

MAHS Newsletter



Minnesota Association of Honor Societies

January 2010

2011 MAHS State Convention - “Bring Out Your Inner Superhero”

Join students and advisors from around the state as the Minnesota Association of Honor Societies convenes once again for its annual convention. The convention will last from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 17 in the TIES Building in St. Paul. Events at the convention will include a keynote speech and workshop presented by Craig Hillier, state service project presentations, elections of new officers, a mini service project, and awarding of scholarships. Any student seeking to campaign for a position on the executive board should see the the MAHS website Registration for the convention and officer applications can be found at www.massp.org/mahs_professional_state.html.

Harding High School Contributes to the State Service Project

In conjunction with “Hunger Awareness”, the 2011 MAHS State Service Project, students from both Harding High School’s NHS Chapter and Student Council collected 2,139 pounds of food to donate to their local food shelf. Students kicked off their collection by trick-or-treating for canned items on Halloween and continued the food drive until Thanksgiving.



A Harding High School NHS member helps lift food shelf items through the school’s windows.

Please send pictures of your NHS Chapter promoting “Hunger Awareness”, the 2011 MAHS State Service Project, to Dr. Todd Beach at todd.beach@district196.org by February 11 to be included in the State Convention presentation.

Through Their Eyes

MAHS Executive Committee members share their thoughts and feelings on what it is like being a state officer. Applications for next year's officers are now being accepted. Applicants must attend the state convention. Please visit the MAHS website to download officer applications. Applications are due in the MAHS office by February 11.

Lisa Ramroop, President

Entering a position at the State Office, I was intimidated. It was a prestigious post, and my stomach was full of butterflies on my first day, as I didn't know what to expect.

As President of the Minnesota Association of Honor Societies, I still feel butterflies each time I attend a meeting. However, now the butterflies are ones of excitement. At each convening of the Executive Committee, my duties consist of helping lead the meetings along, and offering my opinion on projects like the State Service Project, and State Convention. I have had the tremendous opportunity to be able to speak at the President's Leadership Forum in Alexandria, Minnesota and will be speaking on a panel of students for the Minnesota Association of School Boards this January. Additionally, my responsibilities include reading applications for the MAHS scholarship and helping at the State Convention in February. The executive committee also judges and picks winners for the various NHS awards offered at the end of the year. Finally, I am privileged to write for this newsletter.

Someone interested in a State position should be pragmatic, well organized, a good listener, open to teamwork and creative. Those that find themselves in my position have a lot of responsibilities, but they will find it an extremely fulfilling experience as well.

Paige Borst, Vice-President

Being a state officer is not only an honor and a privilege, it is also an eye-opening experience. My experience as a leader has been expanded by my work and contributions to National Honor Society. This position has not only taught me the importance of contributing to all peers of the program, but also to learn from them. Along with fun and friendships you will make with your officer team comes the importance of representing Minnesota Association of Honor Societies as well. As soon as you become an officer you become the face of National Honor Society for the State of Minnesota. It is quite an honor but it also has its responsibilities, though by working hard it all pays off. The experiences and chances you receive while in office are one in a million. Not only does it look great on a college résumé, but you will remember it for life. The position is life changing and is something everyone should experience.

Kurt Haag, Secretary

Not only have I been privileged and honored to serve as secretary for the MAHS Executive Committee, but I have also been greatly rewarded with the experience of serving as a state officer. I have thoroughly enjoyed my participation in meetings, the President's Forum, and my own NHS chapter's contributions to the State Service Project. Sure, my personal tasks of recording meeting minutes, writing articles, compiling the newsletter, attending MAHS events, and more keep me plenty busy; however, I cannot express the amount of joy I have had serving as a leader for the entire MAHS. I have made so many friendships and met so many inspiring students and advisers in all of my experiences as secretary. I again have been deeply honored to serve such a wonderful organization filled with so many kind, talented, and giving individuals. I will always treasure my MAHS experiences and apply what I have learned from my service as secretary as I journey into the road ahead.

Fill the Bowls - Eastview High School's Fight Against Local Hunger

By: Tim Journey, Eastview NHS Vice-President

Fill the Bowls, Eastview NHS's service project in conjunction with the State NHS Service Project of Hunger Awareness, was quite a success. Completely planned and run by students, the event took place on December 14th and fundraised over \$1,400 for local food shelves in one night.

