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Principal–Advisor–Leaders Conferences Set for Fall 2011

Before you leave school for the summer, make plans to attend PASC's Principal–Advisor–Leaders (PAL) Conferences this fall. Save \$5 per delegate by getting your registration in by the early-bird deadline of August 1, 2011.

The objective of these conferences is to provide an opportunity for principals, advisors, and student leaders to share ideas, to set goals, and to begin a working relationship for the new school year. The program will provide time for participants to interact as school teams as well as separate opportunities for principals, advisors, and students to meet in "birds-of-feather" breakout sessions.

PAL conference locations are within 120 miles of all PASC member schools, so should be convenient for everyone. PAL Conferences are scheduled for:

- ♦ **Tuesday, September 27** at the Chadwick in Wexford Rt. 19 near turnpike exit 30 and I-79
- ♦ **Wednesday, September 28** at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport

- ♦ **Thursday, September 29** at the Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn at Grantville on I-81, 8 miles west of I-78

Our featured presenter and facilitator will be Ann Postlewaite, who serves as executive director of the Minnesota Association of Student Councils, the Minnesota National Honor Society, and the Minnesota National Junior Honor Society. She was recognized in 2010 with the national Earl Reum Award for her outstanding work training activity advisors.

Please join other schools this fall to experience this nationally recognized leadership program.

■ **Who Attends:** Your school is invited to bring an administrator, advisor(s), and up to four student leaders as a team to this one-day PAL conference. Additional teams from class government organizations or National Honor Society may attend as long as they are also accompanied by an advisor.

■ **Theme:** Leaders Under Construction: Improving Our Blueprints for Building Connections



Ann Postlewaite, director of student leadership for MASSP, will be the featured presenter at this fall's PAL Conferences.

■ **Time:** 8:15 a.m.–9: a.m.
Registration and Continental Breakfast

■ **Program:** 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Will include the following:

- ♦ Opening Keynote Address by Ann Postlewaite, Director of Student Leadership, Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
- ♦ School Team Building Activities
- ♦ "Construction Site Sessions"—small group sessions for administrators, advisors, student leaders
- ♦ Luncheon
- ♦ Blueprint Revision and Final Inspection: School Team Sessions

■ **Cost:** includes a continental breakfast and buffet lunch and conference materials. Register early and save \$5 per person.

- ♦ **Early Bird Postmark Deadline** (with or without names): August 1, \$45 per person
- ♦ **Regular Postmark Deadline:** September 15, \$50 per person.



News & Notes

PASC Seeks Middle School Service Ideas

PASC is seeking details on what middle schools do for service in the school and in the community. Please take a few minutes to go to www.PASC.net and complete an information sheet that details what your middle school does in this area. Email the information to PASCInfo@aol.com by July 1. PASC will use the information to prepare articles for September PASC NEWS and will post additional information at www.pasc.net.

Our goal is to provide a variety of ideas that will help middle school student councils plan service activities in their schools and in their communities during the 2011–2012 school year. Please be as specific with details on each project so that a new school can learn from your experiences. Include the school name, name of contact person and an email address along with the following information:

- Ideas for Service in School: (to fellow students, to faculty, to school staff)
- Ideas for Service in Community: (senior citizens, elementary schools, local organizations, others)
- Unique ways that students give to or help others.

PASC Seeks Homecoming Ideas

PASC is seeking details about what high schools do for Homecoming. Please go to www.PASC.net and complete an information sheet that details what your high school does to celebrate Homecoming. Email the information to PASCInfo@aol.com by July 1. PASC will use the information to prepare articles for September PASC NEWS and will post additional information at www.pasc.net.

Share ideas by providing information on the following items, but do not limit yourself to just those areas. Our goal is to provide traditional ideas as well as unique activities so that schools can incorporate them into their Homecoming of 2011 and beyond. Include the school name, name of contact person and an email address along with the following information:

- Selection of homecoming king/queen and court
- Homecoming ceremony (when is it held, dress for participants, what gifts are court members given, unique aspects of the ceremony)
- Parade
- Carnival or other activities associated with homecoming
- Spirit week activities held during homecoming week
- Community service activities or charity fund raising associated with homecoming
- Dance (semi-formal or casual) special aspects of the homecoming dance
- Additional ideas and suggestions

It's Not Too Late for 2011 Summer Camp Experience with PASC

Although the early-bird registration deadline has passed, it's not too late to register for one of PASC's summer leadership workshops. The deadline to register is June 10th though, so time is running out!

The application, Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) sheet, sample daily schedule, and curriculum benchmarks for this summer's camps can now be found on the PASC website.

Please note the following dates and locations and begin planning now for students to attend in July.

