



# Award Nominations

Saying more than “Thanks” ...

A new year! Reflections, resolutions and a look toward the future. This is such a great time of year to think about all those people, past and present, who have made a wonderful difference in your life and in the lives of others. Research shows that a spirit of thankfulness and gratitude positively impacts our mood and mental state. How about doing more than saying “thanks”?

Besides thinking about the ‘traditional’ family and friends, can you think of someone who represents the counseling profession in a proactive and positive way? Who contributes to their community and is a member of their local counseling chapter? Then nominate them for the

**Counselor of the Year** award and let that recognition represent your appreciation.

Also, can you think of someone outside the counseling profession who “gets it”? And I don’t simply mean referrals. I mean they appreciate what we do and they have a genuine desire to help others. Nominate them for the **Special Contribution Award**. Not only will the recognition mean the world to them, but others will gain a better perspective about what our profession stands for.

Can you think of a counselor who goes above and beyond their responsibilities—then nominate them for the **Mary Lark Humanitarian Award**.

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## Early Bird Conference Registration Deadline:

Register today for the SDCA conference to be held in Pierre April 19-21, 2012 because January 10th is the last day that early bird registrations will be accepted. Members can regis-

ter on-line at [www.sdccounseling.org](http://www.sdccounseling.org) or print a registration form and mail it in.

A block of rooms has been set aside at the newly remodeled Ramkota Hotel and Conference center in Pierre. Rooms are set aside at the special conference rate of \$91.99 and can be reserved by calling 1-605-224-6877. Please mention that you are with SDCA when making your reservations.

SDCA is looking forward to a great conference with national speakers so register today to join us.



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## Day on the Hill to be Held on February 24th

**D**ay on the Hill will be held on February 24, 2012 at the SD Capital Building in Pierre at 8:30 am. All SDCA members are invited to attend this event to advocate for the counseling profession.

Currently there are no pressing issues during the upcoming legislative session. As always Mitch, our legislative monitor, will be keeping watch for issues that come up during the legislative session. Even though there are no pressing issues for counselors at this time, we want to make an impression on legislators by networking, educating

and sharing information with representatives about the counseling profession. As counselors we want to stand united and work together in advocating for the counseling profession and our clients.

A \$25.00 stipend will be provided to help defer costs for any SDCA member attending Day on the Hill (who isn't part of the SDCA board meeting). There will also be a drawing to include all Day on the Hill attendees for a half price conference registration.

At 6:00 pm on Thursday February 23, 2012 SDCA will hold

it's winter board meeting. Following the SDCA board meeting there will be an optional educational session which will provide any needed information for the "Day on the Hill". On Friday following our time at the capital building we will meet for lunch. SDCA is currently working on a lunch program.

Rooms have been set aside at the Governors Inn in Pierre at \$77.00 a room please call 1-800-992-2694 to reserve your room today.



### News From SDSCA:

***Greetings School Counselors! There are several things to put on your "to-do-list".***

- Renew or become a member of SDSCA. Membership runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> so check with membership chair Laura Lloyd-Smith (membership chair) to make sure your membership is up-to-date. With your renewed membership in SDSCA take advantage of the \$100 stipend to attend the ASCA conference in Minneapolis.
- Attend Day On The Hill (Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>) or email legislators in reference to what a school counselor does and thank them for the work they do.
- National School Counselor Week will be held Feb. 6-10, celebrate and know that your work is valued in South Dakota.
- Nominate another professional school counselor for a SDSCA award. Contact president-elect Sue Kooima at [Sue.Kooima@k12.sd.us](mailto:Sue.Kooima@k12.sd.us) or visit [www.counselors.k12.sd.us](http://www.counselors.k12.sd.us) for the awards nomination form.
- Review the advocacy items at SDSCA Wikispace at <http://sdschoolcounselor.wikispaces.com/>.

If you have any questions about anything pertaining to school counseling in our great state please contact me at [Levi.Reindl@K12.sd.us](mailto:Levi.Reindl@K12.sd.us). Have a great day!

## Open Board Positions for SDSCA

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I want to take this time to say I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we look forward to a new year, I want to make you aware of some positions that will be open for either election or voluntary appointment for the SDSCA Board beginning July 1, 2012.

Elected positions that are available are: Secondary Vice President, Middle School Vice President, Elementary Vice President, and President-Elect.

Positions, which you could volunteer to be a part of, are the fol-

lowing: Public Relations Chair, Government Relations Chair, and Special Projects/Counselor Connections Co-Chair.

I encourage you to think about your strengths or that of others in our field who you may feel would be perfect for these positions. The Board is looking to involve all areas of the state and would love to have a representative from all areas. Please consider throwing your name in the hat and getting involved! It is a wonderful way to advocate for Professional School Counselors and make a difference in our field.

Please let me know if you are interested or know of someone you feel would be an asset to our Board. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Warm regards!

Sue Kooima

President-Elect SDSCA

Sue.kooima@k12.sd.us



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## Awards continued from page one.....

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Do you know of someone who has been a counselor for years, and has been an inspiration and a leader by providing a high level of service both to clients and to fellow counselors? Then the **Marvin Kemp Award**—the top award given by our organization—may be perfect for this person whom you are thankful for.

