**South Dakota School Counselors Association**

**Mini-newsletter #2 October 21, 2009**

1. I extend greetings to the SDSCA from the Nebraska School Counselors Association…our neighbors to the south! I was a guest and presenter for their NSCA annual conference in Lincoln, October 15th and 16th. Their conference with over 300 registrations was held on the campus of Union College. They were impressed when I told them that South Dakota counselors now identify themselves as professional school counselors instead of guidance counselors. It was great being in the middle of their energy and enthusiasm…much like our SDSCA conference.
2. There has been some discussion lately that SDSCA should consider changing our award system. SDSCA might be presenting too many awards. If you have any thoughts or suggestions about this issue, please express them to Jill Stephenson, president elect of SDSCA, or to me before Saturday, October 24, which is the date of our next SDSCA board meeting in Chamberlain.
3. If you should have issues that the board needs to address, please let me know before Saturday, October 24th, when we meet in Chamberlain at Cedar Shores. Any SDSCA member is welcome to attend any of the board meetings!!
4. Please continue to encourage your colleagues to join SDSCA, SDCA and even ASCA.

It would be great if all South Dakota professional school counselors were under ASCA’s code of ethics and ASCA’s liability insurance. Being a professional means joining and participating in our professional organizations.

1. In the next few mini-newsletters I will be briefly introducing the members of the SDSCA Board:

**Jill Stephenson is President-elect.** Jill is a 9-12 professional school counselor at Aberdeen Central. She and husband, Jim, have two daughters, Jenny and Lauren. When she has spare time, she likes to read, golf, bike and walk. Sounds as if she is into wellness and a model for us to follow!!

**Stacy Solsaa is past-President.** Stacy is a K-12 professional school counselor in Castlewood. She and husband, Eric, have two children Skyler and Shae. She likes to spend time with family and is into scrapbooking. She is busy planning the fall SDSCA workshop in Pierre November 12 and 13. Let’s all attend.

1. I have also attached a best practice’s item compliments of Kim Goebel. It is a great letter that could be sent to parents at the beginning of the year!!

Have a great week-end….john, president, SDSCA