeast Minnesota fielded teams that began competition in December.

The top three teams from tier AA and top two teams from tier A advanced to the State Knowledge Bowl Competition. The event was held April 9-10 at Cragun's Conference Center in Brainerd. The teams that advanced were from: Dover-Eyota, Northfield, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, Red Wing, and Spring Grove.

Teams participated in three round robin competitions from December - February. Teams were divided into two tiers and took part in Sub-Regionals in March. Twelve teams from each tier advanced to Regionals on March 20 at the Southeast Service Cooperative. The top three teams from each tier received trophies for their school and individual medallions for each team member.

Tier A: 1st-Dover-Eyota, 2nd-Spring Grove, 3rd-Chatfield
Tier AA: 1st Northfield, 2nd-Red Wing, 3rd-Plainview-Elgin-Millville

These teams are pictured on page 11.



Plainview-Elgin-Millville was the 3rd runner up in the A division at the State Competition.

School Districts that participated in Senior High Knowledge Bowl were:

Albert Lea, Austin, Caledonia, Cannon Falls, Chatfield, Dover-Eyota, Fillmore Central, Goodhue, Houston, Kasson-Mantorville, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Kingsland, LaCrescent, Lanesboro, Lewiston-Altura, Mabel-Canton, Medford, Northfield, Pine Island, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, Red Wing, Rochester Mayo, Rushford-Peterson, Southland, Spring Grove, St. Charles, Stewartville, Triton, and Winona.

Twenty-four teams, from two tiers (48 total) competed with teams from across Minnesota. Teams consist of five students (including the alternate). All team members work together on a 60-question written round. Four team members compete in five oral rounds. At the state meet, four person teams compete against one another in one written and five oral rounds

of interdisciplinary questions for a total of 285 questions. Success at the competition requires the ability to work as a team, as well as to recall information quickly in a variety of areas of study. Knowledge Bowl is sponsored by eleven Service Cooperatives around the state.

944 teams from 290 school districts throughout Minnesota participated in Senior High Knowledge Bowl this year.

Plainview-Elgin-Millville was the 3rd runner up in the A division. Congratulations to these teams on their great showing!

Teams from southeast Minnesota made a great showing at 2015 State!

Tier AA



Northfield - 7th



Red Wing - 11th

Tier A



Plainview-Elgin-Millville - 4th

Teams from southeast Minnesota made a great showing at 2015 State! Teams from PEM, Spring Grove, and Dover Eyota represented Tier A. Teams from Northfield and Red Wing represented Tier AA.



Spring Grove - 18th



Dover-Eyota - 20th

C-O-N-G-R-A-T-U-L-A-T-I-O-N-S-!

By Katie Hartman



Christine Farnberg (pictured above), an 8th grade student from Rochester Catholic Schools participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. May 24-May 29, 2015.

Christine had advanced to Nationals from the Southeast Minnesota Spelling Bee Final held in February, where she was declared the champion after correctly spelling the word "Appalachian". Christine was also the champion in 2013, and the 2nd runner-up in 2014.

Christine made it through Round 5, and was in a tie for 18th place, of the National Bee, when she misspelled the word "Syrette". Lisa Farnberg, Christine's mother, said "Her word was the first time that Scripps has used a trademark".



After Christine and family returned from Nationals, she had this to say about the Bee, "This experience definitely helped me learn how to study and concentrate under pressure. The Bee was so much fun and excitement. As I was called to the front of the stage as a semifinalist, I couldn't have been any happier. Thank you so much for making that possible. It was the experience of a lifetime."

After 20 rounds, two eighth-graders were crowned co-champions. It's only the fifth time in the 90-year history of the contest there have been co-champions, but it's the second year in a row.

The results seem to reinforce that practice makes perfect. 13-year-old Vanya Shivashankar from Kansas, was a five-time finalist and 14-year-old Gokul Venkatachalam from Missouri, was a four-time finalist. Both had finished in the top 5 in previous years. Vanya's sister, Kavya, won the 2009 Spelling Bee.

