

Cooperative Connection

May 2010

Southeast Service Cooperative

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Don't miss Kevin Honeycutt this June at SSC

Nationally-known technology in the classroom expert Kevin Honeycutt believes this is an exciting time to be alive and his passion is to help teachers get comfortable with the technology tools their students need for success in the future.

SSC is very pleased to offer educators three opportunities to learn from Kevin this June.

Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety

June 17, 4 - 6 PM

Kevin will delve into the ways of teaching kids positive behaviors with digital tools and in virtual places. He will discuss cyber-bullying and offer suggestions for guiding kids away from behaviors that are damaging to victims as well as bullies. This session is also recommended for community members.

Hooking Learners with Digital Tools

Keynote presentation and dinner

June 17, 6:30 PM

Kevin will share real stories of classroom success and empowered learning with 21st century tools. He'll share his experiences with



kids as well as success stories from classrooms around the country

Trends, Tactics and Tools for 21st Century Learning

June 18, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

This session is a fun, low stakes look at the exciting things that happen when educators step outside their boxes and try new tools. It reinforces the importance of teacher/student relationships while encouraging teachers to become learners again.

If you have questions or would like more information about these sessions, please contact Heidi Knepper, (507) 281-6669 or hknepper@ssc.coop

You can register for sessions at www.ssc.coop.

Still time to register for SSC golf event!

SSC's *On Par with Excellence*, a day of golf and great ideas is now open to members of the public. The only stipulation is that at least one team member is an employee of an SSC member organization. Teams will compete for their share of over \$1,000 worth of donated prizes! First place is \$150 Visa gift card for each member of the winning team.

Tee time is 2:30 PM on June 17.
Register at www.ssc.coop.



A Message from SSC Executive Director Suzanne Riley

By Suzanne Riley

In my way of thinking, spring should be a time of renewal, refreshment, and celebrating growth. So this is what I try to do... celebrate spring. In reality, spring is also a time of enormous pressure with a multitude of demands – at least, for me it's this way, and maybe for you, too. Why this is so, I have no clue. For some reason, when Mother's Day rolls around, and right along with it some family birthdays, I'm exhausted, crabby, and not particularly motherly (just ask my co-workers).

So when someone mentioned to me the idea of "re-ordering" life, it resonated and reminded me of a terrific, easy-read book, ***Repacking Your Bags: Lighten Your Load for the Rest of Your Life***. Here's a synopsis. If you're feeling anything like I am this spring, this book might be just the ticket for you. Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

P.S. If you'd like to suggest a good book for summer reading, let me know, will you please?
sriley@ssc.coop

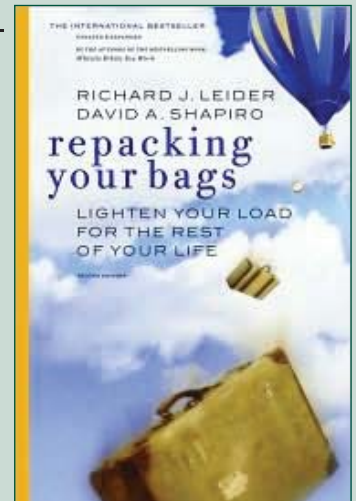
Repacking Your Bags: Lighten Your Load for the Rest of Your Life

By Richard J Leider and David A Shapiro
Paperback, 260 pages (also available in eBook)

Published June 2002

People feel overwhelmed—weighed down by countless responsibilities and buffeted by never-ending upheavals in their personal and professional lives. *Repacking Your Bags* takes readers on an enlightening journey, providing an opportunity to set down and sort out all the accumulated psychological baggage of life. The book shows readers how to climb out from under these burdens and find fulfillment in their lives--now and in the years ahead.

Career development counselor Leider (Life Skills) and freelance writer Shapiro contend that many "mid-life inventurers" (those undergoing a mid-life crisis) lose their sense of what they want from their personal and professional lives. This simplistic guide is intended to help readers redefine their own version of the "good life" and offers a formula to achieve it. The authors advise readers to discard excess "baggage" such as possessions, responsibilities and relationships in order to reintegrate "work, love, place, and purpose."



It's your favorite lake and Conservation Minnesota wants to know why!

This Lake Matters

Download a sign, snap a photo and submit for a chance to win a flip camera.

Step 1

Visit www.checkmylake.org for terms and conditions.

Step 2

Download a "This Lake Matters" sign from www.checkmylake.org

Step 3

Between May 13 and September 6, 2010, submit your photo/video and a brief description to contest@conservationminnesota.org.



