

MASC Advisor's Bulletin March 2016

Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC)

Greetings Advisors!



Breaking someone's trust is like crumpling up a perfect piece of paper. You can smooth it over but it's never going to be the same again.

***** IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS *****

• **Action by midnight, Friday, March 18th:** *The MASC Convention is April 6-8, at the Clarion in Ocean City. Registration closes at midnight on Friday, March 18th. Get your registration completed now as due to hotel housing and other non-negotiable deadlines, MASC cannot extend the deadline. Schools must be a MASC member school to attend this event. (Not sure if your school is a MASC member, check out the membership link below...there is a list of member schools at the bottom of the application page.) Follow the registration checklist carefully, and remember to have*

students rank order their top five workshop choices before going on-line to register. The checklist, workshop descriptions, advisor bulletin, family letter, emergency forms, delegate contract, housing request worksheet, and other details are on the website at <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/convention-2016/>

***** ACTION ITEMS *****

• **MASC Membership** –*Not sure if your school is a member of MASC for 2015-2016? Click the link below (the list of member schools is at the bottom of the membership application page). Support student leadership in Maryland – JOIN TODAY! <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/applications/masc-membership-application/>*

• **Action By Saturday, April 30: Staff Application** –*although the staff applications will not be posted for several weeks, many students are starting to ask. Positions will be similar to the current year (found in the MASC Bylaws, Article V <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/MASCBylaws2015,2016.pdf>). There will be two interview days, Saturday, May 14th (Central/Western Maryland location to be determined) and Saturday, May 21st (Central/Southern Maryland location to be determined). Just wanted to give a “heads up!”*

***** NEWS OF NOTE *****

• **March Green Goals:** *Environmental Coordinators have posted this month's Green Goals. Do your part, check it out! <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/resources/green-goals/>*

• **Heroin Prevention Public Education Campaign:** *Drug and alcohol addiction in Maryland is a serious problem with devastating impacts on families and communities--and related fatalities on the rise. The Hogan Administration's statewide focus on addressing heroin and opioid abuse includes a coordinated, statewide public education initiative to help students and parents identify and respond to signs of addiction and to access support services. For more information, go to: <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/newsroom/heroinprevention.html>*

• **Maryland Leadership Workshops (<http://mlw.org/>):** *MLW's summer programs attract students from around Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region. The geographic, socio-economic, ethnic and experiential diversity reflected in the composition of delegates and staff is an invaluable part of the experience. Concepts and skills are developed during Workshops, Group Projects, Committee Responsibilities and Small Group Discussion Sessions.*

Middle School Experience in Leadership - *For students entering grades 6 - 8 in Fall 2016*

- July 17 – 23 - Application deadline - **May 15**

Journey - *For girls in Howard County entering grades 7-9 in Fall 2016*

- July 10 – 16 - Application deadline - **March 15**

Senior High Workshops - *For students entering grades 9-12 in Fall 2016*

- July 24 – 30 - Application deadline - **May 15**

Advanced Leadership Seminar

A highly selective program for those with previous MLW or equivalent leadership experience

- July 10 – 16 - Application deadline - **April 15**

• **MASC 2016-2017 Tentative Calendar Overview:** You can find a VERY tentative calendar overview for 2016-2017. MASC hopes that having these dates will help regions and schools as they plan next year's events. <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CalendarOverview2016.2017.pdf>

***** **REGIONAL ADVISORS** *****

• **Regional Advisor's Meeting** –Friday, April 8 after the convention. Please email Lance.Ledebur@maryland.gov if you are planning on attending this meeting. Let him know if you are staying overnight on Friday so he can reserve you a complimentary room. The meeting will convene at 3:00 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner in the Horizon Restaurant, and then a social time. Advisors may elect to stay overnight and leave on Saturday morning. Mr. Ledebur will email details directly to regional advisors.

***** **NASC News** *****

All NASC News is taken directly from the NASC E-Bulletin or the NASC web site (<https://www.nasc.us>)

• **National Student Leadership Week:** April 17-23, 2016 is National Student Leadership Week (NSLW). During NSLW, schools around the country recognize and reinforce the important role of student leaders. The 2016 theme is "Right Here, Right Now." <https://www.nasc.us/programs-and-conferences/national-student-leadership-week>

***** **REMINDERS** *****

• **Advisor's Bulletin On-line** – Remember, the monthly Advisor Bulletin is archived on the MASC web. <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/documents/advisors-bulletin/>

***** **RESOURCES** *****

Elections: Many schools and regional elections are right around the corner. Now is the time to look at your election rules and procedures. Be sure to get a principal signature to ensure administrative support on all election information.

Election Ballots: Many schools/regions are now using some form of electronic ballots. Consider using these free sources - Google Forms or Ballotbin.com (Note: Ballotbin.com is a resource that an advisor at LEAD shared. It requires a name and an email for each user...however the company issues a clear statement that this information is never perused, read, or distributed by BallotBin or its employees.)

Helpful Hints for Electronic Ballots: Create a ballot verification form. Have at least two adults verify that the vote count was at "zero" at the start of the election period. At the conclusion of the election, record the results on the same ballot verification form, attach a screen shot and print out of the results, and have at least two adults sign to verify the results. Put the election records in an envelope to share with the principal. Once the principal reviews the results, he/she signs to certify the election, and records the winners (not the vote count) on a separate form. Seal the election documents and have the principal file it for a pre-determined amount of time (usually 6 months).

All candidates should be informed of the results before it is publically announced. Again, there is no need to share with ANYONE the vote count as it doesn't change the outcome of the election and can only serve to hurt feelings (barely losing or losing by a landslide). Be sure that candidates know ahead of time (written in your election information packet) that actual vote counts will not be shared!

Check out more election information on the MASC resource page <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/resources/leadership-resources-handouts-and-presentations/elections/>

Feel free to email me with questions, comments, concerns or other resources that could be shared with advisors or regional advisors around the state.

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