



November 2014 Newsletter



2014 Annual Meeting!

IACS Annual Meeting - November 19!

We are excited to announce that this year's IACS Annual Membership Meeting is next week; Wednesday, November 19 from 8:45 to 1:45 at the [Fox Creek Center](#) just West of of the Jordan Creek Mall in West Des Moines/Waukee.

We decided to change things up a little bit this year! We have moved to a new location and we are adding a couple of workshops we hope will leave you with some actionable take-aways. We are also pleased to have Trish Wilger from the [Iowa Alliance/Advocates](#) for Choice in Education share with us for the first time!

Lunch is being provided by IACS this year, too! How can you beat that deal?

Who should come? EVERY IACS SCHOOL should have at least one person at the meeting. Each dues-paying member school may have two voting members present to vote on items during the portion of the meeting devoted to IACS business. We encourage every Administrator, school board member, Development Director, and other school leaders to make time to be there.

We'll be sending out a final agenda and some additional information for you to peruse before the meeting very soon.

We need you to RSVP, though, so we can plan for lunch! Please email Eric (email at the end of this newsletter) and let us know who is going to be

coming! If you have already emailed us, there is no need to do so again.

If you have not received a couple of emails already about the meeting and you are an administrator or front office staffer, please contact us with your email address and name and we'll make sure you are on our admin and member schools lists.

Workshop presenters include our lobbyist, Eric Goranson, on website features, social media, and school marketing; and representatives from CSI and ACSI will be presenting.

You don't want to miss this year's meeting! We are hoping to unveil some great new resources for you, elect some new board members, and we'll have some important IACS business to take care of in addition to some great speakers. We'll see you there!

The Latest On Ind. Accreditation

Along with [our last update](#), we are pleased with some of the progress our schools, accrediting bodies, and the Iowa Dept. of Ed. have made on Independent Accreditation. We now have a good picture on reporting requirements, what to report and not report to the State, and other updates.

We'll go over the latest news and be available to answer questions at the Annual Meeting next week!

Iowa ACE “Education Celebration” Event

This year, the [Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education \(Iowa ACE\)](#) and its sister organization, Iowa Advocates For Choice in Education, have set very ambitious goals for attendance for this year’s Education Celebration event on **Tuesday, March 3rd at the Iowa State Capitol! Would you be willing to make sure your school is represented at this critical event?**

With the school choice coalition’s push to raise the cap on tax credits, reintroduce ESA legislation, and educate the Iowa Legislature about school choice; we need all hands on deck to demonstrate grassroots support!

Please take the time to plan on a group of students (or your entire school!) coming to the event. You can participate in our rally, learn about lobbying efforts for your school, plan a tour of the Capitol, and leverage the day to provide a great learning opportunity for your students!

Please contact Trish Wilger at [Iowa ACE](#) for more information! They have a shiny new website, too, you might want to check out!

IACS Website Upgrade!

We have had a new website now for a while and it has been met with great reviews. We aren’t resting on our laurels, however.

We will be announcing some new website features for dues-paying members next week. In the meantime, please email us with requests on ways our website or IACS in general can better serve your school!

Election Update

We are proud to partner with the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education and their sister organization, Iowa Advocates for Choice in Education.

They are known collectively as “Iowa ACE.”

This year, Iowa Advocates for Choice in Education’s PAC supported about 40 candidates for State office and had an 85% success rate! We are pleased to see school choice candidates from both parties in both chambers win their elections and we are excited to see their work as school choice champions over the next two–four years.

Please visit Iowa ACE’s websites and make sure you are on their email lists too. Both [Iowa Advocates](#) and its [PAC](#) will immediately begin fundraising for next cycle. You can give securely on their website. You can also find their links on our website’s “[Partners](#)” page.

IACS Dues Letters Have Gone Out!

IACS can only educate Iowans and advocate for you if your school participates as members of IACS.

Please respond to the letter you should have received that offers the best bang for your buck you’ll invest all year! If you have any questions about where your dues go or what our plans are for the upcoming year, please don’t hesitate to call us!

We’d also be happy to come speak to your school, staff, board, parent group, or other event about IACS, school choice, legislative issues, ESAs, or any other topic. When our schedule allows, we also are happy to send a representative to discuss civics, state government, and faith in politics with your students in the classroom.

IACS Legis. Priorities

We are preparing our priorities for the next legislative session and will have more information on how you can get involved at the Annual Meeting next week.

In the meantime, know that IACS’ number one priority is the removal of the sunset provision on the new Independent Accreditation law.

We know that most of our IACS schools are now independently accredited or are working on it. We also know that the feedback from our member schools has been incredible.

If you have just gone through your first accreditation site visit and are newly accredited by an independent accrediting body, would you be willing to email us your story with a few points on how it has improved your school, how meaningful the accreditation is, and ways you anticipate it will boost accountability and performance in your school? We would love to go into next session with some stories from the field that demonstrate the tangible benefits of making independent accreditation permanent in the State of Iowa.

Connect With Us On Social Media

Please make sure your school’s page and your personal page “like” our page on Facebook. Just search for “Iowa Association of Christian Schools.”

Also, if you and/or your school are on Twitter, please follow us at [@IA_IACS!](#)

We are also on Google+. You can search for “Iowa Association of Christian Schools” and put us in your circles.

Thank you!

IACS Online

Check out our **NEW** website! You can keep track of IACS' efforts at www.iowachristianschools.org. Learn more about IACS and sign up to receive email updates and alerts. If your school is not listed or needs updating, please let us know.

“Follow” IACS on [Twitter](#).

“Like” us on [Facebook](#).

“Follow” us on [Google+](#).

IACS Membership

Your school should have received this year's request for dues. We appreciate those that have already responded, **thank you!** We can't effectively represent the interests of your school at the capitol without your school's participation! **We need your help to protect the rights of Christian schools in Iowa.**

As an example of the value of IACS membership: every year IACS defeats numerous unfunded mandates at the Iowa Capitol. Just *one* of these mandates would cost your school significantly more than its IACS dues for the year! Add to this significant victories on accreditation and school choice issues and IACS membership is a great value. Join us as we work for you. Contact Brad Vis at (712) 476-2615 for information.



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