June 23 health forum features variety of topics

By Nicole LaChapelle

SSC is hosting a health promotion forum through its Employee Health Promotion Support Program on Wednesday, June 23 from 9 AM to 1 PM. The forum will feature the following sessions:

Implementing a Traffic Safety Program

Lisa Kons, Minnesota Safety Council

Whether you drive for work or just to and from work, the time you spend driving is the most dangerous part of your day. In fact, according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, every day in America 20 people lose their lives and another 250 are seriously injured as a result of a traffic crash during their workday. The demands on our time are ever increasing and the pressure to accomplish more in a day has never been greater. But when we're behind the wheel, driving should not take a backseat to other activities. The risks and costs to employers associated with these crashes are growing daily. So, what is an employer to do? Come and hear how you can implement a traffic safety program/policy/campaign within your organization.

Benefits of Tai Chi & Qigong

Deah Kinion, Lilac Wellness Center

Tai Chi and Qigong (pronounced chee gung) are part of an ancient health care system designed to integrate the

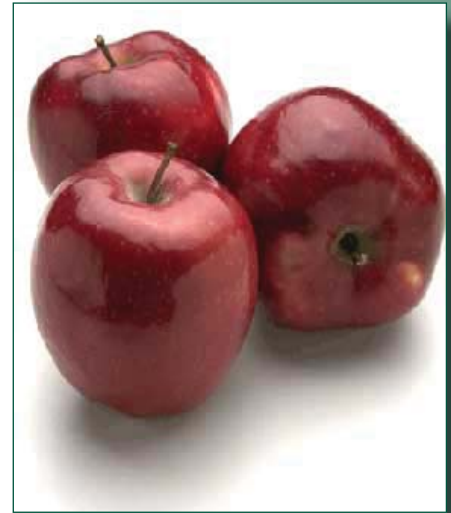
body and mind using postures and the breath. Participants will receive an overview, and learn simple, gentle, mindful movement practices which are shown to increase well-being, concentration, balance and energy, and decrease stress.

Creating Healthier, Happier Employees through Policy, System & Environmental Changes

Sherry M. Sonnenberg, Dodge County Public Health Educator

For the past 20 years worksite wellness has focused on programs, challenges, and individualized behavior based interventions. However, during this same time frame the rates of obesity and chronic diseases have continued to rise, creating financial burden on employers. By addressing policy, system, and environmental (PSE) changes in a worksite you make the healthy choice the easy choice. As smoking policies are put in effect the percentage of smokers dramatically decreases. These same principles can be applied to other areas of wellness within a worksite helping to create happier healthier employees. Learn how PSE changes can be implemented and how they will positively change the culture of your worksite.

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.

We have also built in time for groups who have already received funding to share the different ways they have used their funds.

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.

If you have questions about the forum or the Employee Health Promotion Support Program, please contact Nicole LaChapelle, nlachapelle@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6674.

SSC collaborates with SW/WC Service Cooperative to provide online learning opportunities to our districts

By Kari Kubicek

SSC is excited to announce that we are partnering with Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative (SW/WC) in the delivery of distance learning opportunities. The SW/WC Online Learning Community, a certified online provider through the Minnesota Department of Education, offers various online courses for students that may not be offered in their own district. Through this program, teachers are highly encouraged to develop and facilitate their own online courses with the support and assistance from program staff. SW/WC offers interactive television courses (ITV) that are available to SE school districts as well.

For the past two years, SSC collaborated with other service cooperatives in the delivery of online learning programming through the MSC Online Learning Project. Based on feedback from districts in our region concerning their online learning needs, we have been exploring various options of delivery of online services to more effectively meet these needs. Our decision to work with SW/WC Online Learning Community was made based on the flexible fee schedule we are able to offer districts through this program, the guidance and assistance given to instructors in developing and offering their own online courses, and the opportunities available to our

districts for generating revenue when hosting an online course.

Information related to the SW/WC Online Learning Community provided through SSC is outlined below.

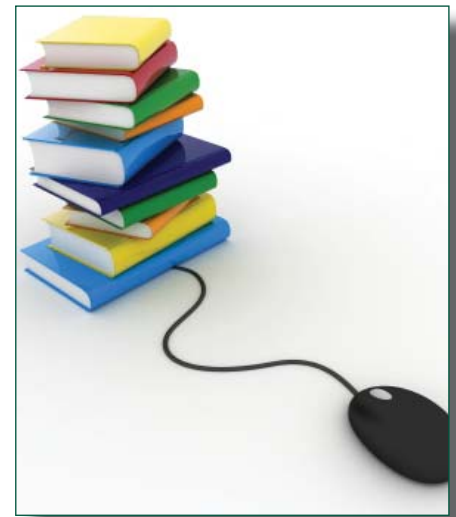
What are the costs involved with participating in the SW/WC Online Learning Community?

Districts may sign up for the 2010-2011 school year at an annual fee of \$500.00 for districts with a student enrollment under 2,499 and \$900.00 for districts with a student enrollment over 2,500.

Districts may enroll students in an SW/WC online course at a rate of \$360.00 per student per semester course, up until May 14, 2010. After May 14, the rate will be \$414.00 per student per semester course. **(this date has been extended due to the short amount of notice given SE districts – please see note below)****

Districts may sign up teachers to participate in a three week online teacher training course at the rate of \$300.00 per individual and/or an introductory Moodle training at the rate of \$200.00 per individual.