The Spelling Bee competitions in southeast Minnesota are sponsored and coordinated by the Southeast Service Cooperative.

Interested in having your speller from your school advance to Nationals? Contact Katie Hartman at khartman@ssc.coop, (507) 281-6667.

Recent Board meeting actions and information

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

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

February 2015 Meeting

- The SSC Board Chair appointed a Board Committee, consisting of Theresa Arrick-Kruger, Mary Blair-Hoeft, and Sue Phillips, to establish rates and stop loss for the 2015-2016 School Health Pool.
- Approved a contract with Crescent Landscape Supply for playground mulch and direct SSC staff to coordinate orders and common delivery dates in-house as we did in 2013 and 2014.
- Approved a contract with markit for SSC needs assessment, marketing plan development, and business development.

March 2015 Meeting

- Accepted a grant contract with the Minnesota Department of Education for Southeast Service Cooperative to fiscally host a statewide Minnesota

Service Cooperatives project to train regional Service Cooperative staff in school climate/ bullying prevention strategic planning and implementation for the period March 25, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$243,487.

- Designated Suzanne Riley, SSC Executive Director, as SSC's Identified Official with Authority, to authorize user access to MDE secure websites for SSC with the responsibility of assigning job duties to SSC staff.

April 2015 Meeting

- Established the fees for the Mobile Science Labs for 2015-2016.
- Accepted the proposal from the Institute for Environmental Assessment and authorized staff to negotiate a three-year contract to become effective July 1, 2015.
- Accepted the application from Workforce Development, Inc. for non-profit membership effective retroactively to April 1.
- Honored Dover-Eyota Superintendent Bruce

Klaehn with the Southeast Service Cooperative 2015 Outstanding Service Award.

- Approved a contract with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to assist staff with accounting software analysis and selection, including selection of vendors for participation, managing the demonstration process, procurement support as needed, and return-on-investment analysis.
- Opened the position of Southeast/Metro Center of Excellence Director and authorized staff to conduct a search.
- Accepted and adopted the recommendations of the Personnel Committee for 2015-2016 employee compensation and staffing, to include a performance recognition compensation program at the same funding level as the past two years.

May 2015 Meeting

- Accepted Mahtomedi Public Schools' application for associate membership in SSC and joint powers membership in the School Health Insurance Pool effective July 1, 2015.

Recent Board meeting actions and information continued...

- Accepted the proposal from Skeleton Key to provide SSC registration database consulting and development beginning June 1, 2015.
- Accepted the report of the Personnel Committee and adopted the 2015-2016 Personnel Benefit Plan as proposed.
- Adopted the SSC Policies revisions as proposed, effective May 27, 2015.
- Adopted the membership and service fees for 2015-2016 as proposed by staff.
- Approved membership with the Performance Excellence Network and initiated the Baldrige Organizational Excellence Assessment process.
- Appointed the following area administrators to two year terms on the SSC Administrative Advisory Committee, beginning July 1, 2015:
 - Area 1: Rachel Udstuen, Spring Grove
 - Area 2: Mark Matuska, Kasson-Mantorville
 - Area 3: Gary Kuphal, Plainview-Elgin-Millville
 - Area 4: Beth Giese, Cannon Falls
- 3 at Large Positions: Mike Funk, Albert Lea; Karsten Anderson, Red Wing; Jeff Apse, Lewiston-Altura
- Scheduled a special Board meeting on Wednesday, August 12 to act on the CCOGA Health Pool 2016 plan year.

