MASC NEWSLETTER

Hello MASC! Hopefully everyone had a great summer and is ready to get back and make a difference in everything we do. For those of who are not familiar with the Minnesota Association of Student Councils, we are a union of student lead councils that represent the state of Minnesota. All of our official statements and constitution are available on our website which is included on the last page of this newsletter. This newsletter will hopefully become a monthly publication that will be sent to all of MASC. It is assembled and edited by the MASC Vice President, Jon Melgaard. The MASC Executive committee is a group of five students from across the state that meet monthly to plan the years activities such as conferences and state service projects, including the State Convention. In the following few pages, Executive Committee biographies are included to allow you to get to know your officers. We are really excited for all that is to come, so let's make this a great year MASC!

Who are we?

President

Emma Hellevik

Hey everyone! My name is Emma Hellevik and I am thrilled to represent you on the M.A.S.C. committee as President for the 2010-2011 year. I'm a senior from the small town of Medford, and I love being involved in my school. I participate in Big Brothers - Big Sisters, Business Professionals of America, FFA, National Honors Society, and softball as a catcher. In addition, I absolutely love music and am in choir, band, school/community theater, and All State Choir. This summer, an awesome group of delegates traveled to the Indianapolis for one of the most amazing conferences I have ever attended; the N.A.S.C. Conference. The Minnesota delegation was incredible, and we all realized more about our leadership skills. With all of our great ideas and leadership skills from this conference, we hope to make the 2011 State Convention in Walker the best yet! We hope you can join us by Jammin'' to Leadership for the 2010-2011 year!

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Vice President

Jonathan Melgaard

Greetings MASC! I am Jonathan Melgaard and I will be acting as your state Vice President for the 2010-2011 school year! First of all, I would like to write that I am very honored to have been given this opportunity and I am extremely excited to see what this year will bring! I am proud to be a member of the class of 2011 at the Detroit Lakes High School. There I was elected as the Student Council President as well as the National Honor Society Secretary. I believe that one should put their very best effort in everything that one may do. This philosophy carries over into my athletics. Being the captain of our varsity swim team, I have had three consecutive state appearances for diving. Music is also a large part of my life. I am involved in both band and choir, and have appeared onstage in nine theatrical productions. Additionally, I am a 2009 HOBY Alum, as well as a 2010 RYLA-rian, and the youth representative for the United Way of Becker County. Service and helping others is a large aspect of my dynamic life. So, I hope our year is a productive one, and that MASC can make a big difference in our state!

Secretary

Sophia Sodhi

Hello leaders! My name is Sophia Sodhi and I will be your MASC secretary – I am so excited! This year I will be a junior at Orono High School in Long Lake, Minnesota; twenty minutes west of Minneapolis near Lake Minnetonka. I love my school and always try to stay as involved as possible. This year I will be a part of link crew, student senate, the debate team and the speech team. I also really enjoy playing basketball and tennis for my high school team and I am looking forward to next spring where I will begin my first season as track team captain! All my athletes know that the court or the fields are yet more places to show our leadership! Furthermore, I had the great honor and pleasure of attending the NASC Conference in Indianapolis in June and cannot wait to get some of our excellent executive board ideas rolling! Time to get down to business ;)

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I have grown up most of my life in Walker, a small northern town on the edge of Leech Lake, a popular tourist destination, and the third largest lake in our great state. I have been attending school at Walker-Hackensack-Akeley school district ever since the fourth grade. This coming year I will be a senior and the vice president of our student council. I have also taken an active roll in the National Honor Society, Rotary Interact, and year book club in my school. I have also participated in many sports, volleyball being my favorite. I teach three dance classes a week as well as swimming lessons. Being involved in all of these activities has led me to discover that after high school I will be attending college to earn my masters degree in business administration. I enjoy attending pageants in the summer and painting in my free time. I'm looking forward to co-chairing this years state student council convention in Walker. Im happy and excited to be on the executive board of student council for Minnesota!

Co-Coordinator

Jana Steward

Hi, my name is Megan Parks. I am going to be a Junior and live in the tiny baby of a town, Walker. I love living in a town small where you know everyone, but am looking forward to heading off to college in a few years. I am currently the President of my schools student council. I am also involved in my schools volleyball, softball, speech, drama, and cheerleading programs. Those who know me know that Im overly enthusiastic in everything I do. I plan on bringing this enthusiasm to the 2011 state convention!

Co-Coordinator

Megan Parks

Nationals!

This past June, a delegation of 50 students and advisors from Minnesota journeyed down to Indianapolis for the NASC National Conference. Here they further developed their leadership skills while listening to nationally renowned speakers and meeting other delegations from across the country. Miiiko Taylor and Davi Singer have both written about their experiences being veterans of the annual gathering. So remember their words as you consider going to the STAR Leadership Convention in St. Louis next year!

Minnesota Holla!

