

MARYLAND

Association of Student Councils

QUARTERLY



THIRD ISSUE

SPRING QUARTERLY

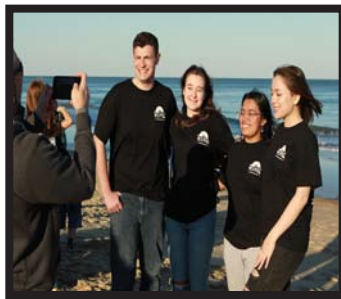
MASC PUBLICATIONS

MARCH 2024

CONVENTION

Overview

Every year, the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) hosts a Convention, a three-day student leadership conference. MASC member schools from across the state attend workshops, elect the MASC officers, listen to a motivational speaker, select the two final SMOB candidates, and take part in fun activities. This year, the Convention ran from February 28th to March 1st. The event had close to 950 attendees.



What Was New?

This year, the MASC Convention combined elements from the traditional Convention with elements from one of MASC's former major conferences, the Legislative Session. This combination led to the adoption of a Civics Workshop covering information about bills, advocacy, and the student member of the state Board of Education (SMOB) position. The State Legislative Affairs Coordinators (SLACers) proposed stances on youth-related bills in the Maryland General Assembly. Students were also given information about the role and selection process for the SMOB position. This allowed them to prepare for listening to speeches and participating in a Q&A session with the candidates.



The MASC SLACers address the delegation.



Current MASC Chief of Staff, Shradha Bista serves as an R.

OC 2024

HOSTING CONVENTION

OC 2024

Convention would not be successful without the dedication of the hosts for the conference. Hosting the Convention this year was especially daunting as the conference's objectives expanded. Anticipating the impact of the expansion and seeing the abundance of work WCASC took on hosting last year's conference, MASC made a change. MASC decided to divide hosting duties amongst two groups- one group that hosts general conference activities and another that hosts the advisor hospitality room.

During the December Executive Board meeting, Northwood High School and the Calvert Association of Student Councils (CASC) made successful bids to host the conference. Northwood High School, a part of the Montgomery County Regional SGA (MCR), hosted the main portion of the conference, recreational activities, decorations, and some set-up. CASC organized and ran the Advisor Hospitality area which included refreshments for advisors and provided themed baskets for an advisor drawing.



Members of the host staff check-in delegates and advisors.



CASC President Madelynn Kelly, addresses delegates.

Andrew Lieux, CASC's Vice President, discussed CASC's experience hosting. "Advisor hospitality was a riveting experience. I loved seeing the ecosystem of advisors flood in as a constant reminder, over the 3-day conference, of the celebration of student leadership!!" The hard work the hosts put into the conference was obvious as delegates and advisors thoroughly enjoyed the event and everything it had to offer.

STATE SMOB

The time has come to select the next state Student member of the state Board of Education. During the first night of the convention, delegates heard from the 2024-2025 state SMOB candidates, Abhiram Gaddam and Jordan Hayes.

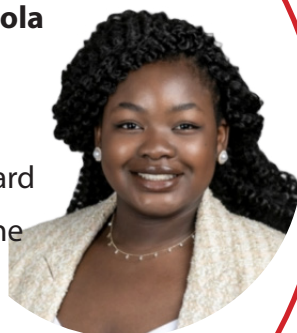


Hayes and Gaddam address the delgation during their speeches and Q & A session.

One week after the Convention, Governor Wes Moore appointed Abhiram Gaddam, pending Senate confirmation, as the next state SMOB. Read more about Abhiram [here](#).

SMOB CORNER

Current **State SMOB Abisola Ayoola** has a newsletter with updates about her position and the State Board of Education. Check out the newsletter [here](#).



Fun Fun Fun

A testament to the hard work of Northwood High School, the recreation activities for the Convention were a key part of the conference. Although the Convention included a multitude of fun activities, there were a few that stood out. Below are the top 3 activities from the event.

