

CANHS CORNER . . .

The Connecticut Association of National Honor Societies was established in 1998 under the auspices of the Connecticut Association of Schools in accordance with its goals to provide more opportunities for student leadership. The purpose of CANHS, an affiliate of the National Honor Society, is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in its members of the honor societies of Connecticut. For further information about CANHS, contact Don Gates, principal of Portland High School, at (860)342-1720.

CANHS Update: 6th Annual Conference a Big Success

By Annaliese Aliprandi, NHS State Newsletter Editor

Rather than being filled with business professionals, on May 20, 2004, the Hartford Marriot Rocky Hill hosted the sixth annual Connecticut Association of National Honor Societies (CANHS) Conference.

After a continental breakfast, Nicole Ruffo, president of CANHS, Dr. Michael Buckley, the assistant executive director of the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), and Dr. Betty Sternberg, the commissioner of education for Connecticut, welcomed the group of 290 National Honor Society (NHS) members, Junior National Honor Society (JNHS) members, and advisors.

Steve Gerety, the keynote speaker, presented a thought provoking and motivating talk about making choices. Many attendees commented on how enthusiastic and entertaining he was.

One member of NHS said of the presentation, "[It] was very good, I could identify with [it] and [it] made me interested."

Following Gerety's presentation, students and advisors broke up into workshops. "Surviving Your Senior Year," a presentation conducted by the former secretary and former vice president of CANHS, gave high school students the

opportunity to hear about senior year from two students who had just gone through the experience. Students received a hand-out with the basic life savers and a resume was passed around as an example.

The middle school workshop, "Bridge", was also an informational session done by high school students to help eighth graders know what to expect in the transition from middle school to high school. One JNHS member said, "The people who ran the workshop made it fun."

Some students had the opportunity to hear Steve Gerety again in his workshop on leadership. Students who had been elected president of their respective NHS and JNHS chapters, and students who ran for a state office, along with others learned how to liken their goals to a road trip. Following that, students participated in "ice breakers" to share ideas and goals. The other workshop that was offered to students was a "swap shop" in which students from different schools could share their experiences with different activities and fundraisers that worked or, in some cases, those that didn't work.

Advisors attended first a workshop with Donald Gates, the executive director

of CANHS, and then the new advisors met with David Cordts, the associate director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Experienced advisors had the opportunity to watch the student workshops.

After lunch, Mr. Gates and Mr. Cordts each addressed the group; CANHS presented a check for \$2100 to the Hartford Literacy Volunteer Program; and, students running for positions on the CANHS executive board gave short speeches.

The officers for the 2004-2005 school year are as follows: Tom Kiely from Wethersfield as President; Kaitlin Zdeblick from Southington as Vice President; Kristen Zapatka from Portland as Secretary; Annaliese Aliprandi from East Hampton as Newsletter Editor; and Molly Graffam from Bristol as Middle School Representative.

This school year promises to be successful for CANHS, and students are looking forward to the National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri this November.

Annaliese is a senior at East Hampton High School.