Is there a supervisor, administrator, or professor who has positively impacted your career and professional growth as a counselor? They may be a great nominee for the **E. Gordon Poling Administrator Award**.

Do you know a counselor who provides outstanding em-

ployment and career counseling? They may be a perfect choice for the **C. J. Peterson Award**.

Do you know a counselor who is willing to help others, who willingly shares their time and information, who is competent and caring—a trusted friend, advisor and role-model. Then the **Mavis Booze Mentoring Award** would be an excellent nomination for them!

I hope that in thinking about those whom you appreciate, will mean that in the next couple of months, the awards committee and I will have the privilege and honor of reading

about them! What a great way of spreading the spirit of gratitude to others!

Thank You

June Reilly Pres-Elect  
SDCA and Awards Committee Chair

Note: Exact descriptions and requirements for each award can be found on the SDCA web-site at

[www.sdscounseling.org](http://www.sdscounseling.org)

**A completed packet would include:**

- \* *One letter of nomination from a chapter or area of specialty.*
- \* *Two letters of recommendation.*
- \* *You should have verified the person's SDCA membership if it is required for the particular award by e-mailing [sdca@itctel.com](mailto:sdca@itctel.com)*

Directions for mailing award packets are also found on the SDCA web-site.

## ACA Expresses DSM-5 Concerns to the American Psychiatric Association

ACA President Don W. Locke has written to the American Psychiatric Association to express the concerns of the membership and counseling profession regarding the upcoming revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5.

Locke's message was one of concern over several proposed changes in the chief tool used by mental health professionals to determine a diagnosis for their clients, most notably a concern that insufficient scientific and validation data is in place to back up the proposed revisions, lack of transparency in the de-

velopment process, and a rewrite of the definition of mental disorder implying that all mental disorders have a biological component. In general, ACA is concerned that many of the proposed revisions will promote inaccurate diagnoses, diagnostic inflation, and the prescribing of unnecessary and potentially harmful medication.

The revision has generated controversy among many mental health professionals who not only disagree with some of the content, but also with the process and the lack of scientific rigor. For example, all work

group members were required to sign confidentiality agreements prohibiting them from divulging information about the DSM-5 process, even after it is published, and the DSM-5 scientific review process is confidential and not available for public inspection. This is a violation of one of the most basic and vital tenets of science -- open access to data and/or processes for independent evaluation and critique.

SDCA members who are interested in following the DSM revisions process can do so by going to ACA's website at: [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)

### Vote in the ACA Election

Don't miss this opportunity to vote in the ACA election. The electronic voting opened on Friday December 2, 2011 and will close on Tuesday January 31st at 11:59 pm. Counselors must have been an active ACA member on November 1, 2011 in order to vote in this election.

Counselors should visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org), log into your ACA account and click on the "Vote Now" button.

There are several great professional counselors to choose from in this year's election. Log-in to read about the candidates and vote today.



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#### Other Important Points from ACA:

- [ACA 2011 Year in Review](#)
- [Counseling Today now On-line](#)
- Earn CEU's [on-line](#) from ACA. On-line learning is not available from January 1, 2012 through January 9, 2012 for an upgrade to the system. Take advantage of the free CEU of the month as well.
- ACA offers great [ethics resources](#) and consultation on it's web-site.
- [ACA Conference](#) will be held in San Francisco, CA March 23-25th.

*Click on the hyper-link for more information*



## **SDCA**

**Mailing Address:**  
SDCA  
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***Lead, Educate, Advocate***

**Our Web-site:**  
[www.sdscounseling.org](http://www.sdscounseling.org)

## **Mark Your Calendar:**

- SDCA Early Bird Conference Registration Deadline: January 10, 2012
- Deadline for Moderators, Poster Presentation and Graduate Students Scholarship Applications: February 15, 2012
- Deadline for Areas of Specialty and Chapters to submit information for the March Newsletter: February 20, 2012.
- SDCA Winter Board meeting February 23, 2012. 6:00pm
- Day on the Hill: *Pierre, February 24, 2012.*
- SDCA Awards Nominations Deadline: March 1, 2012.
- SDCA Conference: April 19-21 Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center Pierre, SD
- Visit SDCA's web-site for updates on workshops and



## **SDSCA Encouraging Members to Attend ASCA Conference By Offering Stipends**

The SD School Counselor Association is encouraging its members to be part of the delegation of SDSCA members attending the 2012 ASCA Annual Conference, June 23-26, 2012 in Minneapolis, MN. With the conference geographically close, SDSCA is working to have a large delegation of members present for the event and a SD gathering will be held while there.

Any SDSCA/ASCA member attending will receive a \$100 stipend from SDSCA to help offset expenses. SDSCA will also help facilitate carpooling and lodging for those interested. To receive the stipend, you must be a current member of SDSCA and ASCA. ASCA membership will also significantly reduce your conference registration. Individuals interested are encouraged to make sure both their SDSCA and ASCA memberships are current as proof of both will be required.

Registration for the ASCA Conferences opens in early January 2012. If interested, log onto the ASCA website to complete the membership and conference registration forms at:  
[www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org)