

MASC E-Newsletter

January 2008

Greetings and Happy New Year from your MASC Executive Board!

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Spanier Speaks

Life's hardest questions... answered.

The last Executive Board Meeting was held on December 12th at the Ties Building in St. Paul. One of the topics discussed was the NASC Region IV meeting that will be held in Minnesota this year. At the meeting, a new Region IV student representative, middle level adult representative, and a high school advisor representative will be chosen. The representatives chosen will remain in office for two years, until replaced at the next Region IV election meeting.

Another topic discussed was the Go Green statewide service project. We have a lot of ideas in mind, as you can tell from Lauren's column, but if anyone has recommendations, we would be glad to hear from you.

One of the most current priorities right now are the Hot Topics. This year's Hot Topics procedure is listed in the 'Hot Topics' article. The official list of Hot Topics from 2007 will be released in time for all Spring Division Conventions. You can find information on the previous topics and more on our website, <http://www.massp.org/masc/masc.html> which is currently under construction. There will be links to other useful websites, along with student council ideas that you can bring back to your council. If anyone has any recommendations for the website, please contact me. Thanks a lot!

**-Adam Spanier
MASC President**

Advisors Column

Happy New Year MASC Members!

As 2008 begins I hope you and your council are considering attending one of the LEAD conferences coming up in February. The purpose of a LEAD (Leadership Experience and Development) conference is to energize your leadership by attending a

weekend conference with leaders and advisors from all around the United States – kind of like a mini-nationals! A newer feature added to LEAD is the Special Officer Training Program. Current officers or students aspiring to hold an officer position are encouraged to look into applying for this option.

In February 2008, LEAD conferences will be held in Washington DC, New Orleans, LA, and Chicago, IL. Go to the NASC website (www.nasc.us) for more specific information on cost and registration. I know that Wayzata High School and a large group from Minneapolis Public Schools will be taking a bus to Chicago the last weekend in February! We would love to see MN represented at all 3 of the conferences. A great feature on the NASC website are Parent and Administrator Promotional Materials. Use the one-page information sheets to help explain the purpose and value of LEAD conferences.

Keep your spirits alive as we make it through another cold Minnesota winter!

Sue Iverson
MASC State Advisor

Hot Topics

The purpose of Hot Topics is to let school faculty and officials know what issues are important to students.

EXAMPLES OF A HOT TOPIC:

3 Budget Cuts

Purpose Statement: In case of possible budget cut, students should have input in the process prior to school board action.

#5 School Lunch Nutritional Values

Purpose Statement: Mandatory for all schools to have nutritional values for school lunches posted.

#6 Punishments for MSHSL Violations

Purpose Statement: Punishment for MSHSL violations should be strict but equal for all MSHSL participating schools.

Hot Topics will consist of a title and 'Purpose Statement'. The Purpose Statement will define MASC's point of view on the specific topic. There will no longer be an 'Action Statement'. Doing this will allow the purpose of hot topics- letting school faculty and officials know what is important to students- to continue, and it will lessen the confusion brought about by the 'Action Statements'. Our reasoning for this is based on the fact that all schools vary on how the Hot Topics will affect them, therefore they can develop an 'Action Statement' that works for them.

HOT TOPICS PROCESS:

Created at Division, then discussed and voted on at the State. First, Hot Topics will be created, discussed, and voted on at the *Division* level (Presidents, it will be up to you to decide on the process that will be used in your division. If you need help with that, contact

MASC President, Adam Spanier). Hot Topics passed at the *Division* level will be brought to *State*.

If an excessive amount of Hot Topics are brought to State, we will vote on the most important ones to discuss, using the same process that was used at the 2007 State Convention. Similar Hot Topics will be combined. The people who adopted the Hot Topics in their Division will lead discussions at State (hopefully, this will eliminate some confusion), where they will be reworded if needed. If that person can not attend the convention to represent the Hot Topic, the Division President or an alternative representative will represent the Hot Topic. All voting State delegates will have a final vote on the Hot Topics.

**-Adam Spanier
MASC President**

LEAD Conferences

Leadership Experience and Development Conferences (LEAD) are weekend long conferences for Student Council leaders and advisors from around the nation. Students receive leadership training in areas such as team building, fundraising, and project planning while attending workshops and large group sessions. At the conference, students gain confidence in their leadership skills, develop character, enhance communication skills, learn new ideas to bring back to their school, and develop lasting friendships with other students from around the country. The conference is a once in a lifetime opportunity that everyone should try to experience at least once.

The 2008 Energize Your Leadership conferences are in Washington, D.C. from February 1-3, New Orleans, Louisiana from February 8-10, and Chicago, Illinois from February 22-24. Each conference has different agendas, speakers and opportunities so students have to decide which is right for them.

