

A Letter to the Membership!

Dear Wonderful KSCA Members,

Again, **thank you** for making this year's conference such a wonderful success.

I have tallied the evaluation sheets and ALL suggestions are being considered. ***Before and during the conference, I saw several areas that needed 'fine tuning' or 'major overhauling'. As I expected, you did too!***

Here's a few of the improvements we will make next year:

The Awards Luncheon- The timing was terrible this year and I take full responsibility of that. I very much apologize. Next year the luncheon will have a more organized schedule so that the speakers will be able to talk without trying to compete with the conversations of the audience! We will eat between the speakers (who, by the way, have donated thousands of dollars for our conference) and the awards ceremony.

Room size- I saw this coming when we had MANY great breakout sessions submitted AFTER deadline and I had to divide rooms in order to have these sessions available. After January 1st, (One month after the breakout session applications were due), I received about 15 more-many of which were 'more appropriate' than the sessions I had already scheduled! I will to improve this and ***Have the rooms larger-especially in the Elementary sessions!***

By the way, WE NEED BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS SUBMISSIONS EARLY FOR NEXT YEAR!!! I NEED THEM NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1ST. LOOK FOR THE FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER!!

Below will give you a general idea of what you thought of the conference. Thank you for your ideas!

2007 CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Most Beneficial Breakout Sessions Attended: (Top Four)

#33-Preparing/ Responding to the Death of a Student or Staff Member

#15-The Full Circle: From Service to Self-Esteem to Success-Back Again

#9-Counseling Students With High Functioning Autism-Asperger's

#14-Git R Done vs. Watch and Wait

Opening Session -- Keynote Speaker- Ron Clark

20-Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
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President's Reception –

12-Excellent	4-Good	1-Fair	Poor
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Awards Luncheon:

13-Excellent	11-Good	3-Fair	1-Poor
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Closing Session-- Keynote Speaker- Anne Murray

14-Excellent	6-Good	Fair	Poor
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Hotel Facilities:

15-Excellent	9-Good	1-Fair	1-Poor
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Exhibits:

19-Excellent

7-Good

1-Fair

1-Poor

Comments:

*The awards luncheon was very loud because people wanted to socialize while eating. Great conference!

*This is my first KSCA conference! It would be nice if the conference had a less 'commercial' feel to it. Every breakout session that I attended was selling something. Do we not have trained/highly educated people amongst our membership that can present?? Do we have members working on their doctorate, or who have recently attained? *(Mary Ann's Note- We Do Have Counselors With Great Ideas- Please Share Them With Us At Our Conference By Being A Breakout Session Presenter!)*

*This year was the best yet! Loved, Loved, Loved Ron Clark and I LOVED EVERY Session I attended and there were more I wanted to go to...and the pre-conference also. Liked the room for exhibits and they were better too this year! Everything was topnotch!! Thanks for all your hard work! Great Job!

Only suggestion is to maybe allow us to eat a few minutes and talk before the speakers (then do awards w/speakers) begin. I thought it was very embarrassing that everyone was so rude and talked all through the sponsor's speaking parts! They should be ashamed and I just hope that the sponsors will continue to sponsor us!! But I liked that the awards part was shorter.

*Session choices were great! Please allow time to talk with people before the speakers start. It was disappointing to have to sit on the floor in order to attend a session. In almost every session, someone had to sit on the floor because the rooms were not big enough. Although I wanted to attend #15 (Full Circle Session) there wasn't any room for me. (Breakfast items were taking up a portion of the room.) #33-This session (Preparing and responding to the death of a Student or Staff Member) would've been great as a 3 hour. He had so much info. He wasn't able to elaborate a lot.

*Lunch on 2/28/07 was difficult at the Marriott. It seems that they were not prepared for us. *(Mary Ann's Note- The restaurant was under reconstruction and the only place for the size crowd we anticipated was in the 'tent'. This will NOT be a problem next year- the hotel will be finished!)* Get Ron Clark Back! Cut time on the Awards Luncheon. Offer a session on How To Develop A Counseling Advisory Committee. Offer a session on Grant Writing and where to look for grants. *(M.A.-anyone willing to do this?)* Offer a session on record keeping. Have an all day session with Dave Opalewski *(M.A-it's in the works!)*

*Less talking during luncheon

*The Social on Thursday night was not a success, therefore a waste of money-to continue this, there would need to be major changes in advertising and attendance-maybe it's just not the event needed...

*Session # 42 (Hit The Ground Running: Tips for New Counselors) was AWESOME! As always, there are climate control issues. Some rooms way too cool, other too hot. Should speakers 'speak' during lunch? It was difficult to follow them. Maybe there should be given to some serving/eating first. The sessions that were good were filled quickly. Small rooms all around. Workshop suggestion: anything for NEW counselors.

*The best conference I have attended!

* I would like to attend a full day conference with Dave Opalewski about Crisis Planning. (*M.A.- It's in the works!*)

*Such a great job, Mary Ann.

* I rated the Hotel Facilities 'poor' due only to the fact that the rooms for the breakout sessions were consistently too small for the number of participants. I sat on the floor in 3 sessions! Some Presenters did not have enough handouts...

* The President's reception- I wish we could move it back to Thursday night! (*M.A.- It's in the works!*)

* Thanks for all your efforts! I was disappointed in the noise level during the luncheon. Attendees would probably be better listeners if the speeches were delivered after the main portion of the meal. This also gives attendees a chance to enjoy conversation during the meal. I felt awkward eating during the speeches, especially because I was seated with my back to the dais. It felt disrespectful. I realize time is a factor, but the luncheon ended early. So perhaps there is a way to adjust the event schedule somewhat to accommodate this concern. I'm sure the speakers would greatly appreciate a more attentive audience. Thank You!

*All the breakout sessions were good!

*Bring Dave Opalewski back for a pre-conference all day presentation-excellent info. Good program, Good variety! Very beneficial. Thanks for all the hours it takes to pull this off! (o: IN the program the 'Conference At a Glance' and the 'Breakout Sessions Outline' were excellent!!

* At the Awards luncheon, please allow people to talk before presentations begin. Breakout session rooms were too small. I had to sit on the floor in almost every session. There were not enough elementary choices! The elementary counseling sessions that WERE offered were awesome. (*M.A.- please, elementary counselors, consider presenting a breakout session!*) I felt that obviously there were not enough because of how overcrowded the rooms were. People were standing or sitting on

the floor in every session especially on Thursday! I would like to also see a pre-conference session on grief. Mr. O. did a great job but ran out of time!

*Great conference!

*Chick-Fil-A is a nice idea. Thanks for providing soft drinks during the morning breaks. Please continue providing the for the pre-conference AM breaks. Everything was great, from pre-conference workshops to the closing session. Make sure to keep it here at the Griffin Gate for many years to come. If possible, don't schedule any breakout sessions in **Spendthrift** room because it is so hard to get there and back in 10 minutes for the next session.

* I hope you keep the KSCA conference here at the Marriott. A wonderful facility!! The topics presented were awesome especially the legal/ethical pre-conference workshop by Carolyn Stone. It is **Splendid** to have pasties/ drinks fruit set up in the exhibit area. Thank you!!! This was the BEST, most organized, KSCA I have ever attended (in 15 years).

Thanks so much and we are working on making next year's conference "the best ever"!

Mary Ann (o: