

MASC Advisor's Bulletin February 2016

Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC)

Greetings Advisors!

Before you speak, THINK!

T – is it TRUE?

H – is it HELPFUL?

I – is it INSPIRING?

N – is it NECESSARY

K – is it KIND?



Your smile is your logo

Your personality is your business card.

How you leave others feeling after an interaction becomes your trademark.



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

• **Action by 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 3 - Registration for Legislative Session:** Saturday, February 6th, at Manchester Valley High School, MASC's second major conference of the school year is the Legislative Session! Following our theme of the year, "G.O.L.D. Medal Leadership," at this event, we will be "Passing the Torch of Leadership." Delegates will be given opportunities to practice learned leadership skills, develop new ones, take stances on youth related bills before the Maryland General Assembly, and partake in electing the final two candidates for student member of the State Board of Education!

Registration closes at 6:00 p.m. on the extra snow extended deadline on Wednesday, February 3rd.

<http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/legislative-session/> (bottom of the page: Registration)

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

• **Action by February 6th - MASC awards information** – Don't wait until the last minute. *MASC member schools should start looking at the MASC Felix Simon Award for their student councils, Advisor and Principal of the Year Award, plus the reinstated State Charity Award. Award applications are due Saturday, February 6, 2016.* (Note: Advisor and Principal of the Year Award must go through your Region – only one application per Region is accepted...so get your Advisor/Principal application to your Regional Advisors in time for the Region to select and write the required recommendation letter). Full details at <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/applications/masc-awards/>

• **Action by February 18th – MASC Executive Board Meeting:** Registration for the February 20th Executive Board meeting and Health/Social Issues Forum, hosted by Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) at Westlake High School, opens February 2nd and closes on February 18th. Registration link is on the MASC home page, under "Upcoming Events." <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/>

• **Action by February 20th – MASC Officer Applications** - Qualified student leaders interested in running for an MASC office, serving for the 2016-2017 term, should read the application packet carefully, discuss the time commitments with advisors and parents, and complete/turn in the application on or before Saturday, February 20, 2016. <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/2016/01/21/masc-officer-candidate-app-deadline-feb-20/>

• **Action by February 20th - NASC Conference** –The NASC National Conference (June 22-27, 2017) is in Portland, Oregon. Students should notify Mr. Ledebur and Mrs. Crawford on or before February 1st if interested in attending. Limited space is available (only eight students), so read, discuss, and act as soon as possible. Flyer: <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/NASC2016MASC.pdf>

• **Convention** – It's never too early to start planning for the April 6-8 MASC Convention. **Registration opens Monday, February 15, 2016 and closes at midnight on Friday, March 18th.** MASC is hoping that member schools will register early....no use waiting to see if we get another snow storm as deadlines may not as easily be changed due to hotel housing and food orders. (You must be a MASC member school to attend this event). See details at <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/convention-2016/>

• **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/>

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

• **MASC Legislative Advocacy Day - Monday, February 29th:** *The MASC State Legislative Affairs Coordinators (SLACKers) are planning a day/evening in Annapolis for Regions to meet with their legislators, testify at committee hearings and attend a House or Senate evening General Assembly. Details will be posted to the MASC web site when they are available.*

<http://mdstudentcouncils.com/>

• **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 (MLW):** *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** – *We will have a brief regional advisor's meeting at the Legislative Session to touch base on topics from the canceled meeting during the snow storm! Details will be on the agenda.*

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

• **Action by February 16: National Council of Excellence Awards:**

Middle level and high school student councils that consistently provide quality leadership activities and service to their schools and communities can earn national recognition through NASC's National Council of Excellence program. The February 16 deadline for the National Council of Excellence (NCOE) awards is fast approaching, but there is still time for NASC members to complete their portfolios and apply for this prestigious national recognition.

<https://www.nasc.us/national-councils-of-excellence?SSO=true>

• **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>

• **The National Student Project Database** *has reached another milestone, surpassing 3,800 projects, many of which include related links, photo, and documents. NASC council leaders looking for new project ideas have a valuable resource that is just a click away. Highlighted this month are projects that built awareness and responded to needs in the community and beyond.*

mobile.nasc.us/student-projects-database/home?SSO=true

***** **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** *****

Advocacy Tips – with the upcoming MASC Student Advocacy Day, these tips might come in handy!

10 Things to Consider:

1. What issue do you want to address?
2. What is the cause of the issue, who is responsible?
3. What is your long-term goal?
4. What are you asking for?
5. What decision-makers can help you?
6. What is the decision-maker's title, role in the decision-making body, and position on the issue?
7. Who are your key opponents and what influence do they have on decision-makers?
8. Is your group the only one working on this issue?
9. How many people do you need to help? How many can you get?
10. Who are your allies?

The key to influencing your Board of Education and other governing bodies is correspondence!

Research: Don't get caught off-guard! Know everything you can about an issue before lobbying on it! Students are generally seen as naïve, so we must prove that erroneous through our actions and knowledge!

Who are your elected officials? <http://mdelect.net/>

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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