

MARYLAND

Association of Student Councils

QUARTERLY



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THE MAGIC OF
MASC
SPELLBINDING LEADERSHIP



Legislative Session Info

On Saturday, February 11, 2023, MASC's annual Legislative Session will take place at Wheaton High School in Montgomery County. The Legislative Session Conference is where students across Maryland vote for their top two finalists for the state Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB). Students select two candidates to move forward for the governor to appoint the next SMOB. The conference also includes workshops centered around the legislative process and general sessions where delegates take stances on youth-related bills in the General Assembly. Registration is now open for MASC member schools only and will close at 11:59 p.m, Wednesday January 25th. School advisors or administrators MUST register students for this conference through the link on the MASC Legislative Session [web page](#).

Legislation



State SMOB Town Hall

On Tuesday, February 7th, students will have the opportunity to hear from the candidates during a virtual Town Hall hosted by MASC. This event will give students a chance to educate themselves on the platforms of the candidates and make sure they are

MASC website on January 20th. Students can register for the Town Hall through the MASC [website](#) or by clicking the link below. Registration closes February 4th.

[Link to event registration form](#)



Division 5 Conference

MASC's Division 5 Conference returns on Saturday, February 4th! The conference is open to students from Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. Students from both member and nonmember schools will be able to attend. This conference will include exciting workshops, engaging roundtables, and a mental health awareness panel. The conference will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Patuxent High School in Calvert County. This is an amazing opportunity for students to network with people from their county and surrounding counties! [Registration](#) for this event is open and will close at 11:59 p.m., on January 31st. Students must register themselves for the event.

Recap of the First Half of the Year

Over the past several months, MASC has accomplished some amazing feats. Since the officers were sworn in during the May Executive Board meeting, the organization hasn't shied away from working to accomplish its goals. This has been the first 'normal' summer and fall semester for MASC since 2019. Over the summer, MASC was able to host its first completely in-person Advance in two years. Students from across Maryland were able to come together for a three-night conference that included presenter training, Fall Leadership Conference workshop brainstorming, and an executive board meeting.

This was just one event that MASC held in-person. The September Workshop Presenter Certification, December Executive Board Meeting, and most excitingly, Fall Leadership Conference were also all held in-person. Fall Leadership Conference returned with just as much power and influence as it had before the COVID-19 Pandemic. Workshops were impactful and the middle school students weren't afraid to make their voices heard during the conference's Mock General Assembly. Lastly, MASC's presenters were able to once again create the inspiring and inviting atmosphere that in-person events hold!

While MASC has accomplished a lot

as an organization, there are also some that have set precedents within MASC through their specific positions. Our officers are amazing examples of this. In July, some of the MASC officers and Executive Directors spoke with the Maryland Board of Education. Their presentation covered MASC's purpose and goals as an organization. They made sure board members understood the importance of MASC and its work to amplify student voices and foster leadership development. Through this meeting, they were able to connect with an important board that affects students across Maryland. Hopefully MASC will continue to have a relationship with the board of education and continue to work with them to positively impact students

Despite an expected tricky transition to in-person events, MASC has done a fantastic job keeping students engaged and growing their leadership. MASC cannot wait to see what we accomplish in the remaining months!

Spirit Wear



Interested in repping MASC Merch?

Purchase MASC Spirit Wear at <https://mdprint.shop/collections/masc>

Owned and Operated by MASC Alumnus

MASC Officers Q and A

MASC Major Conferences and Executive Board meetings give us the opportunity to hear from our officers, but what about all the time in between the conferences? What are the officers up to? What are they most excited about?

These are a few of the questions the officers answered after reflecting on the first part of their term.



President: Maja Durkovic

What is the thing you've done so far this year that you are most proud of?

I am most proud of MASC's planning and execution of our first in-person Fall Leadership Conference in three years. This event was an amazing opportunity for statewide networking and education, along with being the foundation for the rest of our in-person major conferences this year.

Who has been your biggest supporter so far during your term?