Calendar

June*June 11***Spring Legislative Wrap Session 2015**

9:00 - 11:30 AM

*June 16 & 17***School Nutrition Scramble 2015**

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

*June 18***AAC Meeting**

12:00 - 3:00 PM

*June 23***9 Essential Skills for the Love and Logic Classroom**

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

*June 24***SSC Board Meeting**

5:00 - 8:00 PM

July*July 13***Aerial Lift Safety Training**

9:30 - 11:30 AM

August*August 12***SSC Special Board Meeting**

5:30 - 6:30 PM

*August 18***9 Essential Skills for the Love and Logic Classroom**

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

*August 19***SSC Board Meeting/Strategic Planning**

5:00 - 8:00 PM

*August 27***CCOGA Annual Health Pool Renewal Meeting**

5:00 - 8:00 PM

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

Editor: Nicole LaChapelle
 nlachapelle@ssc.coop

Southeast Service Cooperative
 210 Wood Lake Drive SE
 Rochester, MN 55904
 Phone (507) 288-1282
 Fax (507) 288-7663

Office Hours:
 Monday - Friday
 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

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

Views and ideas expressed in the *Cooperative Connection*, by its contributors, advertisers and editors do not necessarily reflect views or policies of the Service Cooperative and should not be considered an endorsement thereof.

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

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 or 1-800-657-6996 and one of our staff or our auto-attendant will direct you from there. To send a fax dial (507) 288-7663.

	name	phone	email	service area
SSC Staff	Suzanne Riley	(507) 281-6673	sriley@ssc.coop	Executive Director
	Katie Hartman	(507) 281-6667	khartman@ssc.coop	Program Coordinator
	Amy Grover	(507) 281-6693	agrover@ssc.coop	Director of Planning
	Chris Hancock	(507) 281-6671	chancock@ssc.coop	Bookkeeper
	Kari Kubicek	(507) 281-6668	kkubicek@ssc.coop	Program Manager
	Kirsten Kuehl	(507) 281-6670	kkuehl@ssc.coop	Program Manager
	Nicole LaChapelle	(507) 281-6674	nlachapelle@ssc.coop	Program Manager
	Joe Lutterman	(507) 281-6684	jlutterman@ssc.coop	Operations Assistant
	Peggy Merkel	(507) 281-6666	pmerkel@ssc.coop	Wood Lake Meeting Center Coordinator
	Katie Schmitt	(507) 281-6676	kschmitt@ssc.coop	Program Coordinator
	Bob Tweten	(507) 281-6663	btweten@ssc.coop	Health and Safety Specialist
	Dale Walston	(507) 281-6675	dwalston@ssc.coop	Director of Operations
	Center of Excellence Staff	Ann Clark	(507) 696-7735	aclark@mnce.org
Lori Mack		(507) 993-7635	lmack@mnce.org	Advocate/Implementation Science & Reading Specialist
Barb Marchetti		(507) 696-0274	bmarchetti@mnce.org	Team Coordinator
Scott Fitzsimonds		(507) 421-6959	sfitzsimonds@mnce.org	Data Specialist
Kelly Frankenfield		(507) 696-0277	kfrankenfield@mnce.org	Advocate/English Language Development Specialist
Andrew Schalm		(507) 696-0254	aschalm@mnce.org	Advocate/Mathematics Specialist
Beth Sahli		(507) 696-2741	bsahli@mnce.org	Advocate/Special Education Specialist
Consultants	Carol Swanson	(507) 696-0229	cswanson@mnce.org	Advocate/Implementation Specialist
	Perry Wilkinson	(507) 696-4193	pwilkinson@mnce.org	Advocate/Equity and Implementation Specialist
	Bill Colopoulos	(507) 281-6690	bcolopoulos@ssc.coop	Health and Benefits Consultant
	Roger Jones	(507) 951-6749	rjoneshr@yahoo.com	Human Resource Mgmt Consultant
	IEA (Institute for Environmental Assessment)			
	Thad Dahling	(507) 281-6680	thad.dahling@ieainstitute.com	Project Manager
	Natalie Eskew	(507) 281-6688	natalie.eskew@ieainstitute.com	Environmental Technician/Support
	Angie Radel	(507) 281-6682	angie.radel@ieainstitute.com	Senior Project Manager
	Scott Stockdale	(507) 281-6665	scott.stockdale@ieainstitute.com	Health and Safety Consultant



Shaping the Future
 for communities
 of leaders and learners.