- The Annual Convention Talent Show**
- The Dance**
- Karaoke**



Workshops

Convention workshops covered a wide range of topics including, overdose awareness and training, storytelling, advocacy, school projects and activities, and SMOBs. Many of the workshops this year were centered around equipping delegates with tools to help them both as student leaders and future professionals. “The goal of the workshop was to inspire the next generation of leaders to take charge and make an impact they are proud of,” said Prince George’s County SMOB Rayne Rivera-Forbes, who taught a workshop titled “SMOBs in Action.”

Some notable aspects of the workshops at the Convention were the engaging activities in which delegates participated. One workshop used a petal cart activity and impaired goggles that demonstrated the dangers of drunk driving and another had delegates participate in Olympic-type games that focused on communication, collaboration, and coordination. The MASC workshop presenters created fun and engaging workshops under the guidance of the Student Workshop Coordinators. The conference’s workshops left delegates with important skills and informed them about a myriad of topics.

Moments from the conference.

2024-2025 MASC Officers

Officer Elections



**President-Elect
Shradha Bista**



**1st Vice President-Elect
Madison Watts**



**2nd Vice President-Elect
Derrell Gross**



**Treasurer-Elect
David Arowolo**

At the start of the Convention, the seven candidates running for MASC office briefed their campaign staff, practiced their speeches once more, and prepared to address over 940 delegates and advisors during several general assemblies. On day two of the conference, candidates for MASC President, Vice President, Treasurer, and 2nd Vice President presented their platforms, discussed their experience, and emphasized their passion for MASC. Delegates were able to vote for the MASC officers on the third day of the conference. See the photos to the left to meet the 2024-2025 officer team.

Motivational Speaker: Logan Taylor

During the conference, MASC hosted motivational speaker, Logan Taylor. As the founder of Y.B.Normal?, an organization dedicated to helping students succeed, he made it clear that students are the key to reducing the stigma around mental health. He stressed the power of students uniting to make a difference in the mental health space and to support each other through “uncomfortable conversations.” Taylor also connected with delegates by sharing his story of overcoming adversity in his life. Delegates left the general session excited to take on the challenge of being a changemaker.



*Logan Taylor
speaks to
delegates at the
conference.*



Farewell Convention 2024

Sad about the Convention ending? MASC's President Angelina Xu has an outlook that might help. As this is her last Convention, Angelina shared her feelings on this emotional milestone.

Q: *How did it feel planning and attending the Convention for the last time?*

A: It was truly a bittersweet moment — I think the dynamic was different because we knew that the Spring Leadership Conference would be coming, but the Convention still holds such a sense of wonder that it feels like the biggest hurrah of the year. There's a sense of unity and love that shapes so many core memories for so many delegates at the conference, and I still feel enveloped by that love weeks later.

Q: *What do you hope delegates took away from this conference?*

A: I hope delegates hold a lasting sense of empowerment to go back to their communities. So many of them have described attaining a new sense of the wonder of student leadership through our conferences, and I want them to teach these workshops and implement new student council projects at their schools.

It's safe to say that the Convention had a profound impact on not only the attendees but the student leaders who organized the event. Although seniors will be moving on to their next stage, their work in MASC will have a lasting impact on not only the Convention but all MASC conferences. As for the delegates who aren't seniors, MASC looks forward to welcoming them back next year and hopefully seeing them at the remaining events for this year.

What's Next?

Now that the Convention has ended, MASC is looking toward its next event, the Spring Leadership Conference. The event will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024, hosted by South Hagerstown High School and the Washington County Association of Student Councils. It will include a time for recognizing outstanding students, advisors, and members of the MASC community. Additionally, the event will feature an exciting new element- the "Hall of Ideas." This will consist of school display boards highlighting the best projects or events from each school. The goal is to allow delegates to highlight amazing initiatives in their school while gaining new ideas. Click [here](#) for examples of the display board. Registration for this event is open now and will close on April 3rd, 2024. Advisors must register delegates. Click [here](#) for more information. Don't miss out on attending MASC's last major conference of the year!