

MASC Advisors Bulletin March 2017
Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC)
www.mdstudentcouncils.org



Greetings Advisors!

Stand up for what is right,
even if you are standing alone.



***** **IMMEDIATE ACTION** *****

• **Action by Saturday, March 18th – Convention Registration Opens Friday, March 3rd:** As we continue our MASC 2016-2017 theme of “Super Heroes, League of Leaders,” the 2017 Convention of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) promises to be a wonderful experience for student leaders from all over the state with a theme of “Leaders by Day, Super Heroes by Night.” The MASC Convention begins late afternoon of Wednesday, April 5th and concludes at 11:30 a.m., on Friday, April 7th. Member schools may register to attend. Registration is open March 3-18-2017.

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/convention/>

• **Special State Charity Event at Convention:** Delegates from each region should bring in cans or funds to nominate a delegate or advisor to participate in the Hunger Games challenge (1 can or \$1 = 1 nomination). The person with the most nominations in each region becomes the tribute to represent their region. Tributes are able to opt-out by bringing in cans or money that balance out how much was raised in their nomination. On Thursday evening during recreation time, tributes will compete in five “minute-to-win-it” challenges. The region that earns the most points after all five challenges wins a prize! Of course, the real winners are the food banks and the Maryland people needing the food! (There is another service learning project on Wednesday evening and some other fun state charity awareness activities!) See details under “Other Information – Important” on the convention website!

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/convention/>

***** **UPCOMING EVENTS** *****

• **Action by April 1st: NASC Conference – June 24-29: Destination New Hampshire:** The 2017 NASC National Conference is guaranteed to be a rock solid leadership experience at host school Pinkerton Academy, New Hampshire, June 26–28 (MASC trip June 24-29). The conference features an exciting blend of top speakers and informative workshops promoting excellence in student council leadership. Join the MASC delegation to learn, network, and celebrate student council in the spirit of the conference theme: Out of this World Leadership! Check out the MASC website for more conference details and workshop presenter information.

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/nasc-lead-conferences/>

• **MASC Staff Applications – April 1 – April 30:** On-line applications for qualified student leaders wishing to apply for MASC staff positions will be open during the month of April. Students must have attended at least one event (conference or executive board meeting). Information will be posted on the MASC homepage:

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/>

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

• **Please Join MASC – Support the Student Leaders in Maryland:** Easy on-line application! Pay by credit card, check or cash! MASC encourages Regional Advisors not in a school to join as an associate member!! Full details on-line:

<http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/applications/masc-membership-application/>

***** **REGIONAL ADVISORS ONLY** *****

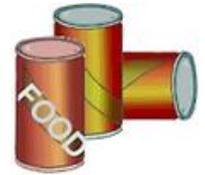
• **REGIONAL ADVISORS: Action by March 29:** Once again, regional advisors (or his/her designees) are invited to meet after the MASC Convention on Friday, April 7th (Meeting 2:30 p.m. – dinner). This is an important time for reflection, sharing, and planning. For planning purposes, please email Lance Ledebur (Lance.Ledebur@maryland.gov) and Karen Crawford (MrsKCrawford@gmail.com). Let us know if you want a room (no charge) for overnight on Friday, April 7th.

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



- **March Green Goals:** Theme: Clean Up (from the MASC Environmental Coordinators)
 - Get together with some friends to go clean up a park, stream, sports complex, anything!
 - Plant trees in area of your community that you think could use more green.
 - Promote the use of waste bins in your community where litter is evident.

• **MASC State Charity:** Maryland Food Bank is MASC's selected state charity. MASC is asking that participants bring a canned food item to EVERY MASC event this year. Please report to MASC every time your school conducts a food drive, has students volunteering at a food bank, or does a fundraiser for a food closet. For other ideas on how your school can support our charity, go to:



<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/about-us/state-charity/>

• **MASC Web Site:** Keeping you up-to-date! Bookmark and check out the MASC web site! (Please note: MASC changed our URL to ".org" as we are an organization, not meant for commercial intent or ".com" The ".com" URL will automatically direct you to the ".org" but it is best if you change your bookmark!)

<http://mdstudentcouncils.org>

***** **NASC NEWS** *****

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

• **National Student Leadership Week – April 16-22, 2017:** Student leaders are "Making a World of Difference" in schools and communities during National Student Leadership Week, April 16-22. Plan your celebration now! Sponsoring organizations NASC, the National Honor Societies, and their parent, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), invite schools to recognize student leaders for their outstanding achievements and efforts to improve school climate through their activities. This year's theme supports the NASSP student leadership initiative on global citizenship. Be sure your students know about this year's video challenge too. Visit the NASC website to learn all about it. You'll also find resources and ideas to plan how you can celebrate your student leaders. Share your activities via social media using #NSLW17.

<http://bit.ly/2lHSfRs>

• **NASC Members: NASC Student Council Handbook Now Online:** The NASC Student Council Handbook has been added under Advisor Resources on the NASC website. The handbook includes an outline and recommendations for council constitutions, meeting-related templates for officers, and a guide to project planning. Most chapters include sidebars with content specifically for middle level advisers. Find it under "Managing Your Council" and click into the Council Management Download Center.

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

• **Advisors Bulletin On-line** – Remember, the monthly Advisor Bulletin is archived on the MASC web.

<http://mdstudentcouncils.com/index.php/documents/advisors-bulletin/>

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

NASSP Tips and Tools – Writing an Effective News Release: NASC councils host astounding service projects, but some may go unnoticed by many in the local community without a news story. With online, print, and video options, local media outlets have become more amenable to share word about the great things student councils are doing. Still, the strength of the stories is often up to the writer. In school districts without trained public information officers, the task of sharing your council's good news may fall to the advisor or student publications coordinator.

Check out the NASC Communications Toolkit and other Public Relations/Publicity resources. <https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/resources/leadership-resources-handouts-and-presentations/publicity/>

Elections: Many SGAs have elections in the spring. It is never too early to review your election guidelines and timelines. "Election time can be a stressful time for both students and advisors. It's a risky thing for a student to put him or herself forward and risk losing. Sometimes when a student loses, it's easier to blame the process than to accept that voters preferred another candidate. Advisors who don't carefully control the election process to assure fairness for all candidates and promotion of the democratic process open themselves and their school to possible criticism from students, faculty, and parents." (Sue Dowty, "Election Methods," *Leadership for Student Activities*, NASSP, November 1996)

Refer to some of the resources that MASC has on their web resource page!

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/index.php/resources/leadership-resources-handouts-and-presentations/elections/>

Also – see chapter six in the NASC Student Council Handbook:

<https://mdstudentcouncils.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/NASCStudentCouncilHandbook.pdf>

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

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