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FALL 2009

Character Counts 2010 Convention CASL at NASC

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LEARNING, LEADING ZEIVING



Learning, Leading, Living

With their emphasis on responsible leadership and service, CADA and CASL have always been character builders. But a newly cemented partnership with Josephson Institute and its CHARACTER COUNTS! project makes it official.

CADA and CASL are now members of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a nationwide alliance of nearly 1,000 schools, organizations, and communities that together reach millions of young people. Members focus on developing core values known as the "Six Pillars of Character": trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

"After hearing the enthusiastic response of CADA members who attended a CHARACTER COUNTS! training," recalls CADA/CASL executive director Glenn Zimmermann, "I knew right away that our two organizations were a great fit."

How does CHARACTER COUNTS! work?

One way or another, young people pick up the values that constitute their character. Will they learn selfdestructive and negative behavior from values conveyed haphazardly? Or will they develop good qualities that are reinforced deliberately by adults and peers? CHARACTER COUNTS! provides the latter.

CHARACTER COUNTS! is not a curriculum, but rather a framework for sustainable character development. It's not a set of lessons; it's the environment.

By learning about and discussing the Six Pillars — in classrooms, locker rooms, and living rooms — students get a consistent message about what truly matters. They also see other people getting it.

A serious body of evidence — academic studies, disciplinary records, and first-person reports from teachers, coaches, and parents — shows that CHARACTER COUNTS! greatly improves attitudes and behavior.

How can you get involved?

First step: get trained. You could arrange for a oneday workshop to come to your school. Or attend an intensive three-day Character Development Seminar, which prepares you to return home and train colleagues — who in turn train others. Both options give you the tools to bring about a culture shift in your school and community. Coaches and athletic directors can attend a special course called "Pursuing Victory With Honor" that helps them build character through sports.

The CHARACTER COUNTS! national office (at the Los Angeles-based Josephson Institute) supports all graduates with follow-up consultation. It also makes available (to anyone) a multitude of free resources at CharacterCounts.org, plus a large catalog of materials for sale.

CHARACTER COUNTS! is ready to help. It is the most successful and by far the biggest character education program in the country. But it's not the most successful because it's the biggest. It's the biggest because it's the most successful.



Online Character Connections



The Josephson Institute continually posts helpful information and resources on its websites. Check these out:

MyLife 24-7 — It's the Institute's latest project, an online movement that inspires and empowers teens to build a better world — and helps them improve themselves (and have a little fun) along the way. The program, which supports student leadership, is still in its infancy, so the timing of the partnership with CADA/CASL is serendipitous. MyLife 24-7 offers contests for teens, student blogs, videos, music, and lots more. Learn how you can get involved at MyLife24-7.órg.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Week — The annual celebration of character takes place October 18-24. Visit CharacterCounts.org for all the free resources you need to bring it to your town.

Training seminars for character-building adults - See the schedule and learn more at CharacterCounts.org/CDS or JosephsonInstitute.org/sports.

Lesson plans and activity ideas — Search by age group, subject, and by the Six Pillars of Character.

Daily commentary — Read and respond to blog postings from the CHARACTER COUNTS! founder.

Newsletters — Sign up and stay in the loop.

CharacterCounts.org/store — Shop for books, curricula, multimedia, and more.





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438-8587 www.getultrasound.com Learning, Leading, Living

CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF NEW ORLEANS 47TH ANNUAL CADA STATE CONVENTION

Several years ago, my school district decided the best way to kick off our school year was by having a futurist speak to teachers the day before classes began. The futurist, let's call him "George Jetson," gazed out upon his audience and announced that pretty much everything we taught our students would be obsolete by the time they got into college.

This was not welcome news. But he backed that claim up with this. By the time they graduated from college, that education would also be superseded. He went on to say that the only lasting skills our students could learn would be:

- How to be a successful member of a team
- How to get along with other people and work
- with many different personalities
- How to break a large task down into smaller parts
- How to manage time

140

- How to think creatively
- How to implement a plan
- How to gain support from others

These were the skills needed to succeed in jobs, George told us. They were the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. I started taking notes. As I sat and listened to George discuss the future world our students would need to be prepared for and the necessary skills involved, I realized he was actually speaking to the activities directors in the crowd. OK, he was speaking to me and two other people. We're a two-high school, one-middle school district. I knew that I was truly one of three teachers there that actually taught the curriculum he was describing. I was thrilled, I started the year off by telling my students about the talk, and they were excited. We always felt our program was justified and valuable, but this was just a little something more...this was the feeling I craved, the same feeling I took away from CADA conventions. And here I was, only six short months away from the CADA Convention...

