



WISCONSIN SCHOOL SAFETY COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION WSSCA

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NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2011

One of WSSCA's primary functions is to plan and then execute the Annual Safety and Security Conference. On the very day that we complete that process, we start it all over again. Immediately following the end of the conference, the board goes into session and conducts an after action review. This is a frank and honest discussion of the things we did right and the things we did wrong. We get a good idea what the board members think and we also get a good idea what the attendees think when we review the evaluation forms from the conference. This year, we thought we could go even a step further. Our President, Bill Freeman, asked that we conduct an on-line survey of attendees to see if we could gather more details that would help us plan the next conference. Under the steady hand of WSSCA's Webmaster, Bob Severson, the survey was sent to the conference attendees and we gathered the results of the 1/3 that were returned (which is a fairly standard number of responses, so thanks for helping out). As expected, we were pleased with some findings and not so pleased with others. The results are as follows:

84% want the presenter handouts to be available on the website. (This will be done soon for the 2011 conference). 75% want more options for classes. Bill Freeman has already directed the board to plan for breakout sessions which will address the needs of an audience with varying skill, knowledge, ability, and experience levels.

Some of the security topics you want to see presented (the percentage shows the number of respondents who chose the topic with their first or second choices) are: school threats-66%; bullying-62%; role of BG staff in a crisis-61%; cyberbullying-56%; NIMS-56%; reunification-56%; electronic devices-55%; terrorism-53%.

Some of the safety topics you want to see presented (with the same criteria as above) are: general health/safety-80%; general electric safety-67%; arc flash-64%; playground safety-60%; OSHA 300 record keeping-58%; ergonomics-56%; lead paint-53%.

The survey showed that 90% were interested in the School Safety Coordinator's Course, and 96% like the schedule we have been using for tracking the modules. Finally, we are proud that 100% of the attendees were "satisfied" with the conference. Of course, we worry that many who did not respond were not satisfied, so we will work hard to put on shows of ever increasing quality. Thank you again, for answering our survey.

I think it is important to note that I have already addressed a shortfall we recognized with vendor locations during the 2011 conference. I deeply regret the situation we placed our vendors in and I sent them all a letter of apology. This matter has been fixed with our new contract at the Kalahari Hotel that gives us and the vendors more space in 2012.

Editor's Note #1: It is a past-practice of the WSSCA Board that the organization does not endorse products or services, yet, when we hear of something that we think will help you, we will do our best to introduce you to it. We think it is part of our responsibility to do so. WSSCA is not compensated for newsletter articles we might publish that are intended solely for the purpose of addressing a problem we know exists. For example, we recently published an article about bleacher safety that was well received by the members. Some might have thought we were endorsing a particular vendor. We were not. So why print articles like that and leave WSSCA open to criticism? We just want to do our best to assist you in doing a very difficult job by informing you of goods and services that might help. Just that simple. Nothing more. This month, we continue that tradition with yet another such article. We hope you enjoy it.

Saving your workers while saving your floors. Is it possible to reduce Workman's Comp claims, improve IAQ, and save money - all at the same time? We think it is. One of the highest number of Workman's Comp claims in the custodial field nationwide comes from slip/fall accidents occurring while chemically stripping off old floor finish. The slippery ooze of old finish and chemical stripper is so slick just keeping your balance is a trick. Less than two years ago a custodian here in Wisconsin fell while stripping floors. The result was a shattered hip, damage to his knee, and a \$50,000 plus WC settlement.

With new technology, it is possible to reduce injuries while still doing a good job of stripping floors. I know of a scrubber that uses only water to remove old floor finish, leaving the floors non-slip during the whole procedure. Gone are the days of slip/fall accidents and their accompanying injury claims. Since these machines use only water for stripping floors they will not trigger asthma or COPD attacks among custodians, staff and students. No more stripping chemical induced headaches, dizziness, or harsh smells.

Want to know more? I'd be happy to provide you with information on this new line of scrubbers. Please feel to contact me at: shawn@cleaningstuff.biz, or 920-918-8513.
- Shawn Sizonen, Professional Supply Company

Editor's Note #2: The following link [NASSLEO School Security Conference](#) are two flyers regarding school safety conferences in the area that I believe you will find of interest. One advertises an "Administrator's Day" for the busy school leaders who seldom get to security training. This session is tailored for them. The other is the Annual School Safety Conference for the National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officials (NASSLEO) in Milwaukee this summer. This is an international conference being held in our home state and your support in advertising it is appreciated. It is rare for national conferences of this nature to be so close and so affordable. Please forward these to the right people in your organization. I thank you for your assistance.
- Peter Pochowski, Executive Director and Editor

Thought for the day: Ever notice that when you put the letters T, H, and E together with IRS it spells "theirs?"

Education First - Safety Always