



Northwest Missouri School Counselors Association

Counselors Helping Counselors

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

▶ New Counselor Mentoring - Pg. 2

▶ Critical Incident Training - Pg. 2

▶ Technology Update - Pg. 2

▶ Scholarship Opportunities - Pg. 3

▶ Human Rights Campaign - Pg. 4

▶ My Success Event - Pg. 4

September 2017



Presidential Perspective

Dee Anna Kelley
NWMSCA President

Fearless

Is this a word that you would use to describe yourself as a school counselor? If not, I wonder why. Why is that natural helpers like school counselor folk find it difficult to shine the spotlight on our professional selves? I know I have said things like, "I wish I could've done more" or "I am doing the best I can with what I have" and the ever popular 'if only'. How many of us have said or thought the following: "If only I had more time... If only I had more resources... If only the system wasn't so broken... If only my students had better parental support... If only they understood my role as school counselor (and take away testing, 504's, etc..) then I could really make a difference"? As an over 40 chick who has been around the school counselor world for a while, I can honestly say the IF ONLY's will deplete you - *if you let them.*

It is so easy at times to think and worry about all the things that are against us as school counselors.

— Continued on Page 2 —

Fall Meeting Speaker

by Erin Hunter, President-Elect

Dr. Jackie Kibler will be our featured speaker for this year's Fall Meeting. Dr. Kibler started with NWMSU in 2001 and has been a professor to several of us in the NWMSCA. She received her B. S., in Psychology from Missouri State University, Ed.S., School Psychology, and Ph. D., School Psychology from the University of Kansas. She will be sharing her knowledge about Suicide Prevention.

SAVE THE DATE!

The NWMSCA Fall Meeting will be Friday, October 6 in Maryville at Northwest Missouri State University J.W Jones Student Union, 3rd floor Ballroom

This is a great networking opportunity and a chance to connect with other school counselors in Northwest Missouri. Come find out why we are "The Great Northwest"!

The link to RSVP is www.nwmsca.org/rsvp-for-fall-meeting.html



The Promotions Committee will be selling shirts at the fall meeting. Order yours at the fall meeting to have in time for MSA Fall Conference!

Perspective . . .

— Continued from Page 1 —

So much so, we often lose sight of all the things that we are doing DESPITE the IF ONLY's! The truth is, many of us do our jobs without a lot of things that would make us more effective in one way or another. That in itself should be celebrated! School counselors are known to walk beside students in messy terrain and create a path for success, no matter how big or small. Whether you're up against a tough family, the division of children services, a student whose lost hope or has checked out- we still do our very best to help kids. That my friends is why we are fearless school counselors.

I am a big fan of country music and I love me some Chris Stapleton.

As I was driving through the country in my jeep with my long shiny auburn hair blowing in the wind – ok not really – it was more like me driving on I-29 in my Toyota with my short brownish-gray hair barely moving, but you get the drift; Chris Stapleton's song, *Fire Away*, came on and gave me some much needed inspiration. The lyrics, 'Take your best shot- Show me what you got- Honey I am not afraid', made me realize a few things. 1. Chris Stapleton can sing! 2. We can't be afraid to take our best shot at being fearless school counselors! 3. Show- me?? Heck yes! We are school counselors who work in the Show-Me state for crying out loud! Missouri is home to Norm Gysbers, the man who invented the comprehensive school counseling program! It is Missouri where our students never have to walk a path alone despite the type of terrain they face. Specifically, Northwest Missouri is home to school counselors who are indeed fearless!

It is my hope this year that each of us learn to be OK with shining a spotlight on our chosen profession and all we are capable of doing. I want us to never forget that advocating for our program is the best way we can help our students. We need to start showing others with pride all we can do, how we do it and why we do it. Now is the time to take our best shot, show others what we got and not be afraid to do so.

Here's to a fabulous, fearless year!



New Counselor Mentoring

The mentoring program is no longer facilitated at the NWMSCA district level. The program will be facilitated through DESE.

Please send all inquiries to Loree Libbert (Loree.Libbert@dese.mo.gov) Thanks for your expertise and professionalism throughout the years!

Michele and Lori

Critical Incident Training

We are pleased to announce that there will be a crisis response training immediately following lunch during the NWMSCA Fall Meeting. Dr. Shelly Hiatt and Dr. Jacqueline Kibler will be facilitating the event. Please R.S.V.P. to Lori Snead lsnead@wnrockets.com or Michele Veasey mveasey@nwmissouri.edu

Technology Update

by Lani Clayton, Technology Chair

Updates for this year are being completed. All schools in the region are listed on the NWMSCA website but many of the links go to the main school page instead of the counselor information. If anyone has a specific counselor website for their school that is not posted, please email the link via the contact information on the NWMSCA webpage.

