

# THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

## *The Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting*

*May 11, 2006*

### 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD OF CONTROL

*Submitted by Janet Garagliano, Chair*

- The Student Activities Board of Control (SABC) continues to fulfill the vision to meet the evolving needs of non-athletic student activities in CAS member schools. During the past school year, SABC worked diligently on the specific recommendations incorporated into the CAS strategic plan designed to fulfill this vision. It placed particular emphasis on those activities promoting leadership, service, and respectful school communities.
- SABC met regularly to review new applications as well as renewals for continuing activities involving students across the state. A total of seventy-one activities were approved during the course of the year. SABC also contacted organizations that had announced activities without filing for approval and assisted them with the necessary applications.
- SABC conducted to direct the annual Thomas R. Flanagan Student Activity Memorial Grants. A total of nine grants (5 to high schools, 4 to middle level schools) for a total of \$5,000 will be awarded at a reception at CAS on May 10, 2006. The grants are funded through the support of Big Y World Class Markets.
- This was the first year of implementing the recommendations of the CAS/CIAC/SABC sub-committee on cheerleading on a permanent basis. Member schools are limited to a maximum of four competitions a year (exclusive of league and state championships) and to following National Federation spirit guidelines in competitions. Sanctions for member schools exceeding competition limits and/or participating in unsanctioned competitions have been incorporated into SABC By-Laws. A record number (twenty-eight) of in-state competitions were reviewed and approved by the SABC/CIAC cheerleading committee, and Connecticut teams for the first time participated in New England championships.
- The possibility of incorporating the approval of dance competitions has led to a SABC sub-committee of dance coaches has been appointed to gather information and generate recommendations.
- SABC continues the responsibility for the posting, application screening, and selection processes for the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE). This twenty-five student group meets monthly with the Commissioner of Education and once during the year with the Governor, as well as with other state officials. In addition to serving as a voice for high school students throughout the state, the council researched and published a vision for future Connecticut high schools.
- SABC also developed with Matt Fischer the availability of sharing information on current topics of interest to schools and being able to initiate topics and compile responses that are available to all member schools.

#### SABC COMMITTEES

■ **The Governors Scholars Committee** (Chaired by Laura Ferrante Fernandes, Assistant Principal, Masuk High School, Monroe) This committee annually designates Connecticut's finest junior year students as *Governors' Scholars*. Formed ten years ago at the urging of former Commissioner of Education Sergi, the program was initially funded by American Express. Big Y World Class Markets has been the sponsor for the past four years. Each school nominee receives a Governors' Scholars certificate from CAS and the thirty finalists are celebrated in May at the Governors' Scholars Luncheon. Finalists receive monetary stipends, plaques, and the opportunity to take free courses at thirty-three Connecticut colleges and universities. The University of Connecticut offers each scholar who matriculates there a scholarship valued at half tuition for four years.

■ **The Arts Committee** (Chaired by Maureen Berescik, Assistant Principal at Bethel High School.) This committee annually plans the high school arts banquet recognizing two students who excel in the visual or performing arts from high schools across the state. One hundred thirty six high schools were represented this year. Since its inception eleven years ago, the program has been sponsored by the Westfield Corporation. *The Bruce Eagleson Memorial Scholarship Awards*, presented at this event, totaled \$20,500.

■ **The Connecticut Association of National Honor Societies** (Donald W. Gates, Executive Director) This association continues to grow and now includes 184 member high and middle level schools. The fall advisors workshop was conducted in conjunction with the Connecticut Association of Student Councils and featured keynoter Mark Scharenbroich. The CT delegation to the national convention in November numbered seventy-five. Over 200 students are anticipated to be in attendance at the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> annual spring conference on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

■ **The Connecticut Association of Student Councils** (Sarah Jones, Executive Director) CASC continued its resurgence this year with well-attended one-day workshops for advisors in September and for students and advisors in November. In March, the fourth annual CAS Student Leadership Conference joined student leaders from both on and off the field activities for an exciting two-day conference at Pomperaug High School and the Crown Plaza Hotel in Southbury. Over 330 student leaders and their advisors were in attendance. The student leadership advisory committee remained vibrant, taking the lead in planning the fall and spring leadership conferences. Advisors and students from fourteen schools are represented on this committee. CT was also well represented at the LEAD Conference in March in Stamford and will be well represented at the National Student Conference in Philadelphia at the end of June.

■ **The Connecticut Debate Association** (Marilyn Scott, Executive Director) CDA came under the CAS/SABC umbrella three years ago and continues to involve more schools and students. The state championship is scheduled for May.