My family have been my biggest supporters. From helping me fix a jammed printer to make workshop supplies to driving me over two hours to an Executive Board meeting, they've been fantastic. I couldn't do this job without them!



Durkovic speaks during the August Executive Board Meeting.

What is something that someone on the outside looking in wouldn't know about your position?

I wouldn't be able to comprehend the amount of people that go into making MASC successful. MASC is absolutely a testament to "it takes a village"; as president, I get to stand in the spotlight, but there are so many other incredible moving parts to MASC!



Vice President: Angelina Xu

What is the thing you've done so far this year that you are most proud of?

I've directed a lot of my attention this year to accessibility and reforming how we go about it. For our Fall Leadership Conference, I led our amazing team of divisional liaisons in pioneering Project MASC to You, which brought a MASC representative to each county and city across Maryland so that every secondary student gets to hear a personalized message from MASC.

What has surprised you the most about your position?

What amazed me the most is the sheer amount of behind-the-scenes work that goes into every decision MASC makes. I've always admired the thoughtfulness of our MASC team, and I've gotten so much fulfillment from finally getting to be a part of every aspect of planning for our conferences and dozens of other events.



Xu speaks during the December Executive Board Meeting.

If you had to choose one song to describe the first half of your term, what would it be and why?

I would choose New Romantics by Taylor Swift because the return to in-person conferences gives me this exciting and carefree energy that I know a lot of our delegates have been enjoying. It's a personal favorite of mine, so I hope lots of other people feel this energy throughout my term!



Treasurer: Shruti Vadlakonda

What is the thing you've done so far this year that you are most proud of?

I am most proud of starting the old electronics fundraiser and heading the #GivingEveryTuesday social media campaign with the Finance Committee, which have been going amazing so far thanks to the support of all our student leaders across the state!



Vadlakonda speaks during the December Executive Board Meeting.

What is something that someone on the outside looking in wouldn't know about your position?

Being a Treasurer is not all numbers and calculations. In fact, the position requires a lot of creativity and thoughtful planning, as your main role is to help organize fundraising events! In this position, you also get to collaborate closely with people from all MASC departments and outside organizations.



**Second Vice President:
David Arowolo**

If you had to choose one song to describe the first half of your term, what would it be and why?

Touch the Sky - Kanye West, given the opportunity as to serve as 2nd Vp it's been an unrealistic and amazing experience, so unreal that I could touch the sky.

Who has been your biggest supporter so far during your term?

My biggest supporters has been the members of the Action in Middle School Committee, and a few 2nd Vice Presidents in Maryland, we all have similar goals, struggles and perspectives as middle schoolers in student council and we help in each other grow in our positions as student leaders.

What is something that someone on the outside looking in wouldn't know about your position?

Something someone on the outside looking in wouldn't see is the amount of dedication, time and effort it takes to fulfill and exceed the expectations of the 2nd Vice President.



Arowolo looks towards the stage at Fall Leadership Conference.

Upcoming Deadlines

Registration Deadline

25

January

Legislative Session

Event Date: Feb 11

*Advisors register
students

[Link to more information](#)

Division 5 Conference

Event Date: Feb 4

*Students register
themselves

[Link to more information](#)

Registration Deadline

31

January

Registration Deadline

01

February

Convention Workshop

Presenter Application

*Registration opens
January 18

[Link to more Information](#)

SMOB Town Hall

Event Date: Feb 7

*Virtual event. Students
register themselves

[Link to more information](#)

Registration Deadline

04

February

Registration Deadline

11

February

MASC Advisor of the Year and Outstanding Student Council Awards

[Link to more information](#)

January Green Goals

Happy New Year! Take this new year as an opportunity to start fresh, and set a resolution to make more sustainable choices.

