



# The... MASC Gavel



Out of 5 candidates, our 2 state SMOB finalists were...

- Maggie Chen (Montgomery County)

[www.MaggieForSMOB.com](http://www.MaggieForSMOB.com)

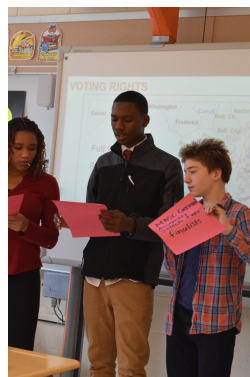
- Kyle Smith (Charles County)

[www.electkylesmith.com](http://www.electkylesmith.com)

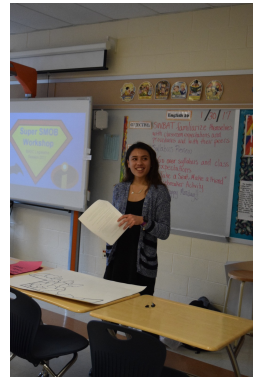


Kyle and Maggie with current SMOB David Edimo

Good luck to both candidates!



MASC Student Trainers at Legislative Session Training Day



## Upcoming Events:

**Feb 17** Convention Workshop Applications Close

**Feb 18** Executive Board Meeting and Health/Social Issues Forum at Northpoint High School

**Feb 18** Officer Applications Close

**Feb 27** Maryland Advocacy Day!

**March 3** Convention Registration Opens

**March 4** Candidate Parent Meeting (for officer candidates only)



## Hey MASC!

How do you feel? MASC has had a very busy, yet very exciting kick off to this year. All officers and executive board members have been working extremely hard in advocating for you and promoting student leadership around the state.

In August, MASC held Advance at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center in Rockville, MD. The first 2 days were jam-packed with fun activities to certify and re-certify trainers. The last day we held our first Executive Board meeting of the year in which we picked our state charity for the year... The Maryland Food Bank!

In November, Baltimore County hosted MASC Fall Leadership Conference in which delegates got to meet and interact with all kinds of student leaders from all over the state!

In January, MASC hosted the National LEAD Conference in D.C.! Throughout this conference, student leaders from all over the world listened to several incredible speakers, gave and received many ideas to bring back to their school and/or community, and participated in many energized activities to expand their leadership.

In February, Montgomery County hosted MASC Legislative Session. Although the scheduled date in January got snowed out, delegates made it out to Clarksburg High School to participate in workshops and legislation, and most importantly... vote on State SMOB! Congratulations to Maggie Chen and Kyle Smith for being the two finalists!

We are half-way through the year, but still have a lot left!

- Nick Warnick and Isabelle Young,

Publications Coordinators

## What Bill Stances did MASC vote on at Legislative Session?

During Legislative Session, our hardworking SLACers (State Legislative Affairs Coordinators) presented possible bill stances for our General Assembly to vote on. We voted to support:

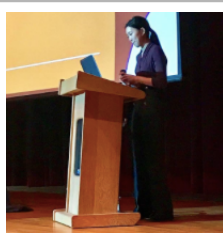
1. HB-56: Public Schools – Wellness Policy – School Meals: This bill would require boards of education to create a plan to reduce added sugar intake in school lunches to overall benefit student health.
2. HB-7: Environment – Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels – Environment Investigation: This bill would require the Department of Education to create regulations for any investigations looking into potential sources of lead exposure in kids with elevated lead levels.
3. SB-90: Public and Nonpublic Schools – Classwork and Assessment Involving Live and Dead Animals – Student Right of Refusal: This bill would allow students to refuse classwork involving animals (i.e. dissections) without explanation. Teachers would be required to provide an alternate assignment and not penalize the student.
4. SB-232: Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Attendance Policy: This bill would require boards of education to create an alternative attendance plan for parenting students to help them still graduate so long as they make up missed work.
5. SB-78: Vehicle Laws – School Crossing Guards – Authority to Direct Traffic: This bill would promote student safety by giving school crossing guards the authority to direct pedestrians and vehicles.

## Staff Spotlight

Amanda Dorsey, Pearson Benson, and Maggie Chen are our 2016-2017 State Training Coordinators. They have been outstanding with all the hard work they have done. They have kept everything in line to make sure FLC and Legislative Session ran smooth and were the best they could be.

The trio has been prepared with all things from get trainers in line to making sure the workshops presented this year would be the best ever! Keep up the excellent work guys!

-Matt Talley, Chief of Staff



## State SMOB Update

I'm excited to be serving on the State Board of Education. The Board finalized its response to the Maryland standardized testing commission's report, and we expect the Maryland General Assembly to act on those recommendations in the upcoming legislative session. Our current biggest item is developing a new accountability system that comports with the requirements of the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act. In early October, I had the privilege of attending the annual Teacher of the Year gala, where Baltimore teacher Sia Kyriakakos was selected from 7 finalists. We're very proud of her! Before my September board meeting, I had a great discussion with my advisory council which consists of 15 diverse students from a number of counties. Their input helps shape my work on the Board of Education.

As always, please feel free to contact me at [David@MarylandSMOB.org](mailto:David@MarylandSMOB.org) with any questions or comments. I'm on Twitter and Facebook @MarylandSMOB.

- David Edimo, Maryland State SMOB

## Legislative Session: What was New?

This year, after recognizing some of the reoccurring suggestions delegates had about our winter conference, MASC decided to give legislative session a fresh look.

Delegates who were attending legislative session for the first time were assigned two fundamental workshops: Bills & Advocacy and SMOB. These workshops prepared them for our General Assemblies. All delegates were provided with brief time to review Parliamentary Procedures and the Youth-Related Bills before voting as well.

However, for delegates who had attended and were familiar with the structure of the conference, we allowed them to pick creative new workshops written by our amazing trainers of trainers. These focused workshops allowed them to explore new leadership skills.

Additionally, we included a new Idea Sharing session where delegates would explore six different mini-workshops. Options included spirit ideas, fundraising, becoming MASC executive staff, and many more. Hopefully these new activities made this legislative session our best yet!