****SE districts may provide enrollment numbers for SW/WC Online Learning Community courses at the rate of \$360/student/semester course until July 1, 2010. However, we highly recommend districts submit their enrollment numbers as soon as possible**



as each year's course offerings are dependent on enrollment numbers submitted in May. It is possible that courses will not be offered if enrollment numbers are too low.

How many courses are offered through SW/WC?

SW/WC currently offers 18 online courses and 16 additional courses are available through a cooperative agreement with the Central Minnesota Online Learning program. SSC expects these offerings to increase as southeast Minnesota teachers develop and facilitate fully online courses through the program.

What if SW/WC does not offer a course that fits the needs of our students?

Member districts may also purchase Aventa courseware through the SW/WC Online Learning Community available at the same rate as district hosted online courses.

Online learning continued from page 4

What is the success rate for students who take courses offered through SW/WC?

SW/WC Online Learning Community has experienced a 95% pass rate for students enrolled in their program.

What type of training is required for teachers interested in teaching online with SW/WC?

In order to teach fully online courses through SW/WC Online, teachers must complete the three week teacher training mentioned on page 4. This training will include two face to face training days and online coursework and collaboration. The cost of the training is \$300.00 per participant. The training will include instruction in the use of Moodle for facilitating an online course as well as provide opportunities for reflection and discussion on best practices in online teaching. Two Online Teacher Trainings are scheduled to take place during the summer of 2010. These are scheduled as follows:

- Online Teacher Training Summer 2010 Session One – Thursday, June 24 – Thursday, July 15, 2010 (an additional week has been built in for the 4th of July holiday)
- Online Teacher Training Summer 2010 Session Two – Tuesday, July 27 – Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Am I qualified to teach online courses through SW/WC if I completed the Facilitating Online Learning Course through MSC Online?

Yes, if your district signs up with the SW/WC Online Learning Community, and you have completed the Facilitating Online Learning course previously offered through MSC Online, you will be considered qualified to teach online through SW/WC.

Do I get paid for teaching an online course?

Through SW/WC, teachers have the opportunity to develop fully online courses. Once a course has been approved as an offering of SW/WC, the developing teacher is the facilitator of the course. Students who are not enrolled in the host district pay the enrollment fee of \$360.00 to SW/WC. \$300.00 of this enrollment fee is then paid to the host district. It is between the individual district and online course instructor to work out how the \$300.00 is distributed. Students that are enrolled in the host district pay a \$10.00 enrollment fee to take the online course.

How do I submit a course for approval to be a fully online course?

If you are interested in the development of an online course to be offered through SW/WC, contact Kari Kubicek at SSC.

Is it necessary for an individual to complete the three week online teacher training to teach blended or hybrid courses?

No. SSC's Moodle site will be kept separate from the SW/WC Online Learning Community Program. If you are interested in teaching a blended course

and need Moodle server space, SSC has Moodle space available. Individuals hosting a blended course on the SSC Moodle site are required to complete an SSC hosted Moodle training. Several introductory Moodle trainings will be offered through SSC at a rate of \$200.00 per participant. The training will take place as a full day, face to face session, followed by a minimal amount of required online coursework to be completed during the week following the initial face to face session. This Moodle training will introduce participants to the basic structure of a Moodle course and the tools available for adding content.

Once an individual has completed an SSC hosted Moodle training, he or she may utilize SSC's Moodle space for hosting a blended course at no additional cost.

How does my district sign up for this program?

Please click here to access the district enrollment form as well as further information related to the program.

Who do I contact if I have further questions?

Please contact Kari Kubicek at (507)281-6668 or kkubicek@ssc.coop with questions.

SSC offering Regional Gifted and Talented Network

by Heidi Knepper

In an effort to meet the needs of our membership, Southeast Service Cooperative will be convening a Regional Gifted and Talented Network. To provide support for the high ability students in your school(s), we are inviting you to join the Network for the 2010-2011 school year. This regional network is being organized to offer assistance and support to districts as they continue to develop, modify and expand programs and activities that benefit high ability learners at all grade levels.

You will find information from the Minnesota Department of Education website regarding gifted education and legislation by clicking this link.

Please consider designating a coordinator from your school. The small district fee will allow anyone from your district to attend any of the meetings, not only the Gifted Coordinator.

The fee for this professional development opportunity can come from your district gifted and talented funds. A program will be emailed to the person you designate as a district contact person prior to each meeting with information about the topic, presenter and how to RSVP.

Gifted and Talented Network Meetings 2010-2011

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

The group will meet at Southeast Service Cooperative four times during the school year. Each meeting will be from 12:00 – 3:30 PM.

Each meeting will have a topic/presenter relevant to academic



enrichment activities, students or teachers. Additionally, each meeting will include time for sharing program ideas, discussion regarding student enrichment activities/events and books related to high ability students.