Blue (Grades 7–9)

• Grove City College	July 17–21	\$360
• Lebanon Valley College	July 24–28	\$360

Gold (Grades 9–12)

Grove City College	July 10–15	\$385
Susquehanna University	July 24–29	\$385

Advanced Gold (Grades 11–12)

University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown,	July 17–23	\$470
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Multi-Delegate Discount Created

In an effort to support schools that send more than three delegates to the Summer Leadership Programs, PASC has created a multi-delegate discount for 2011.

- The discount is \$10 per delegate and applies to both early bird and regular registration deadlines.
- The four delegates from the same school can combine and attend any of the five PASC Workshop programs.
- Multiple delegates from the same school can come from more than one organization in the school (ie: Student Council, Class Government, National Honor Society)



Share Your Successful Ideas

Does your council have a project or activity that was particularly successful last year? Write up a short description and send it with photos to PASCInfo@aol.com and you could find yourself featured in an upcoming issue of PASC News!

Book Hotel Now for State Conference in Altoona

Articles in previous issues of PASC News have complete details, but as a reminder, here are the basic facts about the upcoming state conference.

■ **Dates:** November 10–12, 2011

■ **Cost:** \$110 per student and advisor delegate

■ **Early Bird Registration**

Deadline: May 1 to August 1 (Guarantees 6 student delegates)

■ **Regular Registration Deadline:** August 2 to October (4 delegates)

■ **Housing:** Student delegates in host homes; school option to house delegates in hotels (with

advisor transportation and some meals)

■ **Hotels for Advisors:** See conference website for list of hotels and **book now** because there is a home Penn State football game that weekend.

■ **Schedule:** Detailed schedule for students and advisors now on the website

■ **Speakers:** See background information on the website for Mark Scharenbroich, Mark Brown, and Mike Smith

■ **Entertainment:**

♦ Thursday Night, Beatlemania Concert/Dance

♦ Friday Night, Banquet at the Blair County Convention

Center

♦ Separate High School and Middle Level Dances

♦ Advisor Reception at the Ramada Inn

■ **Seeking Student-Led Workshops:** Student delegates will be able to select three workshops conducted by peers. Applications for Workshop Presenters now on the website. See details in article below.

■ **Seeking Advisor Roundtable Presenters:** Advisors will attend four 10–12 minute roundtable presentations following Friday morning's free Advisor Breakfast at the Ramada Inn. Volunteers needed



to share a successful project/activity or best practice with your fellow advisors. Contact Kathy Coll to volunteer at kcoll1@comcast.net. We need your new ideas!

■ **Questions:** Direct email on the website or call 814-946-8254 or fax 814-505-1505.

Everything You Want to Know about the PASC Conference Is Now at WWW.PASC75.COM

Workshop Presenter Applications Due by August 8

A major part of the annual PASC state conference is the student workshops. They are designed to teach valuable lessons, to present refreshing ideas, and to provide an amazing experience to the delegates in attendance.

Invitees to this year's state conference at the Altoona Area High School are encouraged to submit ideas for workshops that they would be willing to present at the conference. These workshops will be presented three times on Friday November 11, 2011, and each presentation must be 45 minutes in length. Workshops can include high school and/or middle school material. When creating these workshops, students should strive to present original and creative topics. It is also encouraged that the workshops cover a wide variety of topics. Workshops will be chosen based on the applicability and originality of the content. Presenters should have a positive attitude that engages students and holds their interest.

Letters have been sent to prospective schools that include

the workshop presenter application form, a workshop template, an example of the rubric, and tips. An example of how to complete your template will be posted on the conference website, www.PASC75.org. Interested presenters will need to submit their application form, their template, and a copy of the packet that all of the attendees will receive. All workshop applications must be submitted by August 8. Remember your application will need the signature of your advisor, so make sure you plan ahead before the end of this school year.

So, begin brainstorming topics that will make for very valuable workshops and that will leave delegates with an experience that they will never forget. Unfortunately, not all workshops will be selected, so submit your very best work. However, we will need many workshop submissions for middle school workshops as well as high school workshops. *Workshop applications must be submitted by August 8, so make sure that you get yours in!*

Deadline for submission of applications to present workshops is August 8, 2011.

Workshop presenters will be notified of their acceptance by August 18, 2011.

Show what you know! Present a workshop at states.

Applications Available Now for 2012 Workshop Director Position

Jim Finnemeyer has announced that he will be retiring as the director of the PASC Grove City Gold Summer Leadership Workshop at the conclusion of the summer program in 2011.

