



**WISCONSIN SCHOOL SAFETY COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION
WSSCA**

APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

Executive Committee

President
Bill Freeman
Lake Mills

Past-President
Gary Rosploch
Muskego-Norway

First Vice-President
Carrie Hallquist
Eau Claire

Second Vice-President
Al Behnke
Green Bay

Secretary
Bob Ellis
East Troy

Board of Directors

Bob Severson
Chippewa Falls

Kevin Christoun
Kenosha

Randy Johnston
Oshkosh

Dan Larsen
West Allis/
West Milwaukee

Tom Helgestad
Wisconsin Rapids

Pat Meyer
DePere

Alyssa Moen
Platteville

Jessica Schroeder
Chippewa Falls

Board Advisors

Jodi Traas
Appleton

Bryan Roessler
Madison

Joan Lerman
Madison

Mary Jean Erschen
Lodi

Dave Young
Brookfield

Executive Director

Peter Pochowski
Milwaukee

WSSCA's 43rd Annual School Safety and Health Conference/Expo held March 14-15, 2011, in Wisconsin Dells was one of the best ever! We had 111 attendees from across Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota who learned valuable information to take back to their districts to improve the safety, health, and security of their students, staff, and visitors. Our Monday morning consisted of a review of two school shooting incidents; Weston School District and Marinette School District. From this discussion, we were able to learn firsthand what an impact major events like these has on a school and its climate and culture. We heard from the people who were directly involved in the incidents to include Administrators Tom Andres of Weston HS; Corry Lambie and Doug Polomis of Marinette HS; Chief Jeff Skorik of the Marinette Police, and; Capt Rick Demro of the Green Bay Police SWAT unit. We appreciate the presenters' courageousness in talking about their experience so that we all could learn from them.

Other topics discussed included cyber-bullying and cyber-threats, mold, behavioral intervention teams, bleacher safety, and indoor environmental quality. We were also fortunate to have 34 exhibitors who showcased their products and services to our attendees. We received very good reviews from attendees about the speakers, the quality of their presentations, and the conference overall.

Joe Bellamo, Facilities Director/Safety Coordinator, Waunakee Community School District, was awarded the 2011 School Safety Coordinator of the Year Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and commitment to school safety. Congratulations Joe! Special thanks to Jodi Traas and Community Insurance for their Sponsorship of the \$1,000 award to Joe's school district. If you know of a deserving recipient for the 2012 Safety Coordinator of the Year, contact Pete Pochowski, WSSCA's Executive Director, at wssca@wssca.org.

Bob Severson received The Life-Time Achievement Award for his many years of service to our organization and especially the recent work that he has done in revamping our entire website. Make sure to check it out at www.wssca.org. We'd love to hear your feedback so send your comments to Pete.

Bill Freeman, President of Environmental Management Consulting, took over the reins as WSSCA President from Gary Rosploch of Muskego-Norway School District. We thank Gary for his leadership and dedication in serving two years as President. He truly did great things. We are excited to see what Bill has planned for this year for WSSCA!

Congratulations to three new WSSCA Board Members: Patrick Meyer of the Unified School District of DePere, Alyssa Moen of TRICOR Safety Consulting, and Jessica Schroeder of CESA 10, as they were elected to the WSSCA Board by this year's conference attendees. Two current WSSCA Board Members were elected to continue on the board for another two years; Randy Johnston of Oshkosh Area School District and Tom Helgestad of Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools. Al Behnke of Green Bay Area Public Schools was elected to 2nd Vice President, and Carrie Hallquist moved up to the position of 1st VP.

We said good-bye to two WSSCA Board Members; Ken Baran recently retired from Howard-Suamico School District, and; Jim Beckmann of Glendale-River Hills & Maple Dale-Indian Hill School Districts. Thanks to Ken and Jim for their service and outstanding leadership to WSSCA for many years. You both helped make WSSCA a better organization and you will be missed!

We had a record year for the Silent Auction raising over \$4275.00! These funds are set aside for operational expenses to include the WSSCA Professional Growth & Scholarship Program which has two different components:

1. WSSCA membership or WSSCA Seminar/Conference Scholarship (up to \$100 per applicant).
Professional Growth Scholarship (up to \$750 per applicant).
2. Visit the WSSCA website at www.wssca.org for more information. WSSCA thanks John Koster of Cedarburg School District for all of his work organizing the Silent Auction. And, of course, where would we be without Karen Herre, who kept all this straight for him. Thank you Karen!

Another 11 of our members graduated from our School Safety and Security Coordinators Certification Program.....Congratulations! The certification program is a 10-module (40-hour) instruction course presenting the fundamentals of school safety and security. Modules #3 and #4 will be presented on 04/13/11 at the MRA Building in Waukesha. Check out www.wssca.org to register and for more specifics on the program or contact Pete at 414-559-7487.

Mark your calendars for the 44th annual School Safety and Health Conference/Expo on February 27-28, 2012 in Wisconsin Dells. If you have ideas of topics you'd like to see presented at next year's conference, send them to Pete. We hope to see you all next year!!

- **Carrie Hallquist**, Chippewa Valley Technical College, WSSCA First Vice-President

SPECIAL NOTE: Governor Walker has declared April 11-15, 2011 Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week In Wisconsin. See the attached flyer for more information. Also, Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. and Indiana Insurance Co. are sponsoring a free Playground Safety Seminar on April 19th in Madison. See the attached flyer for details.

<http://www.wssca.org/pdf/Playground%20Course.pdf>

FROM THE EDITOR. At the conference we heard some incredible stories about two separate school shooting incidents. We all pray that we will never be faced with something so terrible, but to be clear, we've already had three such incidents in our state and there are no guarantees we are done. School budgets are about to take a hit and our leaders will be making some very tough decisions. In response to this concern, over the next few months WSSCA will look at cost cutting ideas that we believe will help you help your leaders make these decisions, while minimizing the impact on school safety and security. If necessity is the mother of invention, then stagnation should be an orphan. It would be easy to throw up your hands, but that solves nothing.

Times are tough, and they are about to get tougher, but if we all seriously think about ways to save money, then pool our thoughts, and, of course, pull together, we will get through this. We've done it before and we'll do it again. My parting thought: school shooters typically plan their deeds in detail. With these cutbacks, we want to be certain that we don't give them one more advantage in their favor. On this I think we can all agree: three school shootings is enough.

-**Peter Pochowski**, Executive Director and Editor.

Peter Pochowski
Executive Director

Education First - Safety Always