For an application, click here. Deadline to register is June 30.

Please watch for a list of topics for the 2010-2011 school year. If you have questions please contact Heidi Knepper, hknepper@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6669.

Teachers & librarians: Camp Read-A-Lot is back! Spots still available!

Camp Read-A-Lot is a summer workshop for practitioners working with children from birth to grade 5. Camp Read-A-Lot offers summertime fun by reading current books that could be used in connection with curriculum.

SELCO is offering two days of camp and two different tracks this year, August 10-11, at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, MN.



2009 Copyright MELSA & Metronet

Tuesday, August 10 features books for Early Literacy (Birth-Grade 1) and presentations by an Early Literacy Expert and award-winning Minnesota author Betsy Bowen.

Wednesday, August 11 features books for Primary Grades

(Grades 2-5) and presentations by Children's Book Expert and Librarian Kathy Baxter and award-winning Minnesota author Marion Dane Bauer. The registration fee is \$15 per day and lunch is included.

For more information, or to register, click here.

Healthcare Reform: The real challenges ahead

By Bill Colopoulos

The recent passage of the Patient Protection and Care Affordability Act (PPACA) marks a step forward towards universal care for private insurance in the United States.

In this first part of a series on healthcare reform, we will explore the difference between *healthcare* and *health insurance* reform. While PPACA purports to contain elements of both, it is predominantly focused on the latter.

PPACA prohibits insurance companies to selectively insure; picking only healthy individuals

for insurance. PPACA will eventually eliminate pre-existing conditions limitations while imposing tax penalties for anyone who does not have health insurance, which could lead to an unintended trend to drop insurance. The PPACA allows individuals to purchase insurance with no restriction on pre-existing conditions, which means they can delay buying health insurance until they need it. An analogy is buying auto insurance after one gets into an accident.

Universal coverage for most OECD* nations means just that: everyone is covered and everyone has no choice but to participate –

and pay their taxes – to fund their respective healthcare system. PPACA seems more intent on destroying the viability of the private insurance sector rather than either crafting effective healthcare financial solutions or providing true universal coverage for all Americans. By turning over the job of monitoring and enforcing insurance regulations to the IRS, Congress has essentially burdened an already over regulated insurance market with an even more ineffective, over tax-regulated system.

PPACA fails to address the far larger challenges of healthcare reform. As the following evidence suggests, the health risk factors of the United States and their direct linkage to the health status of our nation pose far greater challenges to our healthcare future than PPACA attempts to solve.

It is clear from the data to the left that the United States faces far more serious problems in addressing healthcare reform than merely tinkering with tax policy and making superficial changes in how we insure ourselves. Far more substantial reforms are needed; reforms aimed at the real problems – the ones we face each day in the mirror.

Bill is SSC's Health and Benefits Consultant and can be reached at bcolopoulos@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6690.

Figure One: Comparative Health Risk Factors - 8 OECD Nations

source: World Health Organization, 2007

Nation	BMI 25-29 (% overweight)	Rank	BMI 30+ (% obese)	Rank	Tobacco (% daily use)	Rank	Teenage Pregnancy (per 1,000)	Rank	Avg. Rank
Canada	61.1%	6	23.5%	7	16.3%	1	20.2	6	5
France	40.2%	2	7.2%	2	27.1%	7	9.3	3	4
Germany	60.1%	5	20.7%	5	26.7%	6	13.1	5	5
Japan	22.6%	1	1.7%	1	26.1%	5	4.6	1	2
Norway	49.1%	3	10.3%	3	24.9%	4	12.4	4	4
Sweden	49.7%	4	11.4%	4	16.3%	1	6.5	2	3
United Kingdom	63.8%	7	22.9%	6	28.4%	8	30.8	7	7
United States	74.1%	8	39.1%	8	18.7%	3	52.1	8	7
8 Nation Averages	52.6%		17.1%		23.1%		18.6		

Figure Two: Comparative Health Factors - 8 OECD Nations

source: World Health Organization, 2000 & 2007

Nation	From Birth Life Expectancy		Healthy Life Expectancy		Probability of Death ≤ age 5 (per 1,000)	Probability of Death < age 15- 60 (per 1,000)		8 Nation 2007 Rank*	All Nation 2007 Ranking	All Nation 2000 Ranking
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female			
Canada	78	83	70	74	6	89	55	4	17	30
France	77	84	69	75	5	124	57	4	23	1
Germany	77	82	70	74	5	106	55	5	24	25
Japan	79	86	72	78	4	89	44	1	3	10
Norway	78	83	70	74	4	86	53	3	11	11
Sweden	79	83	72	75	4	78	49	2	5	23
United Kingdom	77	81	69	72	6	98	61	6	29	18
United States	75	80	67	71	8	137	80	8	38	37
8 Nation Average	78	83	70	74	5	101	57			

Figure Two also illustrates the eight nations' 2007 world rankings in each category and compares them to their 2000 WHO rankings.