Jim began his career as a PASC Workshop Director at Kutztown University in 1976. Along with his wife, Barrie, they have been involved with PASC workshops for the past 36 years. Their combined careers on staff have taken them to workshops at Bloomsburg University, Eastern College, Lebanon Valley College, Penn State-Berks campus, and the University of Scranton in addition to Kutztown University and Grove City College. In addition to the Gold Workshop programs, Jim and Barrie began the Advanced Gold Workshop program in 1984 at the Scotland School near Chambersburg. Jim also co-directed student workshops for NASC from 1975–1981 as well as national advisor workshops in the mid-1980s.

In communicating recently with his fellow PASC workshop directors and teaching staff members, Jim noted that “much has changed over the past 36 years and yet our mission to provide a quality

leadership education experience in a fun atmosphere with an experiential approach has never changed. I have enjoyed the past 35 years working at PASC Gold Workshops and look forward to this summer’s program at Grove City College as well.”

PASC has a policy that when any leadership position within the organization becomes vacant, the vacancy must be advertised to the member advisors and, in the case of workshops, to the teaching staffs of the PASC workshop program. The following process will be used to fill the Grove City Gold director vacancy for 2012:

A Workshop Director Job Description and an application are available by emailing PAS-CInfo@aol.com or kcoll1@comcast.net.

Please do not hesitate to call upon Jim if you have any questions specifically about the details of directing a Gold workshop. Please also consider the director of the other Gold Workshop (at Susquehanna University), Andy Costanzo, as another excellent resource. He can be contacted at costanab@interborosd.org.

The application for Workshop Director can be submitted by

an individual, or by two individuals as co-directors, or by two individuals as director and assistant director.

A resume from each candidate should be sent by July 1, 2011 to PASC Assistant Executive Director Kathy Coll at 174 Link Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15237 by July 1, 2011. The application and resume(s) should be mailed together. Any questions about the application process should be directed to Kathy at kcoll1@comcast.net or call 412-366-5744 or 412-445-4193.

Under Kathy Coll’s direction, the Summer Workshop Committee will conduct interviews of candidates in Pittsburgh on Friday, August 5, 2011 during the PASC August Executive Board meeting. Applicants will be provided details regarding the interview process by July 10.

As PASC Executive Director, Jim will be available to help the new Grove City Gold director(s), as will the other PASC workshop directors, in preparing for the 2012 summer workshop programs.

PASC encourages those adults with workshop experience within or outside of PASC to see this as another opportunity to serve the PASC organization and the students of our member schools. Potential applicants are invited to visit the Grove City College campus during the Gold Workshop this summer between July 10–15 to see the present program in operation.

PASC NEWS

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Report from the 300th Meeting of the State Board of Education

By Shannon Sullivan

Last November, President Obama announced his appointment of our State Board Chairman, Joseph M. Torsella, as an Ambassador to the United Nations. Mr. Torsella was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate and had to step down as Chairman of the Board. Governor Corbett has asked Larry Wittig to lead the Board's work going forward. Mr. Wittig has been a key leader over the past two decades in establishing Pennsylvania's system of standards-based reform. He was serving his second term as a member on the State Board of Basic Education prior to his appointment as Chairman.

The 300th meeting of the State Board of Education convened in Lancaster, Pennsylvania at the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. Our new junior student member, Erin Agnew, attended as an observer and will officially begin her term in July. The meeting began with a presentation on the College Access Challenge

Grant. The purpose of the grant is to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments to support low-income students in entering and succeeding in postsecondary education. Pennsylvania has been awarded the grant for the past three years; this year we were awarded \$4.1 million in grant money.

Two students who participated in programs funded by the grant spoke at the meeting. Through a credit recovery program, they were able to attend small, individualized summer classes to gain the credits they needed to graduate. The students said the program lifted their esteem and gave them the motivation to succeed. They are now on track to graduate; they felt they could not have done it without the support of the College Access Grant.

Following the presentation, Deputy Secretary Dr. Dumarsq reported on the progress of the Pennsylvania School Accountability Standards Report Card System. The system will

measure the quality of schools by monitoring student achievement, school safety and climate, and schools' fiscal responsibilities. The grading system will be publicized on the Department of Education's website—the rollout of the plan is expected by December 2011.

Dr. Dumarsq also reported on the recently administered Keystone Exams, which 180,000 students took in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature. In addition, Algebra II, Geometry and English Composition exams were field-tested. The department is currently working on issues associated with the keystones. There have been issues surrounding the exam accounting for on-third of the final course grade. The state is currently working to resolve these issues.

The Board passed five action items at the meeting: a resolution regarding alternative certification programs, the authorization to utilize \$12,500 from the State School Fund to support Pennsylvania's school



Shannon Sullivan, Junior SBE Student Member

libraries, and resolutions honoring former board members Joseph Torsella, Andy Youstic, and Travis Gilbert. During the upcoming months, the Board expects to encounter large obligations including the next round of Race to the Top.