Now, every little choice we make or don't make has a monumental impact on the Earth. To have a neutral, or better yet, positive impact, we can start by taking small steps towards more mindful lifestyles. This year, set a resolution to be more proactive about your ecological footprint by creating personal and specific goals. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Consuming fewer meat products! Meat production is heavily taxing on the environment—through ways like greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, soil degradation, large rates of water consumption, and the creation of coastal dead zones.
- Start composting! Composting can be an easy and passive way to reduce your ecological footprint—and benefits everyone involved.
- Be a conscious consumer! Being sustainable doesn't necessarily mean completely changing your lifestyle overnight—you can start by setting a goal to be more mindful of what you purchase.
- Take shorter showers! It seems like such an elementary idea, but reducing your shower time can, directly and indirectly, lead to a much more sustainable lifestyle.

To read more about this month's green goal, click [here!](#)

Electronics Fundraiser

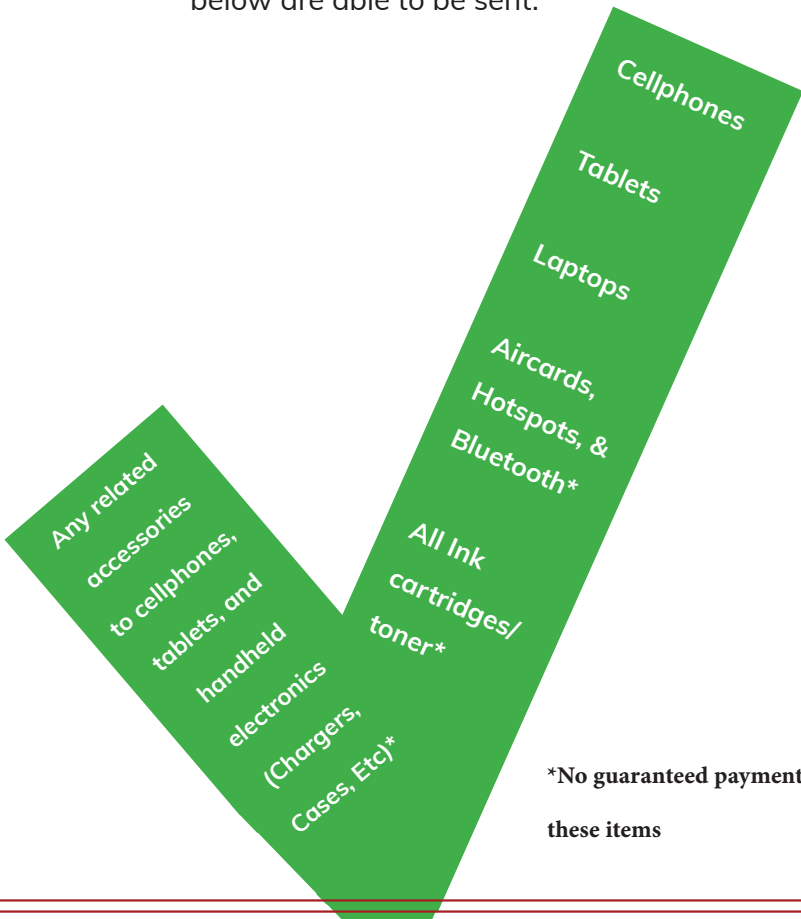
In keeping with our green goals, MASC is proud to continue our environmentally responsible fundraiser designed to help alleviate the fast growing environmental problem of e-waste. But we need your help. Simply dust off your old electronics, place them in a box, print the FREE pre-paid shipping label, and take it to the nearest FedEx to ship.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the recycling of these items will go towards funding MASC, so we can continue to have our amazing events and conferences.

For more information about the fundraiser click [here](#)

Acceptable Items

Any of the items listed on the check below are able to be sent.



*No guaranteed payment on these items

Instructions

1. Find all of your old electronics (anything the size of a laptop or smaller) that adhere to the accepted items list below!

2. Place them in a box. You can use the link below to request a collection box to help collect old electronics on your own for the fundraiser, and the shipping label will already be attached!

[Link to Request Collection Box](#)

3. Use the link below to generate your free shipping label if you did not request a collection box!

[Link to Generate Free Shipping Label](#)

4. Print the shipping label.

5. If you requested a collection box, bring the box to the nearest FedEx to ship for free! If not, ship your package using USPS!

Unacceptable Items

Any of the items listed on the x below should not be sent