School leadership - Changing schools during changing times

By Dianne Dodge, School Improvement Coordinator

SSC's School Improvement Coordinator Team recently attended a conference sponsored by Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest (REL) in which the primary focus of the conference was on 'Transforming Struggling Schools'. Even though this information is, indeed, great information for struggling schools, it is also critical information for ALL schools.

The following is a synopsis of information the Center on Innovation and Improvement found to be critical on the part of educational leaders in turning around struggling schools.

- **Collect and Analyze Data**
Educational leaders analyze student performance data to identify problem areas that can be fixed quickly. Later, data analysis becomes a routine that drives instruction.
- **Prepare Action Plan Based on Data**
This action plan lets everyone know specifically what they need to do differently. This allows staff to focus on changing what they do



- **Focus on Big, Fast Payoffs in Year One**
Leaders concentrate on a limited number of changes to achieve early. These are visible 'wins' for the school. This motivates staff for additional change.
- **Implementation of Practices that Deviate from Norm**
This deviation from the norm is done to achieve early 'wins'. This sends a message that new practices can lead to success.
- **Require All Staff to Change**
Change is mandatory, not optional.
- **Focus on Successful Tactics**
Turnaround leaders spend more resources and time on tactics that work.

- **Communicate a Positive Vision**
Educational leaders motivate others inside and outside the school. They communicate a clear picture of success and its benefits.
- **Gain Support of Key Influencers**
Leaders gain the support of trusted influencers among staff and community. They work through these people to influence those that oppose change.
- **Measure and Report Progress Frequently**
Systems are established to measure and report results often. Failed tactics can be readily discarded.

As we reflect on these changing times and changing needs of students, it is dire that we ALWAYS keep the focus on our students. Strong leadership plays a major role in setting the tone for successful schools. There is no more business as usual. There needs to be clear, consistent messages about where our schools need to go. Goals need to be clear and expectations set high so ALL schools can be the best of the best.

Dianne can be contacted at ddodge@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6686.

Science of Engineering in 2010-2011

By Heidi Knepper

The 2010-2011 grade level focus for the Math and Science Teacher Partnership will be in grades 3-6, and the content focus will be the Science of Engineering. The goals of the module are to create a valuable and sustaining professional development experience for science teachers in grades 3-6 as they implement the new Minnesota Science Standards (2009) and prepare their students for success in science. Specifically, this yearlong professional development module is intended to give grade 3-6 teachers direct, immersion style experiences that meet the goals of the Mathematics and Science Teacher Partnership.

Some of the outcomes of participation will be:

- Learn to conduct scientific inquiry through extended engagement with natural phenomena
- Develop an understanding of the nature of science
- Develop an understanding of the nature of engineering
- Apply engineering design processes through project-based challenges
- Develop lessons and strategies to integrate engineering with grade-specific science content standard



Participating teachers must commit to the project for the full year, and will progress through the year as a cohort with teachers from across the region. There is the possibility of participating in the cohort as a two credit Science Education Course through Hamline University.

MSTP Science of Engineering Meeting Dates 2010-2011

August 3-5, 2010
October 14, 2010
December 9, 2010
February 10, 2011

If you are interested in participating in this cohort, contact Heidi Knepper for an application at hknepper@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6669.

Consider taking a SMART Board session this summer at SSC!



The SMART Board is an interactive, electronic whiteboard which can enhance instruction and learning.

SMART Board Basics 1

Monday, June 7

SMART Board Basics 2

Monday, June 14

SMART Board Lesson Activity Toolkit 2.0

Monday, June 28

SMART Board Basics 1

Thursday, July 22

SMART Board Basics 2

Thursday, August 12

SMART Board Lesson Activity Toolkit 2.0

Thursday, August 19

**All sessions are from
9 AM - 12 PM.**

Please continue to check www.ssc.coop for additional trainings.

If you have questions or would like to schedule on site SMART Board training please contact Heidi Knepper, (507) 281-6669, hknepper@ssc.coop.

Knowledge Bowl teams set a record!

By Kirsten Kuehl

Ninety teams participated in Senior High Knowledge Bowl during the 2009-10 season. Twenty-nine schools from across southeast Minnesota fielded teams that began competition in December.

Round robin competitions took place once a month in December, January and February. Teams were divided into two tiers and took part in Sub-Regionals. These competitions were held March 17-18 at the Rochester Community and Technical College, Heinz Center. Twelve teams from each tier advanced to Regionals. The top three teams from tier A and

the top two teams from tier AA advanced to the State Knowledge Bowl Competition. The event was held April 15-16 at Cragun's Conference Center in Brainerd. Twenty-four teams, from two tiers 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.

Over 800 teams from 290 school districts throughout Minnesota participate in Senior High Knowledge Bowl.

The top teams are pictured on page 11. Teams received trophies

for their school and individual medallions for each team member. Congratulations to these teams on their great showing!