Our next meeting is July 19–20 in Harrisburg. Please feel free to contact me with your input on any educational issue or concern. My email is SSullivan1993@gmail.com.

PASC Dues Are Due!

Have you mailed in your 2011–2012 dues? The State Association uses \$60 of each member's dues to support PASC programs, while returning \$15 to one of our 12 district associations to support their work with local student council programs and initiatives. Be sure to update all information on the invoice and return it with \$60 payment from your school *by the end of the school year* to Membership Coordinator Carole Kustafik. Your membership certificate, password to register for the state conference, and additional PASC information will be mailed to you in late August.

Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated!

Pass on the PASC Spirit with a Leadership Retreat

Sending student leaders to PASC Summer Workshops is a great way to train and inspire them. They gain new ideas, get to know each other better, and come back ready to hit the ground running in the new school year. How can you extend this great experience to the rest of the members of your student council? One of the ways to do that is to organize a leadership retreat.

A retreat offers a relaxed setting in which more experienced members—those who went to PASC camp and recent graduates—can take the lead in teaching new or younger members what it takes to build a successful organization.

Questions to Ask

If you're ready to try your hand at organizing a leadership retreat, use the following questions to guide your planning.

■ What is our purpose in conducting this retreat?

Determining what you want to accomplish with the retreat is a critical step, for it will influence the rest of the planning. Are there specific skills you want to teach, or will you focus on teambuilding or planning for the year ahead? Some groups use this time to set goals for the year, develop the yearly calendar of projects, and allow student leaders time to work in committees.

■ What format will best meet our needs?

After determining the objectives of the retreat, consider the various formats that will best accomplish your goals. Some common types of retreats include overnight lock-ins, one-day retreats at an off-

campus site, half-day retreats somewhere on school grounds, weekend retreats at a retreat center or youth campsite. If you've never done something like this before, it might be best to start out with something that is easily managed.

■ Where will we hold the retreat?

Consider how many students will be participating, cost, size of available rooms and number needed for the group size, and ability of the host to furnish items needed such as blackboards, projectors, screens, etc. Consider school, a community building, a church facility, a retreat center, or a state park group campsite.

■ What activities should we include?

The activities you plan will be a direct reflection of the purposes of the camp. Workshops can be presented on such topics as goal setting, how to run a meeting, communication techniques, effective publicity, project planning, and so forth.

A common approach is to combine workshops with tasks that need to be done for the new school year. For example, as you teach students about project planning, have them brainstorm ideas and plans for an upcoming event such as Homecoming. Or, teach students about the elements of effective publicity, then have them create posters, announcements, or commercials for the first week of school or your first event.

Types of activities to consider including in your camp session are:

♦ Icebreakers

- ♦ Experiential leadership lessons
- ♦ Brainstorming sessions
- ♦ Calendar planning
- ♦ Workshops
- ♦ Idea exchanges
- ♦ Teambuilding and social activities
- ♦ Group/officer meeting and planning times

■ How will we pay for all of this?

Some schools charge students a nominal fee for participation; others split the cost with stu-

dents; still others pay the whole tab. Consider asking local businesses or civic organizations to help defray the expense with monetary or in-kind donations.

■ Is it worth it?

While planning and coordinating all the details for your own leadership training experience is a big job, in the end you'll have a better trained, more cohesive group of student leaders, and that will make all the work worthwhile.

Leadership Retreat Planning Checklist

- Form the committee/select the chairperson
- Define objectives, goals, and a theme (if desired)
- Develop the schedule
 - Set the date and times for activities
 - Determine the length: beginning/ending times
 - Plan activities to achieve goals
 - Determine recreation, entertainment desired
 - Plan meals, snacks
- Invite people to serve as facilitators and presenters
- Develop a budget and determine how you will pay expenses
- Prepare materials
 - Information, pre-registration letters, applications
 - Handouts
 - Theme materials
 - Name tags, place cards, meal tickets, etc.
 - Printed agenda for participants
 - Packets for participants with all necessary information
- Send letters of invitation/registration to participants with permission forms
- Collect equipment and supplies needed for activities: Projectors, screens, cords, copy machine, chart paper, microphone, computers, tables, notebooks, folders, printed materials, markers, pencils, food/snacks, etc.
- Organize food, snacks, and drinks and a schedule of servers
- Arrange transportation
- Organize clean up
- Create an evaluation form for feedback from participants
- Send thank-you letters to all involved
- File project evaluations & copies of everything for next year's organizers