Ask anybody that has been to Nationals and you will hear a lot of words. One word you will not hear is boring, The NASC conference in Indiana was my third conference. Being a veteran to NASC still didn't prepare me for the experience I had there. When you enter the school where the conference is held, you are welcomed by about 50 students. All giving you high-fives as you walk out the bus. As you enter the building you see a variety of people wearing t-shirts representing states from coast to coast. As you walk down the halls to your hear so many different accents you forget what part of the country your in, and as you enter the gym you are given pins from 10 states in about 30 seconds. As you can tell from this description, The NASC conference is anything but a dull moment. I felt proud as the Minnesota delegation represented who we with our cheers. By the end of the conference we had everyone talking about spam. There were games and music and tons of dancing. But there is more to this conference then state pride and games.

There were inspirational speakers who talked about what we as youth and leaders of the future can do to change the world. One of the highlights of this trip for me was the Boys and Girls Club service project. About 3 delegates from the conference were paired with a child in the Boys and Girls Club. We took them to the Children Museum which just so happened to be the biggest children museum in the world. At the museum we saw themed exhibits like Barbie, a star wars, and rock and roll. The most interesting Museum showcased young people who made a real difference in our country. Everyone felt great because we were able to make a difference in a young child's life. We had an amazing candle lighting ceremony that light a soccer field. I think I speak for everyone when I say you couldn't have gone to this conference and not taken something back. Whether it was a student council idea, a message, or even a southern accent! As a NASC veteran, this has truly changed my life, and many others. I would recommend it to anyone.

- Miiko Taylor
City Wide, Minneapolis

Matt and his buddy digging up dinosaur bones at the Children's Museum!

Inspiration in the Fast Lane

For the second time in my high school career, I was fortunate enough to experience the NASC National Conference. This year's theme, 'Start the Engines of Leadership', truly represented the overall accomplishment of the adrenalized, four day conference.

Qualifications Day was just the beginning of a fun, thrill-packed week. After meeting our state guides, the time given to us to converse with our fellow peers from other states was a fantastic and very natural feeling and icebreaker that allowed connections and bonds to be started; these were built upon throughout the conference. While Race Day got off to a very early start, it was a very event filled, turn taking day by all standards. Although I was one of the people who did not necessarily appreciate the walk to the college campus (IUPUI),

I believe I speak for most delegates when I say that the speakers' showcases were great. These show cases included high energy presentations like "Jumpstart Your Personal Finances" where money was given out to a lucky few in the crowd, "Brilliance Is Your Birthright", and even workshops for advisors including "Discovering Your Personal Power" presented by Minnesota's very own, Derek Emery. One of the conferences many highlights included our trip to the Indiana War Memorial and Museum where we learned about many of the great leaders in American history – This was truly an inspirational point in the conference. It reminded us that we have a great deal of things to live up to, and that no matter the circumstances, we should never settle for less. It was disappointing that we did not have more time to spend there. Plans went astray at the Indianapolis Speedway when bad whether came, prohibiting us from touring the track and leaving us stranded in the speedway until the storm calmed.

Checkered Flag Day opened on a fantastic note with the second general session and keynote speaker Mark Scharenbroich. Mark spoke about fuel the passion to serve others and the importance of making meaningful connections throughout life. This ten-time NASC keynote speaker had the perfect balance of seriousness and humor, leaving us doubled over in laughter, yet still taking his powerful message with us after the conference.

Perhaps the most eye-opening experience of the conference was the time spent with youth from the Boys and Girls Club. After being paired with youth from the Boys and Girls Club, we ate dinner with them and then took them on a trip to the local Children's Museum. In just a few hours I learned the importance of being an active participant in the lives of our younger youth. A few hours of listening to, talking to, and encouraging a person can change the road their life will take. Keith Hawkins gave us a message about moving through life without hate in our hearts, the amazing power of forgiveness, and how open hearts can open doors. When our time with the children was done, we headed to IUPUI's stadium for the candle lighting program.

Marquita Thomas gave a passionate speech about making dreams come true, bringing forth positive change, and the power of ONE (Opportunity Never Ends). In this powerful message, Marquita spoke about a little boy who was dying of a fatal illness, and a police officer who made that little boys dreams come true. This police officer went on to start the Make A Wish Foundation. Towards the end of the program, all of the delegates and staff lit candles. With over a thousand people in attendance, it was quite the sight. Each delegate was given a keychain. On each keychain had three paperclips shaped as the number one. Each paperclip was to be given to people who had helped and encouraged us throughout our lives thus far. In this truly moving ceremony, there was laughter, tears, and a renewed view of life. This was beyond a doubt the best possible closing to an unbelievably perfect conference.

-Davi Singer
SW High School, Minneapolis

Other News

If your council is doing anything interesting, let us know! Contact Jon Melgaard and he will work with you to get an article in the newsletter so the whole state can hear about all the great things your council is doing!

Don't Forget!

To use our Idea Share on the the MASC website! It is a great resource for anyone that needs new ideas for anything pertaining to Student Council!

Dates To Remember!

Nov. 14-15 President's Forum
Arrowwood Resort
April 9-11 State Convention
Walker High School
June 25-27 Star Leadership
Conference- St. Louis, MO

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