Schools that participated in Senior High Knowledge Bowl are: Albert Lea, Austin, Caledonia, Cannon Falls, Dover-Eyota, Fillmore Central, Goodhue, Grand Meadow, Houston, Kasson-Mantorville, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Kingsland, LaCrescent, Lanesboro, Lewiston-Altura, Mabel-Canton, Northfield, Pine Island, Plainview-Elgin-Millville, Red Wing, Rochester Century, Rochester Mayo, Rushford-Peterson, Southland, Spring Grove, St. Charles, Stewartville, Triton and Winona.

Slips, Trips and Falls

By Megan Rooney, IEA

Slips, trips, and falls can cause serious injury and lost time. What can you do to prevent these types of accidents?

Wear proper footwear! Flat shoes with good traction are best for slippery conditions.

If 3-inch heels are a must, wear boots to work and change once you are safely in your office.

Conduct an assessment of foot traffic around your buildings and in areas where water is used frequently (e.g. kitchens).

Clear out the areas where people actually travel or install anti-slip surfacing in slippery area to reduce the potential for falls.



Install or increase the length of walk-off mats at each entrance to the facility.

Walk-off mats allow for the accumulation of rain or snow from footwear without causing slippery floors. They are easier to maintain and care for than carpet, and will reduce the chances of slips and falls in interior hallways.

Educate your employees!

Check with your worker's compensation carrier or environmental, health, and safety consultant for flyers that could be e-mailed to staff or posted at entrances. The more information you provide, the more likely your staff will be to protect themselves.

What happens on the weekends?

Activities may occur in your facilities that may or may not be directly sponsored by your company or district. The liability from injury remains with the property owner. A plan should be in place and documented to handle these instances.

Megan Rooney can be reached at megan.rooney@ieainstitute.com or (763) 315-7900.

Top placing teams at Regional Knowledge Bowl

Tier AA Teams



1st Place - Rochester Mayo Gold



2nd Place - Northfield Chrome



3rd Place - Northfield Platinum



4th Place - Rochester Mayo Green



5th Place - Rochester Century 2

Teams from southeast Minnesota made a great showing at 2010 State! Teams from Dover-Eyota, Rushford-Peterson and Spring Grove represented Tier A. Teams from Northfield and Rochester Mayo represented Tier AA.

Tier A Teams



1st Place - Dover-Eyota 1



2nd Place - Spring Grove 1



3rd Place - Rushford-Peterson 1



4th Place - Goodhue 1



5th Place - Houston 1

Southeast MN placements at State:

Tier AA:
 Rochester Mayo 7th
 Northfield 14th

Tier A:
 Dover-Eyota 10th
 Rushford-Peterson 12th
 Spring Grove 18th

Bright Lights, Big Savings!

An Interview with Frank Sahlin

By Katie Schmitt, Cooperative Purchasing Assistant

Voss Lighting is a new Cooperative Purchasing vendor and leading national supplier of replacement lighting products. Headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, Voss Lighting has 16 branches throughout the United States including one in Minneapolis. SSC members receive discounts up to 87% off list price and free shipping. I recently spoke with Frank Sahlin, our regional representative to find out what Voss Lighting can offer our members.

K: What products does Voss Lighting carry?

F: Voss Lighting is one of the largest independent distributors of the Philips brand. We carry a wide selection of lamps and bulbs, fixtures, advanced ballasts, exit lights, stage and studio lamps, and photo lamps.

K: What eco-friendly lighting solutions would you recommend?

F: I strongly recommend the removal of the old T12 fluorescent bulbs and installation of new 25 watt T8 lamps and new electric start ballasts. Light levels will be better while saving money. There are several rebate programs available and I can work with SSC members to identify rebates in their area. I have experience working directly with Southern Minnesota Municipal



*Voss Lighting regional representative
Frank Sahlin*

Power Agency (SMMPA) to set up rebate programs in SSC's region.

K: One of the services Voss Lighting offers is a complimentary lighting audit. How would this benefit our members?

F: On a walkthrough of their building, I look at existing lighting and gather information like hours of use. I offer suggestions for updates and review options. I write up a report to share my findings, quote cost of updates, and show energy and cost savings. The benefit is to see their return on investment before any purchase has been made.

K: What can our members expect in terms of customer service?

F: They can expect good communication. Good communication is everything. They can expect a reasonable call back time. I have over 37 years of experience and can help people



over the phone or in-person at their convenience. Our office is staffed with experienced professionals that can assist SSC members if I am out of the office. One such individual is Darrell. He has a lot of experience and also provides good customer service. Most often purchases are shipped from our Minneapolis warehouse. We can also locate products from the other branch offices to meet customer needs quickly. Large orders can be drop-shipped to save shipping costs.

K: Is there anything else our members should know about Voss Lighting?

F: Voss Lighting has been around for over 70 years and values professionalism and experience in the field. We look forward to partnering with SSC and SSC members!