For 21 years I've counted on the CADA Convention in March to revive my spirit, to re-energize me, to inspire me to continue to do one of the most rewarding and also one of the most exhausting jobs on the planet. And CADA has never let me down. I have always left CADA renewed and as an added bonus I've always gained skills and brought programs and activities back to my school that have changed the culture and more importantly changed lives. Every 15 Minutes, Link Crew and the Jostens Renaissance program are a few of the school/life changing ideas I took away from CADA.

by **Cindy Bader**, CADA President-Elect

As I write this I am ending the school year and I know, with every frazzled nerve in my body, that my tenure as an activities director would have been very short indeed were it not for CADA. Loving what you do isn't always easy, having the skills and energy to carry you can be even harder. That's where CADA comes in.

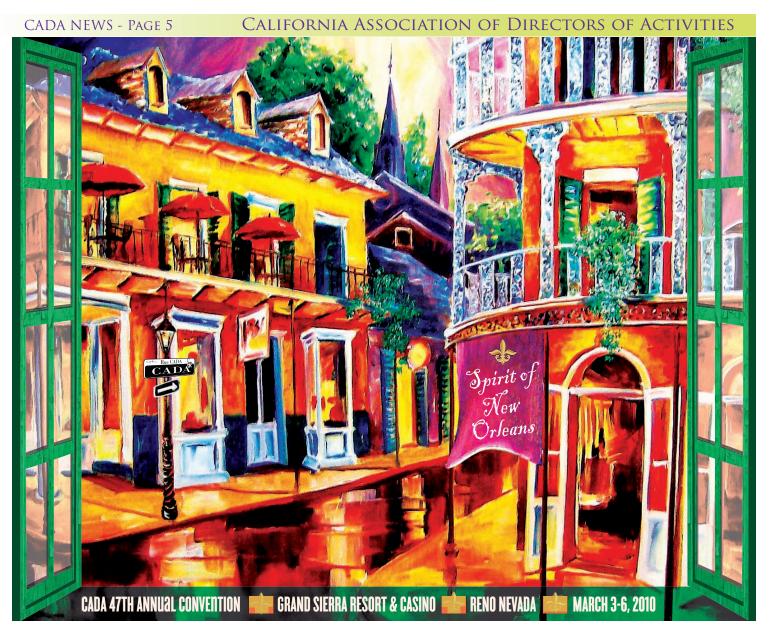
Besides the CADA Convention, there is another place I have consistently gone for rejuvenation. New Orleans. Like CADA, it feels like home, people are friendly, and upon arrival I enter an instant place of happiness. Like CADA, every minute of every day is jam-packed with excitement. Like CADA, it inspires me to see the world differently, to explore, and to reach out. And like CADA, I leave, vowing to come back again next year.

People who have never been to New Orleans may not understand what it is I get from going there. They think it's nothing but frolicsome fun. And it's fun, but it's so much more than that. People who have never been to a CADA Convention can't understand what is gained from attending one. They think it's a frivolous expense. And it is an expense, but it's in no way frivolous.

For 21 years I have planned for this moment in my career; going through the chairs and serving on the CADA Board as President. And for the same number of years I have mentally planned my convention. So you could say that 21 years of planning have gone into this convention, "The Spirit of New Orleans." Because of this I can make you some promises. You can count on the 2010 CADA Convention to teach you, to help you dream big and to give you skills to realize your visions. Count on the convention to give you what you need to make it through the year and into the next with the kind of attitude and mind-set you must have. Especially now, in this climate of greater challenges in education, The Spirit of New Orleans is not just something that "would be nice." Rather it is required, it's mandatory.

The Futurist George Jetson taught me that time doesn't stand still for anyone. He taught me that it is our job to continue to move forward to brave the constant tests we face as educators. Let CADA assist you in this arduous task. We owe it to our students to come to CADA 2010. We owe it to our schools to be at the Spirit of New Orleans. But mostly we owe it to ourselves to be there.

