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The WSSCA NEWSLETTER

For February 2016

The "news you can use " periodical for Wisconsin's school safety and security professionals.



48th ANNUAL WSSCA CONFERENCE AND EXPO INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

MARCH 7-8, 2016



SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Conference Preview

As I write we are just six weeks out from the 48th Annual WSSCA Conference. Registrations for participants and vendors have been coming in steadily, if a bit slower than I had hoped. I'll take the advice of Aaron Rodgers and RELAX knowing that we are going to have a great event.

The buffet breakfast and registration time from 7:00 to 8:00 on Monday March 7th is also the time set aside for all new members to get a special welcome and mini-orientation from Brian Koffnarus, our incoming 1st VP, and Norm Davis, Chairman of our Communications Committee.

The Conference Opening will, as tradition holds, feature opening comments by our outgoing President and me, followed by something very special: the recognition and awarding of the 2016 School Safety Coordinator of the Year. I can tell you it's going to be very special, indeed!

Something new this year that we will be promoting is a real-time communication opportunity using Twitter. As a novice with that form of communication, I am excited about the possibilities it offers, not just for the conference, but for the ongoing networking and communication opportunities that we are going to be able to utilize in whatever roles we serve.

Our keynote speaker, Chris Dorn, has an incredibly intriguing presentation for us in the 8:45 general session, and he will be following the first break with another address regarding some very practical ideas to enhance safety and hazard reduction.

The safety and security tracks following lunch promise to be fascinating, and frankly, I'd have difficulty choosing between them. Those members continuing with the WSSCA School Safety Certification Course will be

able to complete Module 1 and Module 6 during the conference. Thirteen members will be graduating and receiving their well-earned recognition at the Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday.

Certainly, one of the best features of the conference is the opportunity to visit and talk with our generous exhibitors and vendors. I hope you take full opportunity to spend time with each of them.

If you haven't registered yet, don't delay. Let's have a record-breaker as we gear up for another year of serving the School Safety needs of our Districts, Communities and State.

See you March 7th! *Ed*

Keep in Touch at the Conference.

Be a part of the ongoing conversation and connect with other school safety personnel by following [@WSSCAupdates](#) on Twitter.

Tweet takeaways, tips, and questions use hashtags [#WSSCA2016](#) and [#ASKWSSCA](#)

Guns on School Grounds?

Individuals holding legal concealed weapons permits could carry guns on school grounds, and even in school buildings under certain circumstances if a bill a State Senate leader hopes to get passed by the Legislature in the weeks ahead.

Senate President Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin) says the proposed law is meant to make sure weapons permit holders aren't inadvertently committing crimes when they drop their kids off at school. There are approximately 300,000 CCW permit holders in Wisconsin according to what I've read, and with those numbers it's almost certain that every day there's a mom or dad (or someone else) picking up or dropping off a child at a school while armed.

I don't want to open a can of worms in the ongoing debate about CCW, availability of guns, open carry, or any other element of the gun question. That said, I do not believe it is necessary to make it permissible for anyone other than a sworn officer to legally have a gun on school grounds.

Where do you stand on this issue? As one committed to the safety of the kids and staff we serve in Wisconsin schools do you think that this proposal will make our schools safer? It's worth your while to think about it. *Ed*

Note: I remember a friend of mine in college telling me about a near-death experience he had in the Navy when a senior NCO failed to Lock Out/Tag Out a major unit on the carrier he served on as an electrician's mate. My buddy Randy, who stands 5'6" on a good day and weighs in at a buck and a half in full winter gear told me how he was thrown across the work space when another sailor threw a switch and an arc flash resulted. I guess that explained a lot about some of the

strange things my pal did in school, but I've never forgotten how frightening that had to be. President Ellis shares a very timely reminder in this article. Ed

Arc Flash

What two words do most victims of Arc Flash accidents say to the EMT's rescuing them: "Kill Me." Since its inception man has gotten many great things from the controlled use of electricity, to the point when without it our lives often grind to a halt. Transversely improper use and applications of electricity has caused many injuries and deaths. According to OSHA; "80% of electrically related accidents and fatalities involving "Qualified Workers" are caused by arc flash/arc blast."