Assistance is needed in updating the historical information related to NWMSCA on the webpage. The last informational update was in February 2000. Submit knowledge of specific recognitions (regional, state, national), accomplishments, etc. of NWMSCA members since 2000 via the NWMSCA website at www.nwmsca.org.

Scholarship Opportunities!!

by Lori Cole, Scholarship Chair

MSCA Fall Conference Scholarship

The Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association (NWMSCA) MSCA Fall Conference Scholarship is awarded to a full-time school counselor. NWMSCA seeks to assist counselors in their professional development goals by providing financial assistance to a full-time school counselor so they may attend the fall conference. NWMSCA will award a **\$100** scholarship to one lucky counselor employed by a school district in the geographic area served by NWMSCA.

Requirements include:

- Complete the scholarship application form and submit to the NWMSCA Governing Board's Scholarship Chairperson on or before **September 20**. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.
- Be employed as a full-time school counselor.
- Provide a statement explaining your desire to attend the MSCA Fall Conference and what the applicant hopes to attain from attending.

The application form and Scholarship Chairperson contact information can be found on NWMSCA's website (www.NWMSCA.org) under "Applications/Forms."

The winner will be announced at our fall NWMSCA meeting!

Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association Scholarship

This **\$300** scholarship is awarded to a graduate student who is seeking completion of a certification in school guidance and counseling. You can help us by advertising this scholarship to eligible applicants. If you know someone who is taking graduate classes toward a school guidance and counseling degree, please show them this article or tell them about our website! NWMSCA wants to encourage and provide support for qualified students who are pursuing a school guidance and counseling degree.

Requirements include:

- Complete the scholarship application form and submit it to the Scholarship Chairperson no later than **February 1**.
- Current transcript with at least a 3.0 GPA and a minimum of 12 graduate course hours.
- List of remaining coursework needed to complete your school guidance counseling certificate.
- A letter of recommendation from a supervisor who can elaborate on the candidate's guidance and counseling potential.

The application, as well as the Scholarship Chairperson contact information, can be found on NWMSCA's website (www.NWMSCA.org). Perhaps you have someone in mind who would qualify for this scholarship. If so, don't delay! Let them know about it today!!

This newsletter sponsored by:

*NORTHWEST
MISSOURI
STATE UNIVERSITY*
Maryville, Missouri

Send newsletter submissions to:



Editor Kim Schank
Central High School
2602 Edmond Street
St. Joseph, MO 64501
(816) 671-4080
kim.schank@sjsd.k12.mo.us



2017 Human Rights Campaign – Children's Mercy Hospital

by Ashlee James, Human Rights Co-Chair

This year's Human Rights Campaign is the Children's Mercy Family Support Fund. Donations from counselors at our annual fall meeting will be collected and sent to this fund. With an annual budget of \$40,000 the Family Support Fund is reducing barriers to pediatric health care by providing basic needs and services for Children's Mercy Patients and caregivers including transportation, food, medicines, therapies and medical equipment. The funds are managed through the Department of Social Work. This fund supplements the efforts of Children's Mercy social workers who provide comprehensive services to children and families. The Family Support Fund is essential to the health and well-being of sick and injured children and their caregivers. This is especially true for families who cannot afford their child's medicines for daily living or for those without gas money who need to get to the hospital each day to be with their child. In each case, the Family Support Fund offers crucial assistance that families simply cannot manage without.

NEW AT MSCA FALL CONFERENCE!

Monday night at the MSCA Conference will be the Annual Service Project Night. This year counselors will have the opportunity to participate by making fleece tie blankets that will be donated to Children's Mercy Hospital. You will learn more about how you can donate money, fleece, or help make the blankets at the fall NWMSCA meeting at Northwest Missouri State University on October 6. MSCA is encouraging each region to help in some way. In addition, there will be several fundraising opportunities at conference to benefit Children's Mercy.

My Success Event

by Megan McCamy, Career Counseling Chair

Mark your calendars for the My Success Event, which is coming up soon! It will take place on October 18-19 at Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Missouri. The event is coordinated annually by the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce and 2017 is the 11th year for My Success. Approximately 2500 high school sophomores from 50 northwest Missouri high schools will have the opportunity to experience the event. There are volunteers from about 70 area businesses and 15 colleges/universities represented each year.

Students are expected to complete an assessment (via the Missouri Connections website) ahead of time that will help them determine a career pathway to explore while at the event. They are also encouraged to visit at least one other pathway and speak with business representatives within that pathway. There are six pathways, typically designated by color, for students to explore:

- Arts and Communication (creative path - purple)
- Business, Management and Technology (business path - blue)
- Health Services (health path - red)
- Human Services (helping path - yellow)
- Industrial and Engineering Technology (building and fixing path - orange)
- Natural Resources Agriculture (nature path - green)

Students receive tickets for speaking to and asking questions of business and college representatives throughout their day. Random tickets are drawn for prizes at the end of each day during a wrap-up session. In the past, there was a grand prize given away each day, in addition to some smaller prizes. In 2016, the grand prizes were a laptop and a \$100 gift card.

