



# The... MASC Gavel



## Convention's Coming!

MASC's annual convention will be at the Clarion Fountainblue Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland from April 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.



We always have such a great time meeting people from across the state and becoming better leaders, so we hope to see you all there!



## Upcoming Events:

- March 20** Convention Registration Extended Deadline
- April 1** MASC Staff Applications Open
- April 5-7** Convention!
- April 30** MASC Staff Applications Close
- April 28- April 30** Region 2 Conference
- May 13** Staff Interview Day 1
- May 20** Staff Interview Day 2



## Hey MASC!

How do you feel? MASC is thrilled to be nearing one of our favorite events of the year, Convention! MASC Convention is a great opportunity to learn from experienced trainers about becoming a super leader. Whether you're a middle school student wanting to learn how to get involved in student council for the first time, or an experienced high school student looking to fine tune your leadership skills, Convention is for you!

Registration is open until March 20<sup>th</sup>, so now's the time to talk to your advisor about registering! All of the information about our new workshops, the hotel, the schedule, and how to register can be found on our website, [www.mdstudentcouncils.org](http://www.mdstudentcouncils.org).

Convention is shaping up to be one of the best yet. Every year, delegates at convention have the chance to vote for next year's MASC officers, and the race is always exciting. We'll also get to hear from

this year's guest motivational speaker, Mike Smith!

We recently hosted our February executive board meeting and health and social issues forum at North Point High School. Thanks to North Point for being such a wonderful host! We enjoyed a presentation from Four Diamonds childhood cancer charity associated with Penn State Health Children's Hospital. They have introduced their Mini-Thon fundraising events at nearly 235 schools across the country. Visit [www.FourDiamonds.org](http://www.FourDiamonds.org) for more information about how to host an event at your school. We also heard from Edward Clarke, executive director for the Maryland Center for School Safety, about how to make our schools safer for every student.

Join us next time for more updates and news on MASC!

- Nick Warnick and Isabelle Young,  
Publications Coordinators

## Advocacy Day in Allegany County

Allegany County Association of Student Councils (ACASC) took the trip down to Annapolis for the February 28th Advocacy Day. The members of ACASC first met with our Allegany County delegate, Delegate Mike McKay and then sat in on some of the bill hearings. After a brief, but educational tour of the Maryland House and the Governor's Home, they ate at their favorite Annapolis restaurant Chick and Ruth's. They then toured the Naval Academy and spent the day learning about public policy, advocacy, and being more involved in the politics of our community and state!

## Staff Spotlight

Ibrahim Diallo has served as an excellent appointment to MASC's Executive Staff this year. As the Western Divisional Liaison, he's made clear efforts to connect and stay in contact with the delegations from Garrett, Washington, Allegany, Frederick & Carroll Counties. He has done his very best to not only attend the regional general assemblies throughout his division, but also has been exceptional at keeping up to date on the work of the regional councils. The constant contact he's provided has been essential in connecting with our regions this year. He, along with our other divisional liaisons, truly deserve a round of applause for their willingness to do this.

-Matt Talley, Chief of Staff

## State SMOB Update

The State Board of Education has been hard at work getting closer to finalizing our new state accountability plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act. We recently concluded a series of town hall events around the state where we sought input from teachers, parents, and other stakeholders on what factors should be included. In addition to routine regulatory items, we also recently considered a regulation called "Education That Is Multicultural" (ETIM).

ETIM would have updated diversity considerations for curriculum development and school materials to include, among other things, gender identity and sexual orientation. After receiving public comment, MSDE pulled the regulation for further study and development.

We also recently recognized Maryland's outstanding Blue Ribbon schools, EGATE (Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education) schools, and learned about innovative schooling models like the LYNX program in Frederick County.

- David Edimo, Maryland State SMOB



## Advocacy Day in Hartford County

The Hartford County Regional Association of Student Councils (HCRASC) attended Student Advocacy Day on Tuesday, February 28th for the first time. They took a tour of the state house, sat in on the senate and met with Hartford County Representatives, Delegate Andrew Cassilly and Senator Bob Cassilly. They were both very friendly and very excited to have a delegation from Hartford County come to advocacy day. Before departing, they sat in on house committee hearing on ways and means about charter schools and the senate committee hearing about fracking. Many of the students attending the trip did a political action project on the legislation being presented and got to hear their bills being discussed. Overall Student Advocacy Day was a great experience and they plan on attending next year!