Besides the human tragedy of that statistic did you know: "Between 2007 and 2011, more than 2,880 fines were assessed for not meeting OSHA regulation 1910.132(d) which averages out to 1.5 fines a day." Also electrocution is the fifth leading cause of work place fatalities in the US and that Arc Flash is not included in this statistic? Did you know that the NFPA & IEEE report from 1992 to 2002, over 2,000 workers a year or more than 5 workers a day were victims of an Arc Flash?

You may have a very good Lock Out-Tag Out program but it alone will not protect staff/contractors from the dangers of Arc Flash. An Arc Flash Study by a qualified company will document the dangers of Arc Flash in your work place. Properly labeling your panels can assist you in the mitigation of the danger an Arc Flash incident, and assist in the proper training of your

staff. A clearance zone of 36” and warning stickers are not enough to protect your staff or contractors that have to work on your electrical systems.

OSHA wants as a minimum label:

https://www.osha.gov/dte/grant_materials/fy07/sh-16615-07/arc_flash_handout.pdf



OSHA prefers a more detailed label:



At the Vendor/Sponsor tab of the WSSCA website there are resources that can assist you in finding a good Arc Flash study contractor. Your current insurance company and/or safety consultant may also be able to help you. If you need more help please use the contact tab at the WSSCA web site and Mr. Ed Dorff will inquire with the WSSCA membership to get you the information you need to help you make your workplace safer as it relates to Arc Flash.

Robert Ellis, President WSSCA

A Blast from the Past

Note: The following article appeared in the January 2013 issue of the WSSCA newsletter, and the points made by Pat and Martha then deserve repeating and renewed consideration. I have said that I am committed to seeing the critically vital work being done by our B&G folks put on the same level of regard and credit as the hard work and dedication of the Curriculum and Instruction divisions of our districts. To paraphrase the authors, we are long past the days when the main expectation of our B&G people was to keep the floors swept and the heat on. Indeed, the requirements that include understanding effective learning environments, constantly evolving technology, and high-level security call for skill sets and dispositions well beyond what many of our colleagues in the educational enterprise have even begun to realize. Ed

The Changing Role of a Buildings & Grounds Director

Over the past fifteen years, there has been a great deal of change within the role of the Buildings & Grounds Director and Wisconsin schools in general. Some of the change agents are the rapid development of technology, medical device advances that allow better learning environments for special needs students, evolution of laws and policies, push towards energy conservation and many more.

To keep up with all of these changes, the Buildings & Grounds (B&G) Directors have had to become more experienced with and better educated about their ever-widening scope of responsibilities. Gone are the days of just a clean, safe and well-maintained school. Now we have to be aware

of and stay ahead of issues such as: learning spaces and technology of the future, infrastructure needs for electrical and HVAC loads and equipment that supports the instructional needs of special education students.

There are organizations like the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association (WSSCA) and the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) that provide multiple professional development opportunities where B&G Directors can get the latest updates on current and upcoming challenges to the profession. Both organizations have also developed certification programs to help new B&G Directors be effective and successful in their positions as well as help veteran B&G Directors stay current on the change agents mentioned above. A final benefit provided by these organizations is the networking opportunities with other B&G Directors from across the state.

A final point to consider is that when a school district hires either a new Business Manager and/or a new B&G Director, it is vital for the continued success of the district that a solid working relationship be established between both employees as soon as possible. It is important that there be a good understanding of each other's experience as well as each other's philosophy around prioritization of capital maintenance projects. This understanding will make it possible for the B&G team to incorporate full utilization of in-house experience as well as determine when outside help is needed to complete capital maintenance projects in a timely and fiscally sound manner. Communication and trust are key elements to creating a successful working relationship.

Creating and maintaining the best learning environment for students is one the main focuses of a B&G Director. Having the tools of quality professional development and strong working relationships with s district's administrative team can help guarantee the success of any B&G Director.

Patrick Acker & Martha A. Baldwin, MPA, Baraboo

Quotes of the Month:

"We all learn by experience but some of us have to go to summer school."- *Peter De Vries*

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible" - *Francis of Assisi*

Borrowed Humor of the Month:

An airline flight attendant noticed that someone had clearly been smoking in the restroom. "I'm sorry sir," she said, "but you aren't allowed to smoke on the plane. If you want to smoke again, please step outside."



Edward L. Dorff
Executive Director and Editor

Visit our conference sponsor and vendor booths on Monday March 7th

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