California Association of Directors of Activities		Register for the 2010 CADA
Join CADA Area Information State Convention	Home + State Convention + Registration Registration	Convention online
Registration Exhibitor Information Apply to Present	Registration Forms	at cadal.org
Schedule		



How to Finance the CADA Convention

- Associated Student Body Funds can legally pay for your registration, hotel, travel and substitute. Training the activities director is a legitimate cost of doing business.
- School site and district budgets can also pay for CADA.
- Tobacco Use Prevention Education Program (TUPE)
- Title IV (Drug Free Schools)
- School Improvement Funds (SIP)
- Title 1 (under the category of Safe and Orderly Environment)
- Title V (Innovated Programs)
- Pupil Retention Block Grant
- Staff Development Monies
- Some districts may have carry-over funds in their Discretionary Block Grant that was awarded in late 2006-07 school year
- Stimulus funds approved for professional development
- If none of the above work, consider paying for the convention out of your own pocket and use it as a tax write-off

2010 CADA Convention: a Head-to-Head Conference Comparison

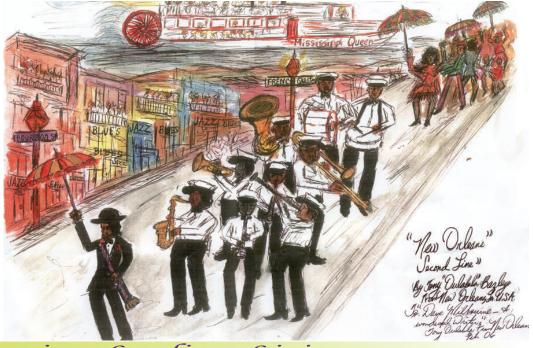
Money is always a big consideration when choosing where to spend your conference dollars, especially in our current economic situation. Now more than ever, school boards and administrators want to know that time and money are well spent when educators attend conferences. In light of this, consider the following value comparison.

Feature compared	CADA held in March 2010 in Reno	Conference X held this May in Las Vegas	Potential benefit of CADA over Conference X	
Location	out-of-state	out-of-state	no difference	
Cost of conference registration, including pre- conference sessions	\$275 single package	\$1,400 single package	savings of \$1,125	
# of days of conference	four days	four days	no difference	
# of meals offered	1 lunch, 2 dinners, evening snacks	1 lunch, 3 afternoon snacks (soda/coffee, pastries)	2 more meals 2 fewer snacks	
# of keyno <mark>te speakers</mark>	three speakers	none none		
# of workshops offered	over 100	50	double the workshops	
Conference giveaways	bag, pen, pin, area gifts, vendor give-aways, practically a whole suitcase full	bag and water bottle Spirit of	at least \$20 more worth of giveaways	
Hours of of workshops and activities offered	8:00am to midnight	9:00am to 4:00 pm et	nine more hours of jam-packed workshops and events	
Lasting contacts, ideas, a motivation, inspiration	too many to count	several	priceless	
Cost of conference per hour of activity	\$5.73 per hour of activity	\$35.89 per hour of activity	Six times the conference value offered by CADA	

Note from President-Elect **Cindy Bader**: I attended a great conference in Las Vegas whose audience was educators. The figures above are from that conference and are very real. One note on "Conference X" I'd like to highlight is that my request to go was first turned down by my district as it required board approval because it was out-of-state and there was a concern that asking the board to attend an out-of-state conference would be an automatic "no." I made an appointment with the Assistant Superintendent and talked to her about how important the conference was as well as the idea behind the conference being held in Las Vegas. I explained to her that places like Reno and Las Vegas are less expensive venues and they allow the conferences prices to be kept down. This made sense and I was given approval to go.

THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN STANDING OUT THERE, AMONG FRIENDS KNOWN AND APPRECIATING UNKNOWN. THE PURE THERENESS AND NOWNESS OF THE MOMENT. WHICH YOU EXPERIENCED LAST YEAR AND YOU HOPE TO EXPERIENCE AGAIN NEXT YEAR, A THERENESS AND HOVERS NOWNESS THAT ABOVE THE STREET LEVEL OF CONTINGENCY AND PASSING TIME, AND CONNECTS YOU BACK TO A PLACE THAT IS THE GROUND OF BEING ITSELF.