For more information about Voss Lighting or to receive a quote, contact:

Frank Sahlin
(651) 697-1599 (office)
(612) 270-3664 (cell)

Southeast student artists take top honors at Freshwater contest

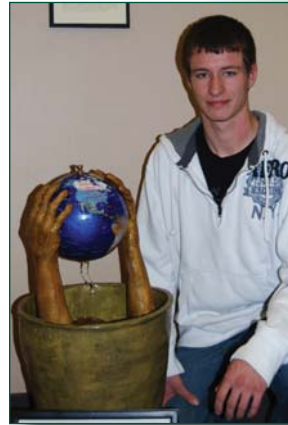
High school student artists from Kasson-Mantorville, Plainview-Elgin-Millville and Stewartville have each been chosen to receive a \$500 scholarship at the Freshwater Society's 6th Annual Water is Life Art Contest, which was held May 5 in Minnetonka.

Brandon Cole, Shelby Heintz and Christine Hofschulte were three of six scholarship recipients. They were chosen from 32 finalists, who had emerged from a field of more than 250 artists from over 80 schools across Minnesota. Each art entry was accompanied by a statement about how the artists' work represented the value of water or the threats that water faces in today's world.

2010 is the sixth year the Freshwater Society has offered this successful scholarship contest to Minnesota high school students. The contest is a collaborative effort with



*Christine Hofschulte,
Plainview-Elgin-Millville
High School*



*Brandon Cole,
Stewartville High School*



*Shelby Heintz,
Kasson-Mantorville
High School*

Minnesota Education Service Cooperatives to educate youth about the importance of protecting and safeguarding freshwater resources and acknowledge the creativity and talent of Minnesota's youth.

Hundreds of amazing art pieces representing water's beauty, importance, and degradation have been created by students across the state of Minnesota

for this contest. Each year's winning art pieces are displayed at various events and locations throughout the state, including the Minnesota State Capitol, University of Minnesota, Pollution Control Agency and other locations and recognized in publications across the state. The art can be viewed at www.freshwater.org or on Facebook at Water is Life Art Contest.

From the desk of Health and Safety Management Assistant Bob Tweten

By Bob Tweten

Michael Oxborough has officially started working with the State Department of Education in Health and Safety. Michael takes over for Audrey Bomstad, who temporarily filled in for Phil Allmon. School districts may contact Michael by calling (651) 582-8509 or emailing him at Michael.Oxborough@state.mn.us.

Dates for the **Annual Town Hall Health and Safety Meeting** have been set by Michael.

His presentation for school districts in Southeast Minnesota is scheduled for June 4, 10 AM to 12 PM. The meeting will be held at the Southeast Service Cooperative's Wood Lake Meeting Center. A reminder to register for the meeting has been sent by email to each district.

As an FYI, Minnesota OSHA has completed compliance inspections in two Southeast school districts over the last three months. No one knows if and

when they will make their next visit.

Contact Bob Tweten regarding Health and Safety issues as they apply to your school district at btweten@ssc.coop or (507) 281-6663.



Recent Board meeting actions and information

March 2010

The March meeting was canceled.

April 2010

Special Meeting

School Health & Benefits Pool, 2010-2011 Renewal

Adopted the School Health Insurance Pool 2010 Plan Year Renewal rating formula and plan as recommended by the Renewal Committee and outlined in the document for this meeting and authorized the Executive Director to offer conditions to specific groups with significant needed rate increases as an incentive to earn the maximum pool rate relief.

Authorized the Executive Director to dedicate up to 38% of School Pool RSR Margin Reserve funds for special adjustments relating to conditional group rate stabilization measures.

Teaching American History

Authorized the Executive Director to submit a proposal to the US Department of Education for funding under the Teaching American History grant program.

Investing in Innovation

Authorized the Executive Director to contract with Learning Point Associates for grant development technical assistance for an Investing in Innovation proposal for an amount not to exceed \$13,881 and to invoice six other Service Cooperatives for equal shares of the cost.

Authorized the Executive Director to contract for technical assistance in proposal development for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

Contract for Instructional Services

Authorized the Executive Director to contract for professional development services of Solution Tree, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$20,800 for activities under the AYP School Improvement grant program.

April 2010

Regular Meeting

School Improvement Coordinator Position Opening

Authorized the Executive Director to open and fill a School Improvement Coordinator position as soon as possible and within the budget of the grant contract.

Distance Learning Program.

Terminated the arrangement with MSC Online Learning Project effective June 30, 2010; authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with SW/WC Online Learning Community effective July 1, 2010, revise the eLearning budget and fees, and negotiate a contract with SW/WC.

Health & Benefits Pools

Replaced the Health & Benefits Joint Powers Agreement which was approved in February 2010 with the new document with clarifications by the MSC insurance attorney.

Membership Fees for 2010-2011.

Established the membership fees for 2010-2011 using the same schedule and calculations as last year, using updated counts (AMCPU/student for schools and employee counts for other members).