For more information, please visit <http://themysucsessevent.com/>. You may also contact Mary Brown, Programs Coordinator at the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce at 816-364-4102 or via email at brown@saintjoseph.com. Allyson Graham, College and Career Advisor at Benton High School, is the co-chair of this event and can be contacted also 816-671-4030 or via email at allyson.graham@sjsd.k12.mo.us.

MSCA Fall Conference Preview

by Kim Schank, Newsletter Editor

The MSCA Fall Conference will be November 5-7, 2017 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO. Hopefully you have been receiving emails from MSCA on how to renew your membership, register for the conference, and a preview of the breakout sessions. As always, this promises to be an excellent professional development and networking opportunity for school counselors.

A few highlights for the upcoming conference:

- Re-formatted Saturday Institute – attendees will be able to choose from two workshops
- Keynote speakers Aric Bostick and John O’Leary
- Annual Project – this year’s annual project is the Children’s Mercy Hospital Family Support Fund. New to the conference will be a service project activity on Monday evening.
- Voting for the MSCA Board of Directors
- Excellent breakout sessions – find a description of the breakout sessions at <http://moschoolcounselor.org/files/2016/10/2017-Workshop-Descriptions-1.pdf>.

Don’t forget – to receive the early bird discount you must have your membership dues and registration fee paid by **Monday, October 2!** Renew your membership and register for the conference online at <http://moschoolcounselor.org/2017-fall-conference/>. Paper applications are available as well.

Join or Renew your NWMSCA Membership

by Kelsi Meyer, Membership Chair

Now is the time to renew your Northwest Missouri State School Counselor Association (NWMSCA) membership. Don’t miss out on all of the awesome resources, meetings and networking opportunities available to you through the NWMSCA. In the Northwest Region, we are lucky to have one of the largest and strongest member networks. Last year we had close to 150 members, and now is the time to renew your membership for this year. You can conveniently renew your membership online after you renew your MSCA (Missouri School Counselor Association) membership at www.MOSchoolCounselor.org. You can still mail in a paper copy if you prefer to Kelsi Meyer at 2602 Edmond St., St. Joseph, MO 64501. Feel free to contact Kelsi at 816-671-4080 or Kelsi.meyer@sjsd.k12.mo.us if you have any questions. Looking forward to another year of growing and learning together.

– The Membership Form can be found on the following page. –



Be **involved**
Be **successful**
Be a **Bearcat**

NORTHWEST
Missouri State University

nwmissouri.edu

Northwest Missouri School Counselor Association
2017-2018 Membership Form
(July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____

School District Name (or Agency): _____

School Building Name: _____

School Building Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

School Building Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Position: ___ Counselor ___ Counselor Educator ___ Administrator ___ Student ___ Other
Level: ___ Elementary ___ Middle/Jr. Hi ___ Secondary ___ Multi-Level ___ Post Secondary ___ Other
Membership Status: ___ Renewal from 2016-2017 ___ New Membership

Check the correct membership category/payment

_____**Professional (\$20)** Full time employee engaged in school guidance work or in the training, preparation, or supervision of counselors for at least 50 percent of the time; and is fully certified as a professional school counselor by the Missouri DESE as having attained the specific requirements for the guidance position they hold.

_____**Regular \$20** Employed in school guidance work or in the training, preparation, or supervision of counselors and has at least 50 percent of their time devoted to these activities; and is fully certified as a professional school counselor by the Missouri DESE, but not currently employed as a school counselor.

_____**Student (\$ 10.00)** Students who are in training and preparation for guidance work, but not currently employed as a professional school counselor. Students shall be eligible for student membership upon presenting a statement from their major advisor.

_____**Emeritus (No Dues)** Persons who are retired and have held membership in NWMSCA for 10 years prior to retirement. Members must make application annually for Emeritus Membership

Make checks payable to **NWMSCA.**

Return form/dues to: **Kelsi Meyer 2602 Edmond St. St. Joseph, MO 64501**
Or bring to NWMSCA Fall District Meeting

If you would like to donate to the annual project please mark below.

_____ I have included a donation to the conference project this year in the amount of _____.

****New last year: Members can join at www.moschoolcounselor.org in place of using the paper form. Must renew MSCA membership, then can select to pay Region Dues. Select Northwest Region Dues.**

COMPLETE COUPON == DO NOT DETACH COMPLETE COUPON == DO NOT DETACH

Membership Coupon

Mailing this coupon / membership form / dues to the membership chair prior to the September NWMSCA meeting makes the member eligible for the chance to receive FREE 2017-2018 NWMSCA dues.

COUPONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DISTRICT MEETING!

Name _____