> --Tom Piazza "Why New Orleans Matters"







CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT LEADERS

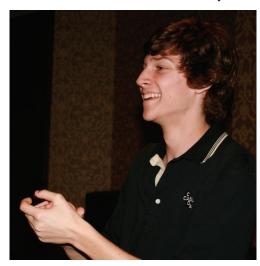
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LEADERSHIP WITH AN ALTITUDE

DENVER, COLORADO

JUNE 27-30

Greetings from Colorado! NASC Conference 2009: bloome Delegates Advise "Leadership With an Altitude"



This is Stefan Fertala, your CASL State President, and I am truly excited for the amazing year ahead. I wanted to take some time in this newsletter to take some time in this newsletter to share some of the goals I have for this years CASL State Board, as well as update everyone on what has been going on in CASL since our state conference in March. One major vision I have for this years State Board is to create a statewide observance of the I have for this years State Board is to create a statewide observance of the "Week of the Student Leader". Two years ago, a resolution was passed in the State Assembly in which the third week in April is to be observed by all secondary schools as the "Week of the Student Leader". The purpose of this week is to focus on recognizing student leaders who are not necessarily in

lead in the classroom, in student clubs, and on the playing field. It is my hope

lead in the classroom, in student clubs, and on the playing field. It is my hope that we as a state can truly recognize all of those who play a leadership role on our campuses. There will be more information in upcoming newsletters on how to plan and put on a celebration of student leaders at your schools. Along with working on the "Week of the Student Leader", CASL has been up to some pretty exciting things! From June 23rd to June 30th, a delegation of thirteen Californians attended the 73rd NASC National Student Leadership Conference, which started off with a few days of California bonding time. We got to know the other members of our delegation through white water rafting, visiting famous landmarks in the Rockies, and participating in a hilarious murder mystery dinner. We had a blast getting to know the other students from California, but the whole reason we were there was to attend the NASC National Conference. So off we went to Highlands Ranch High School, where we met delegates from all across the nation, as well as Puerto Rico and Canada. While there, we attended various workshops, heard amazing keynote speakers, and networked with 1,500 other student leaders. The conference was an amazing experience for all those involved, and I highly encourage anyone who is considering going to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

highly encourage anyone who is considering going to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. After a short recovery from the trip to Colorado, CASL had the privilege of interning at the CADA/CASL Middle School Summer Camp, where we helped lead councils, Morning-on-the-Green, Spirit Jamboree, and presented some of the workshops which can be seen at this years CASL State Conference. We had a blast getting to know advisors and students alike, and look forward to seeing you all at our CASL State Conference, "Leadership...Taking You Places." This year, the conference will be held at the Irvine Marriott, April 15th-17th for middle school, and April 17th-19th for high school. Wile attending, delegates will have the opportunity to attend student-led workshops, hear keynote speakers Phil Boyte, Chad Hymas and Micah Jacobson, and network with students from all over the state. Delegates can even lead their own round table session at Meet The Pros. For more information about how you can attend the CASL State Conference For more information about how you can attend the CASL State Conference or get involved with CASL, check out our website at www.casl1.org or our Facebook Fan Page.

I am so excited to be working with all of you this year, and cannot wait to see the amazing things the state of California can accomplish! Hope everyone has a great start of the school year, and I can't wait to see you soon!

Stefan Fertala CASL State President

Learning, Leading, Living

elow you'll find dates that reflect where we are going and where we have been. This program has proven itself over and over again throughout the state of California to increase leadership skills, confidence and school spirit.

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DERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Date	Event	Area	Location	Callflenting According	on of Student Leaders
2009				Galler OI ILLES INDER STREET	ATT AT DECISION PARTICIAL D
Sept. 12	Leadership Development Day	С	Arvin HS	pre	sents
Sept. 17	Leadership Development Day	G	Grossmont HS		
Sept. 22 Sr	Leadership Development Day	В	Potter Valley Jr/	loada	ership
Oct. 1	Leadership Development Day	F	Yorba Linda		
Oct. 14	Leadership Development Day	F	Yorba Linda	Tokos V	DI DIOCOS
0ct. 21	Leadership Development Day	D	TBD	Takes y	
0ct. 22	Leadership Development Day	D	North Salinas HS		
2010					SCHOOLS FROM ACCROSS THE STATE TO VALUE OF BECOMING STRONG LEADERS
2010 Jan. 14	Leadership Development Day	G	Bear Valley MS	beach your boabeland and the total	
Feb 4	CASL Regional Conference	F	Yorba Linda	-Meet the pros	
	CASE Regional conterence			- TEAM BUILDING ACHIVILIES - State-wide Networking events	MiDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE
April 15-17	CASL State Conference (MS)		Irvine	- EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS - INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS	APPil 15tH - 17tH, 2010
April 17-19	CASL State Conference (HS)		Irvine	- COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY - GIVE STUDENTS A CHANCE TO JOIN	HIGH SCHOOL CONFEPENCE APPIL 17tH - 19tH, 2010
•				one opported a chalvoc to Julia	