Over the course of a month, Eastview NHS students made over 100 handmade ceramic bowls through their school's art department and local pottery centers. Bowls were also donated by art centers like "Color Me Mine". These bowls were then filled with donated soup and bread and sold for ten dollars each, with all proceeds going to local food shelves. There was live entertainment all night, also provided by Eastview students, and pastries, refreshments and pie available for sale. All food was donated by local businesses and bakeries, including Perkins, Great Harvest Bread Company, Baker's Square and over \$400 worth of soup from Kowalski's market.

According to the Eagan Resource Center, every one dollar donated to a Minnesota food shelf purchases nine dollars worth of food - in essence, Fill the Bowls raised over \$12,600 worth of food.

In all, over 100 community members came to Eastview during the three hours of Fill the Bowls, where they shared a delicious meal, purchased handmade ceramic bowls, and joined in the fight against local hunger.



Above, ceramic bowls lined the tables at Eastview's Fill the Bowls campaign.



NHS Members of Becker High School pose for a picture after trick-or-treating for food shelf items.

Becker High School Promotes "Hunger Awareness"

By: Kurt Haag, MAHS Secretary

Becker High School NHS Chapter's contributions to the 2011 MAHS State Service Project have proven beneficial both to the community and the students involved. A committee of NHS members helped plan and coordinate a three-week-long school-wide food shelf drive whose total collection amounted to 1,596 items. Prizes for advisory classes that collected the most number of items led to intense competition amongst many classrooms. After the food drive was over a group of NHS members had plenty of fun loading an entire truck and car full of items and carrying them to stock into the food shelf.

NHS members expanded their service into the community by trick-or-treating for food shelf items on Halloween. Students, dressed in their costumes, trick-or-treated throughout Becker's neighborhoods and came up with trunks loaded with food shelf items. NHS members also found time to visit some haunted houses and yards around the community. All in all, the State Service Project efforts of Becker NHS members have proven very successful.

Bertha-Hewitt “Goes Green” and contributes to the State Service Project

By: Paige Borst, MAHS Vice-President

The Bertha-Hewitt National Honor Society has recently been taking charge in its community and school by making a difference both economically and environmentally. The members recently participated in a Community Pick-Up day and have been actively involved with the school’s new recycling system, which was also an idea of one of the National Honor Society members. The recycling system has now led to a 50% reduction in the school’s total garbage waste, saving the school hundreds of dollars each month. The money the school is saving is also going back to the school’s students through student organizations including the National Honor Society chapter.

All of the National Honor Society members are currently members of the Bertha-Hewitt Green Team, which takes pride in helping our school “Go Green” and give back to the environment. The Green Team has been collecting bottles, cans, paper, and any other recyclable items and placing them in recycling areas. The National Honor Society’s environmental project is also collecting coke caps to gain coke points. They are asking students, teachers, parents, and the community to donate their coke caps so that the organization can take these points and buy coke beverages to be sold in the school. The money raised from these sales goes to the member’s projects, like Breast Cancer Awareness and helping the local food shelf. The project not only helps those in need, but also goes back to the community, the school, local businesses, and the citizens.

Along with all of this the members have been helping the State Service Project by donating their time stocking the local food shelf and participating with their school in an annual Food Drive. Also the National Honor Society chapter plans to take a profit of their coke point money and donate to their local food shelf to further improve their work with the State Service Project.

STAR Leaders National Student Conference

St. Louis, Missouri - June 25-27, 2011

Minnesota is looking to send another delegation to the STAR Leaders Conference this year. Students will bus down to St. Louis and do some sight-seeing in and around St. Louis before the conference begins. The Minnesota delegation will be traveling by bus, leaving Thursday, June 23 and returning early on Tuesday, June 28. Anyone interested in attending this event should contact Ann Postlewaite at ann@mail.massp.org. The cost of registration is \$350 if you register by March 18, otherwise the fee goes up to \$385 after that date.



<http://www.starleadersconference.org/>

If you would like to share what your chapter has been doing to contribute to the State Service Project or any other projects in this newsletter, please contact Kurt Haag at kurt_haag@yahoo.com.