At the Washington DC conference, students will hear speakers Scott Greenberg with a unique blend of presentations, Judson Laipply who is the creator of the famous “Evolution of Dance,” and Aaron Davis the worlds “Enthusiator.” The conference will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, just minutes away from our nations capitol and dozens of famous sites, free attractions, museums and special events.

Students in New Orleans will attend general sessions where they will hear speakers Byron Garrett, “Mr. Phil” Gugliuzza, and “the original” Mike Smith. Everyone will see some famous attractions of New Orleans and as a part of conference activities, students will venture into the city and take part in a “scavenger hunt” as they find clues to discover fun and historical facts about New Orleans.

The Chicago conference will be the third LEAD conference held in Arlington Heights, a suburb of Chicago. The conference will open with “Mr. Phil” Gugliuzza, and the following day will be filled with interactive workshops, idea exchanges and large group sessions. Students have the opportunity to hear from several nationally renowned speakers and presenters: “Mr. Phil,” Bob Tryanski, Maris Aldrich, Jackie Burch and Gary Clark.

Although this is a brief description of the events at each LEAD conference, more information for students and advisors can be found on the NASC website. Each of these conferences will lead to personal growth, fresh ideas, developed skills, and, hopefully, it energized you leadership!

**-Kelly Baldwin-Apple
MASC Secretary**

GO GREEN

Hey everyone! Although we are right in the middle of another blistery Minnesota winter, there are still many things we can all be doing to benefit our MASC State Service Project- GO GREEN! If any of you are avid Oprah watchers (and I know you are...) she recently had an episode that was all about "going green"! From all natural cleaners, to compact fluorescent light bulbs; planting trees, to energy saving power strips- Oprah had it all. I know many of you are trying to instill recycling programs in your schools or districts. I know it can be difficult, but if you have enough persistence and enthusiasm to make a change like that in your school- you can and will succeed. Some other *super simple* ways to GO GREEN include:

- compact fluorescent light bulbs (save energy which then in turn saves money, produces 75% less heat, and lasts 10x longer than a regular light bulb)
 - low flow shower heads with a shut off valve (save water and the energy you would use to heat it- water heaters account for 25% of home energy use)
 - reduce, reuse, and...RECYCLE
 - plant a tree- everyone needs oxygen ☺
 - drink out of a water bottle instead of bottled water
 - try to use one less napkin a day (the average American produces about 4.4 pounds of garbage a day, or a total of 29 pounds per week and 1,600 pounds a year!)
 - dust off that bike and ride to your close errands
 - use your cruise! (you drivers out there will love this – studies show that using your cruise control on the highway for a 15% improvement in mileage)
 - reusable grocery bags (check your local grocery store for these! An inexpensive and great way to save trees from all the grocery bags that get thrown away)
- All these things and so much more can help Minnesota become that much greener. Please help us in really making this a successful and powerful State Service Project for MASC. Please contact me, or any of the MASC Executive Board with any ideas or ways YOU and your school are GOING GREEN!

**-Lauren Cochlin
MASC Vice-President**

MASC State Convention

Hey everyone! We hope we everyone had a great Christmas Break! We sure did. Well now that it is January we are starting to really work hard on planning the State Student Council Convention. For all of you who do not know what the state convention is... as Kim says, "It's a convention!" The convention is a three day event which starts on Saturday April 12th and runs through Monday April 14th. It is filled with lots of different activities, election, speakers, dances, bands, and a whole lot more. The theme for the event

is "Get a CLUE... teamwork is the key!" and is based off the clue board game. We are really excited about this. The entire school will be decked out as a Mansion, filled with spooky surprises. We hope to even have a real life game of clue. We have some great speakers lined up who will help us explore and challenge our leadership skills! We even have speakers to come and talk to us about going green. It is going to be a blast- and we hope to see you all there!

**-Chris Sanders and Kim Homen
MASC State Convention Co-Coordinator**

Region IV Candidates from Minnesota

Minnesota is fortunate to have three candidates for the NASC Region IV Executive Board. During the Feb 1st and 2nd meeting, interviews will take place for three positions, High School Advisor, Middle School Advisor and High School Student. The NASC Executive Board meets three times during the year talking about issues of concern for student councils around country. The states of Minnesota, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming may all have candidates for these interviews. The candidates for Minnesota are Kory Kath, Owatonna High School, for the High School Advisor position, Liz Baker, Lac Qui Parle Valley High School, for the Middle Level Advisor position and Peter Goelz, Orono High School, student position. If Liz Baker is selected to represent Minnesota, a middle school student from Lac Qui Parle Valley would serve with Liz during her term. We wish our three candidates the best of luck!