More dates on the way! Check out www.casl1.org, plus become a fan at

www.facebook.com/caslfan

Leadership Development Days can be customized to fit your needs. We have proven success with AVID students, at-risk programs, programs to help bring together all the leadership programs in your school district, even a program to train all student leaders from different programs on the same campus (team captains, club officers, performing arts, student government, service organizations). Contact us and we will create a workshop just for you.



CADA / CASL Leadership Development Days "Taking Leadership to the Next Level"

s an organization, CADA/CASL is proud to provide an incredible training opportunity for your A middle school and high school student leaders with Leadership Development Days. The training takes place at a host site facility (MS or HS) and is delivered in a unique style while working in small groups of school student leaders, utilizing experiential activities and the related applications to teach specific skills and enrich group dynamics. The curriculum centers on skills related to:

- Team building
- Prioritizing

- Communicating
- Risk taking
- Evaluation
- Challenges to include more students in the leadership base
- Discovering individual's strength

• Learning through experience

• Determining how to change the culture and climate of your campus in a positive way

"My high school students all served as facilitators and had a great time, learned a lot and could not say enough good things about the day. Their parents have even told me how much they told them about the experience too!! Yesterday was one that my leadership students will always remember. Margaret Noroian, North Salinas High School

Contact Information Sandra Kurland leadership@cada1.org Office number 760-440-9299 Cell number 619-957-9107

www.cada1.org

CADA / CASL Leadership Development Days

reflecting on cada leadership camp 2009

CADA Leadership Camp is an opportunity to learn new skills, get new ideas, gain inspiration, and network with student leaders from all over California and the nation (we also got schools from Illinois, Kansas, Nevada, and Georgia). Camp is high energy and students are in constant motion. However, on the last night of camp, student leaders quietly reflect on the lessons they've learned. Each group of student leaders, known as a council, chooses one representative to speak about their chosen leadership characteristic.

CADA NEWS

CADA Camp Reflections Ceremony july 20, 2009

According to our students, a leader must possess: 1. Character 2. Competence 3. Compassion 4. Initiative 5. Team Work 6. Dedication 7. Respect 8. Equality 9. Organization 10. Passion 11. Communication 12. Change 13. Responsibility 14. Courage 15. Selflessness

TRY THIS AT HOME:

You can have your own Reflections ceremony with graduating eighth graders or seniors. Select representatives to speak from all different peer groups, athletic teams, performing arts groups, clubs, and co-curricular programs--make sure all students are represented. Bring them together in a special evening ceremony in your stadium or quad, and give each group a value or theme to reflect upon. This is also a great time to show your end-of-year slideshow or video.

CADA NEWS

In the Great Race, each council has objects to find, clues to solve, and challenges to overcome. At CADA Leadership Camp, students learn teamwork not only through games and competitions like this, but through a common task that each council must complete. Students have just a few hours to brainstorm, plan, and execute their project. It proves to students that with the right attitude, and everyone working together, you can put on a pep rally in a day and a half, or a talent show in under three days. Imagine, then, what you could do back at your school with three weeks, or three months . . .

TRYTHIS AT HOME:

You can involve dozens or even hundreds of students in team building by having multi-stage competitions. Set up different stations spread across a quad or field. Invite plenty of parent or staff volunteers to facilitate and judge at each station. Give clear instructions ahead of time outlining procedures and rules. With time and space at a premium at a large event like this, consider recording and broadcasting an instructional video to demonstrate each station in advance. This not only explains the event to participants, but gets spectators excited to watch.



cada leadership camp 2009

Bottom photos, left to right:

1. Students learning in the classroom setting of an interest session, where workshops include dance planning, including the "invisible kid," rallies, academic recognition, and many more.