Next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 26** at 5:30 PM

Board Meeting Calendar

Wednesday, June 23

Wednesday, July 28

Wednesday, August 25

Wednesday, September 22

Wednesday, October 27

Monday, November 29

(NOTE: Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 25)

Wednesday, December 22

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

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

Calendar

May

SSC Board Meeting

May 26
5:30 - 8 PM

June

Legislative Wrap Session with Tom Melcher

June 3
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Health & Safety Funding Town Hall Meeting

June 4
10 AM - 12 PM

SMART Board Basics 1

June 7
9 AM - 12 PM

Introduction to Moodle

June 9
9 AM - 3 PM

SMART Board Basics 2

June 14
9 AM - 12 PM

Professional Learning Communities, Assessments, and Interventions

June 15
9 AM - 3 PM

Professional Learning Communities, Assessments, and Interventions

June 16
9 AM - 3 PM

On Par with Excellence

June 17
Tee time - 2:30 PM
Dinner and Keynote - 6:30 PM
Willow Creek Golf Course

Hooking Learners with Digital Tools

June 17
6:30 PM
Willow Creek Golf Course

Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety

June 17
4 - 6 PM

Trends, Tactics and Tools for 21st Century Learning

June 18
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Introduction to Moodle

June 22
9 AM - 3 PM

SSC Health Forum

June 23
9 AM - 1 PM

SSC Board Meeting

June 23
5:30 - 8 PM

Online Teacher Training

June 24
8 AM - 5 PM

SMART Board Lesson Activity Toolkit 2.0

June 28
9 AM - 12 PM

July

SMART Board Basics 1

July 22
9 AM - 12 PM

Generational Poverty and Middle Class

July 26
9 AM - 3 PM

Generational Poverty and Middle Class

July 27
9 AM - 3 PM

Online Teacher Training

July 27
8 AM - 5 PM

Data Retreat Trainer of Trainer

July 28
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Data Retreat Trainer of Trainer

July 29
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Data Retreat Trainer of Trainer

July 30
8 AM - 12 PM

SSC Board Meeting

July 28
5:30 - 8 PM

August

Culture of Poverty- Instructional Strategies

August 9
9 AM - 3 PM

Culture of Poverty- Instructional Strategies

August 10
9 AM - 3 PM

SMART Board Basics 2

August 12
9 AM - 12 PM

Working with MCA-II Data

August 17
9 AM - 12 PM
or
1- 4 PM

SMART Board Lesson Activity Toolkit 2.0

August 19
9 AM - 12 PM

SSC Board Meeting

August 25
5:30 - 8 PM

Coming soon!

SSC is pleased to present:

School Leadership in the Digital Age
with Dr. Scott McLeod

Sessions are as follows:
Tuesday, September 14
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Monday, May 16, 2011

Click here for more information.



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8 AM - 4:30 PM

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

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.

	name	phone	email	service area
SSC Staff	Suzanne Riley	(507) 281-6673	sriley@ssc.coop	Executive Director
	Katie Sue Cunningham	(507) 281-6667	kcunningham@ssc.coop	Program Assistant
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	Amy Grover	(507) 281-6693	agrover@ssc.coop	Program and Planning Manager
	Chris Hancock	(507) 281-6671	chancock@ssc.coop	Accounting Assistant
	Heidi Knepper	(507) 281-6669	hknepper@ssc.coop	Director of Planning and General Administration
	Kari Kubicek.....	(507) 281-6668	kkubicek@ssc.coop	Program Coordinator
	Kirsten Kuehl	(507) 281-6670	kkuehl@ssc.coop	Instructional Services Coordinator
	Nicole LaChapelle	(507) 281-6674	nlachapelle@ssc.coop	Communications and Program Assistant
	Jennifer Nelson	(507) 281-6685	jnelson@ssc.coop	School Improvement Coordinator
	Dick Riley	(507) 281-6666	driley@ssc.coop	Program Assistant
	Katie Schmitt	(507) 281-6676	kschmitt@ssc.coop	Cooperative Purchasing Program Assistant
	Diane Schwinghammer	(507) 281-6683	dschwinghammer@ssc.coop	Lead School Improvement Coordinator
	Bob Tweten	(507) 281-6663	btweten@ssc.coop	Health and Safety Consultant
Dale Walston	(507) 281-6675	dwalston@ssc.coop	Director of Operations	
SSC Consultants	SSC Consultants			
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	Lesley Hauser	(507) 281-6684	lhauser@ssc.coop	School Improvement Consultant
	Roger Jones.....	(507) 286-7807	rjoneshr@prodigy.net	Human Resource Mgmt Consultant
	Mike Moriarty.....	(507) 450-2490	moriarty@acegroup.cc	Local Government Services Liaison
	IEA (Institute for Environmental Assessment)			
	Thad Dahling	(507) 281-6680	thadd@ieainstitute.com	Environmental Technician
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