

Northern Illinois School Press Association

August 12, 2010

Dear Adviser,

Welcome to the 2010-11 school year! We hope you had a relaxing summer and are ready for the challenges that will come to you as a publications adviser. Every adviser wants to have a successful newspaper or yearbook. To achieve this, we all need an enthusiastic staff, hard work, energy, and more than a little patience. Hopefully the year has started out good for you.

To support you in your work as an adviser, we would like to invite you to join the Northern Illinois School Press Association (NISPA). Each year, NISPA coordinates newspaper and yearbook contests, allowing your students to compete with some of the top programs throughout the state in individual and overall categories. Last year, over 300 students and staffs from over 45 high schools were recognized for their work on their publications in these contests.

In addition, NISPA will hold a spring conference at the College of DuPage in April 29, 2011. During the last seven years, the NISPA conference has featured prominent keynote speakers including nationally recognized adviser HL Hall; JEA President Jack Kennedy; *Chicago Tribune* writer Rick Kogan and photographer Charles Osgood, authors of *Sidewalks*; Mark Herron, Creative Accounts Manager & Educational Consultant for Jostens; Bobby Hawthorne, author of *The Radical Write*; and Joe Mahr, *Chicago Tribune* investigative journalist. At the conference, students attend sessions in newspaper writing, design, business, yearbook production and legal and ethical issues. Over 500 students and 50 advisers attend the conference annually.

Membership in NISPA is open to any high school in northern Illinois, public or private. School membership entitles any teacher/adviser or student connected with the yearbook or newspaper representing that school to participate in all NISPA activities.

If you are a returning adviser, there have been some changes since last year:

- Due to rising costs, there has been a modest increase in dues to **\$90**.
- **Save money** by signing up for a two-year membership. Pay only \$85 per year – \$170 total. Lock in lower dues today!
- **Dues must be received by September 24**. Dues received after this date will be increased to \$100. Don't delay!
- Help us increase our membership. Refer us to another publication – either in your own high school or from a school nearby. Send us the adviser's name and email, or have them fill out the enclosed new member form; when the adviser joins NISPA, your name will be entered into a drawing for a **\$100 Target® gift card**.

Have a great start to the new school year!

Sincerely,

Dennis Brown
President, NISPA and the NISPA Board of Directors