2. Stu Shaffer offers one spirited competition idea after another in his fast and furious Junk Show.

3. What's a camp without camp songs? Students warm up on Day 1 with Program on the Green.

4. Mike Smith is one of three keynote speakers that remind campers that the students back at your school look to them as leaders and role models, and that the work they do has a purpose. 5. Good camp food? You bet! UC Santa Barbara has won awards for the quality of their cuisine.

6. Platinum Sponsor Pegleg Entertainment supplies the music for two nighttime dances.

7. The residence halls at UC Santa Barbara provide not only lodging, but a beautiful backdrop for outdoor teambuilding activities.

8. On the final night of camp, student leaders showcase their singing, dancing, poetry-reading, comedy, and much more at the camp talent show.



Quartz Hill Rebels



CALIFORNIA AS	SOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF ACTIVITIES CADA NEWS - PAGE 14
CASI	California Delegation Application for
NATIO	NAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS 2010
Name	Year in School in 2010-11 (The name as it appears on your driver's license or student ID card)
First Name for Name Badge	e if Different from Above
(circle) Male Fem	ale Shirt size: S M L XL XXL (print) Birth date/year
Mailing Address	
City	Zip /816
Personal E-mail	Home Phone
If you do not have a persona	I e-mail, please list an e-mail address where you could still receive notices and updated information
Alternative Email Address	
School Name	
School Address	
City	Zip
Advisors name	School Phone
Student's Signature	
Print Name	
Parent Signature	
Print Name	
Ad <mark>visor Signature</mark>	
Print Name	
	on and no more than one page on your reasons for wanting to represent California and a \$250 deposit January 15, 2010 to J. Peter Cahn, PO Box 1554, Woodland CA. 95776, Attn: NASC
	For further information, please contact Peter Cahn - (530) 219-0958 - pcahn@cadal.org Sandi Kurland - (760) 440-9299 - leadership@cadal.org or check the CASL website at www.casll.org
Wa	Remaining trip costs will be due in payments by April 1, 2010.
	TEAD THUS DACE OUT OD VEDOVA CODV
	TEAR THIS PAGE OUT OR XEROX A COPY THIS IS THE APPLICATION
	Learning, Leading, Living

CADA NEWS - PAGE 15 CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF ACTIVITIES 74TH ANNUAL NASC CONFERENCE - INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA "START THE ENGINES OF LEADERSHIP" - JUNE 26-29, 2010

The 74th Annual National Association of Student Councils Convention is coming this summer to Indiana and this event will bring together nearly 1,500 students from around the US and beyond to gain new perspectives and insights on student leadership issues. About forty students from around our state will represent California in this once in a lifetime event.

The state delegation will travel together prior to the conference, building a team and family spirit and becoming a cohesive group prior to experiencing the conference.

You could be one of the California Delegates!

The cost of this trip is not to exceed \$1,400.00 for the eight days. This includes all air, rail, or other transportation, all hotel / room accommodations, all meals, transportation to all events, admissions, taxes, gratuities, conference shirts and trade items, supervision by credentialed CADA/ CASL advisors as well as the conference staff.

Submit a copy of the application and no more than one page on your reasons for wanting to represent your state and include a \$250 deposit (refunded if not selected) no later than January 15, 2010 to:

J. Peter Cahn PO Box 1554 Woodland, CA 95776 ATTENTION: NASC For further information:

J. Peter Cahn (530) 219-0958 CADA State Leg Advocate pcahn@cada1.org Sandi Kurland (760) 440-9299 CASL Coordiantor leadership@cada1.org Visit the CASL website at www.casl1.org

Remaining trip costs will be due in payments on April 1st and May 1st.

These trips have become milestones in a student leaders life, they have changed their thoughts, their actions and their schools, the

only downfall is this trip has become habit forming. As an activities director, your part in all of this is just telling student your sign to up. Many schools

help subsidize the trip, ask for donations from other organizations or the student themselves pays outright. Regardless of the funds, CADA picks up the registration for the student at the conference itself. Your school must be a member of the National organization but that fee is minimal.

Applicants will be given selection decisions by mid-February.

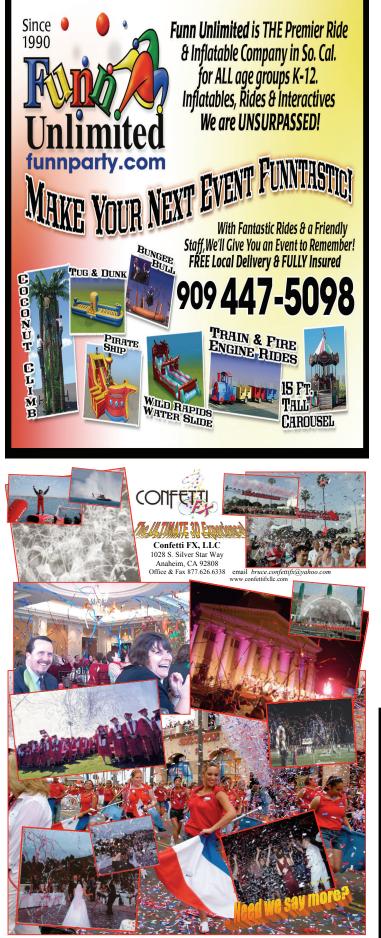




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CADA NEWS - PAGE 17

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF ACTIVITIES

LINCOLN ON LEADERSHIP

"Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition."

"Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."







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- Private Party from 11:30 p.m. 5:30 a.m.
- Limited attendance More Rides Less Lines!
- LIVE CONCERTS! 2009 Grad Nites featured Colby O'Donis ("What Ya Got") and Far East Movement ("Girls on the Dance Floor")

"I have run our Grad Nite trip for 10 years for our graduates - your event was the best!"

> Jeffery L. Pratt, Ph.D. **Bishop Union High School**

CHECK SIXFLAGS.COM FOR SPRING 10 DATES AND INFORMATION ON OUR OTHER SCHOOL SPECIAL EVENTS:

Math & Science Days Physics Davs **Career Days Junior High Grad Nites**

Cheerleading Championships **Drill Team Championships** School Dance Program

SPACE IS LIMITED! CALL NOW! (661) 255-4806

*2010 talent to be announced. Visit restrictions apply

Learning, Leading, Living

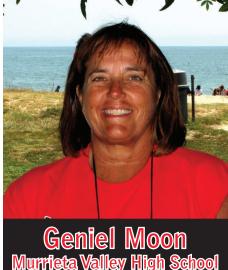
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PER PERSON

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Member Spotlight



How long have you been involved in activities?

About fourteen years. Only six years as an activities director, but Í have also been a class advisor and an athletic director.

Do you have an ASB class?

I have two. I have an ASB class and I have a Senate class. ASB is for the elected officials and the appointed commissioners, and the Senate kids work in committees on different projects. For example, the ASB does the Homecoming Week festivities and activities, but the Senate puts on the actual dance itself. We try to give everyone a chance to plan and lead.

How many students do you have in each group?

In ASB I have 70, and in the Senate I have 50. It's just the old PE teacher mentality of getting lots of kids involved.

With that many kids, do you find there is enough work for everyone to do? There are various levels of commitment. The kid that's energetic and enthusiastic is going to stay busy, and the one that needs the prodding, we can find them things to do.

What other subjects have you taught?

I used to be a PE teacher, and I was also the athletic director when our school first opened. Now I just teach the two leadership classes.

What are you excited about this year?

Oh, that's a tough one. Actually, that's an easy one because it's a personal one. My son is going to be a senior, and he has been in my program all four years. So, knowing that group of seniors so well not only as a teacher, but as a mom of a kid. That group of kids is really special to me.

Why do you bring your students to leadership camp?

For the opportunity to give them the passion they need to go back and ignite that in other kids. The new ideas, and the validation of things we do. These kids are responsible to bring stuff back to the others. On the last day of camp, when we do our goal setting, the outcome of that is to set our theme for the year. The kids here are picking ideas up and figuring out what they want their theme to be.

The idea of a year-long theme is interesting. What kind of themes

do you pick?

We've done "One Heartbeat," to emphasize school unity. Our mascot is the Nighthawk, so last year we did "United We Soar." We've done, "Be Real" and "Spirit in the Sky." Our welcome back rally reflects the theme, and our leadership shirts reflect that theme for the year. It's a very "CADA" thing to do, to have that one unifying theme. See, I've learned something here at CADA!

You were a member of the very first "graduating class" of the CADA Master Activity Advisor Certification program. Why was that important to you?

If you have been in education long enough, you know eventually someone's going to ask, "How come you can teach that?" So for me, I don't have a credential to teach this because no such credential exists. but I've gone through and I've done this. And this association is not only recognized in California, but nationwide. And so now I can say that this organization has put this together and I have been recognized as having gone through the steps to validate our program for our school, and to make me a better teacher for my students.

What is the first thing that a visitor to your classroom would notice?

Organized chaos. Constant movement. I don't sit. I guess it's the ADD in me. I also would hope they notice kids caring. Every year, I use books--leadership books. Two years ago we used a books. Two "The Fred Factor." This past year we did a book called "Every Monday, Matters," we read it every Monday, and it just contains little tidbits like, "Did you know it takes twelve hugs a day to sustain growth and to be a better person?" I was just talking with one of my former students, and he said, "I'm not going to get any more Fred or any more Monday Matters. What am I going to do?" I would like to think these little things make an impact on kids.

Whose leadership inspires you?

Two people. My father and Mike Pattison [from Vista Murrieta High School]. My dad played and coached in the NFL and was always a teacher. There were always kids at our house, all athletes. He's in his seventies now, and they still call him "coach." Those athletes still come back. My other inspiration is Mike Pattison, who is the "guru of activities," in my opinion. He has been an activities director at three different high schools. He came in and turned the program around at my school, and I got to work with him back when I was the athletic director. He's just the kind of person who will always help you and he'll give you anything. He cares about kids. He stands for all the things I think I stand for. We both see things the same way.

What wisdom do you want your seniors to have as they leave high school?

In order to lead anybody, yourself, your family, a corporation, anything, you've got to learn to serve first. We put a lot of emphasis on service. You might be the "heartbeat" of the school, but the school does not exist for you; you are there to serve your school. Also, keep a positive mental attitude. There are always two ways to see something, and it's usually a lot easier to see the negative. But you'll be a stronger person if you can see the positive.



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CADA NEWS - PAGE 19



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BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Monica Anderson (Area D) Nipomo High School Nipomo, CĂ 93444 AreaD@cadal.org

Cindy Bader (President- Elect) San Rafael City Schools San Rafael, CA 94903 preselect@cadal.org

Peter Cahn (Legislative Advocate) Woodland, CA 95695 pcahn@cada1.org

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Tiburcio Garcia (Past President) Sunny Hills High School Fullerton, CA 92833 pastp@cada1.org

Ron Ippolito (Communications Coordinator) Rio Norte Junior High School Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701 Valencia, CA 91354 news@cadal.org

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Suzy Krzaczek (Area A) South Tahoe Middle School S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 AreaA@cadal.org

Sandi Kurland (Leadership Development Coordinator) Ramona, CA 92606 leadership@cada1.org

Bob Martin (Treasurer) Bakersfield, CA 93305 cadacash@cada1.org

Janet Roberts (Area E) Chino Hills High School Chino Hills, CA 91709 AreaE@cadal.org

Don Shaffer (Convention Coordinator) (Technology Coordinator) Kramer Middle School Placentia, CA 92870 convention@cada1.org

Mary Jane Smith (Area F) Rancho Cucamonga HS AreaF@cadal.org

Matt Soeth Tracy High School Tracy, CA 95376 technology@cada1.org

CADA Central

3540 Soquel Ave. Suite A

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Linda Westfall (Secretary) Wildomar, CA 92595 bookstore@cadal.org

> Mike White (Area B) Fremont UHSD Sunnyvale, CA 94087 AreaB@cadal.org

Denise van Doorn (Area G) Bear Valley Middle School Escondido, CA 92025 pastp@cada1.org

Please route to the following people [] Activities Director [] Advisors [] Principal

[] Other Admin. [] Yearbook [] Cheer Advisor [] NHS [] ASB President [] Key Club

Jack Ziegler (Leadership Camp/CASL) Woodland, Ca 95776 camp@cadal.org www.cadaleadershipcamps.org

Glenn Zimmerman (Executive Director) Stephanie Muñoz (Account Manager) CADA Central Santa Cruz, CA 95062 (888) USE-CADA glenn@btfenterprises.com stephanie@btfenterprises.com

CADA Mission Statement To promote and support leadership development and student activities.

2009-2010 STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS





