

MASC // MAHS

Minnesota Association of Student Councils and Honor Societies

Issue 1

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Welcome MASC/MAHS!

Greetings everyone! Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2017/2018 school year. These newsletters will be made by your elected MAHS/MASC vice presidents, Georgia Thom and Haley Reed. In the upcoming year, we will share important information about the State Service Project, the State Convention, and any details regarding state-wide progress! We both hope everyone has a breathtaking year, and we are excited to see what we all can accomplish together!

Best wishes,
Georgia and Haley.

2017 State Convention

As well travel back in time, for remembrance of the 2017 State Convention, we would like to give a huge "thank you" to all of the Rochester schools that contributed to an amazing convention! With a well-put together theme of "Destination Leadership," students were able to fly out of their comfort zones and learn new ways to be better leaders. Students and advisors were able to network with other schools across Minnesota for many great ideas for their own schools and communities, and hear from phenomenal speakers to get some unique advise about leadership. Along with all of this, we topped it off with a bumping dance at the end! We absolutely cannot wait for the State Convention of 2018, held at ACGC High School, April 7-9th! We hope to see you there!

Executive Board

At the 2017 State Convention, participants at the convention voted for the upcoming MAHS/MASC Executive Board. This is made up of a President, Vice President, and Secretary for both MAHS/MASC. Along with these members that convention goers elected, there are ACGC students who are our 2018 State Convention coordinators.

MASC President: Isaac Eggebraaten

Hi there! My name is Isaac Eggebraaten and I am from Detroit Lakes High School. My family consists of my parents and two brothers. I have a passion for being involved in things such as student council, interact, PaY, target, NHS, Link Crew, math league, football, wrestling, tennis, and theatre! I also enjoy singing at my church and hanging out with my friends. I think we can all agree that Minnesota is the place to be, and I cannot wait to see the amazing things that we can accomplish as a state!! See you in April!



MAHS President: Andy Baran

Hi all! My name is Andy Baran, and I am elated to be serving as the President of the Minnesota Association of Honor Societies for 2017-2018. I'm currently a senior at Orono High School. I love staying involved and devote much of my time to various athletic, academic, leadership, and volunteer-based extra-curricular activities throughout the state and in my community. My favorite thing in the world is to meet people and hear new ideas (preferably ones that conflict with what I believe to be true!) On a side note another favorite of mine is anything table tennis related! I'm looking forward to hopefully study Economics, Political Science, and Statistics in college next year. This year's executive committee for both MAHS and MASC has some of the most amazing met, and I can't wait for an astoundingly productive year aimed to make your life as an MHS member better! I can't serve you without hearing from you, so please feel free to shoot me an email about anything at all, even if its table tennis related!



MASC Vice President: Haley Reed

Hello! Hello! My name is Haley Reed and I am so excited to have been elected at your new MASC Vice President! I am currently a senior at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, and although it has already been an amazing year, I aspire to make it the best yet! From a student council standpoint, I have been participating actively since my sixth grade year, including various conventions, retreats, and hosting the MASC/MAHS in 2016 at my own school! I am also involved with MHS, FCA, volleyball, softball, managing boys' swimming, and many events within my church. Outside of these things, you can catch me doing homework, working at Scheels or cheering on my Storm athletics and clubs. In the future, I plan on attending medical school, where I will pursue a career in mental health... that is if I don't change my mind again. I also plan on making this MASC/MAHS year extremely successful and putting together a phenomenal and memorable state convention in April! Of course, I cannot do this without hearing some feedback and desires of all of you, so please feel free to contact me in any way! If only words could describe how thrilled I am for our year together!



MAHS Vice President: Georgia Thom

Hi Everyone!! I'm Georgia and I am a senior at Becker High School. I also am currently a second year full time PSEO student at Saint Cloud State University. Although I don't take any classes at Becker, I am always at the high school busy working on something! This is because of all the extracurriculars I love be involved with. I've been in student council since 6th grade and NHS since sophomore year. I am a part of the graduation committee and our fundraiser, arbor day, and tackle cancer committee. In my free time I enjoy playing softball, listening to folk & rap music, canoeing, and working at North Face. Yes, I know folk and rap are very different genres. I am pretty crazy about nature and saving the environment. This past summer was my 9th year going to Camp Stephens but my first year as a staff member. In past summers I have done canoe trips up to 4 weeks long. I am still unsure where I want to go to school but I am leaning towards the UVic in British Columbia. I am very interested in genetics and could see myself either becoming a genetic specialist, scientist or maybe even an archeologist studying incredibly old DNA. I'm very outgoing and love to chat so send me emails at r8geotho@isd726.org or follow my Instagram! See you all at the state convention!!



MASC Secretary: Erica Svenby

Hello, my name is Erica Svenby, and I am your 2017-2018 MASC Secretary. I am a current senior at the Owatonna Senior High School. Outside of student council I am involved in girls swim and dive, DECA, national honors society, gymnastics, pole vault in track and field, carolers, choir, and orchestra. This school year I started to teach Sunday school and work with our younger grades on their journey to get confirmed, which has proven to be a challenge when you have to get the attention of eight 6th grade boys. In the summer you can find me volunteering a majority of my time at the Steele County Free Fair office helping them get ready for the fair week or working one of my four jobs. To go along with my love for coffee I've found that Starbuck is the best place to do homework. I'm very excited and ready for this year and I can't wait for state!



MAHS Secretary: Kade Patterson

Hi, my name is Kade Patterson and I am your 2017-2018 MAHS Secretary. I am a senior at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School. In school I am involved in baseball, Student Council, Link, P4T, Band, and obviously MHS. When I'm not at school, I am helping lead my church youth group, reading a book, listening to music or playing trumpet and piano, sometimes at the same time! I also love traveling and will take any suggestions as to where to visit! This past summer I traveled to both San Francisco and Haiti. Both are beautiful places to visit, in two completely different ways. Anywho, good luck with the upcoming year and I cannot wait to get to know you all!



Convention Coordinator: Addison Bernstein

Hi everyone! My name is Addison Bernstein, I am a senior at ACGC High School which is a very small town located in south west Minnesota. You will get a chance to visit this small town when you come in April to the 2018 MASC/MAHS State Convention! I will be one of the co-coordinators for this year's convention. I am very excited to be taking on the challenge of making this year's convention a great one! I stay very busy throughout the year, I am currently the president of our student council here at my school, along with a member of our school NHS. I am very involved in volleyball, basketball, tack and field, math league, and a school class officer. I can't wait to have you all at ACGC! See you in April!



Convention Coordinator: Madison Denton

Hello! My name is Madison Denton and I am a co-coordinator for the MASC/MAHS Convention being held at my school this April. I am currently a senior at ACGC High School located in Grove City, MN. There I'm busy with volleyball, basketball, and softball as well as Student Council, Math League, National Honor Society, and being a class officer. When I am not busy with these activities, I love to hangout with my friends and support all of the athletic events happening at my school. I am very excited for this upcoming year and the state convention coming up in April!



Convention Coordinator: Anna Grimsgard

Heyy, You! My name is Anna Grimsgard, and I am a Co-Coordinator for the MASC/MAHS Convention being held at my high school this spring! As a senior at ACGC, I'm involved with both Student Council and National Honor Society, as well as my Class President. During the school year, you will find me busy with college classes, volleyball, basketball, track & field, math league, or playing flute in band. My free time is spent as a true Minnesota girl (you betcha!!). In the wintertime, I love snowmobiling and cozying up with hot chocolate. My summers are filled with friends and lake days at the cabin, waterskiing, and bonfires. I am excited to see where my future leads after high school, and thankful for the leadership skills I'm learning with MASC/MAHS. Can't wait to meet you all !! :)



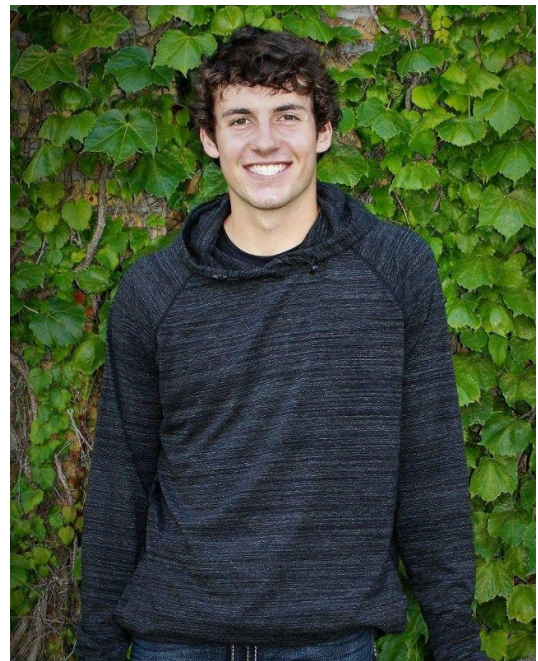
Convention Coordinator: Sutton Junkermeier

Hi Everyone! My name is Sutton Junkermeier and I am one of your co-coordinators this year. I am a senior at ACGC high school and I can't wait for you all to see our school at the 2018 MAHS/MASC State Convention! During the school year, you usually will not find me at my school because I am a PSEO student at Ridgewater College. Although academics have been my main focus this year, I still help out at my school and in my community whenever I can. I am involved in Student Council, NHS, track and field, and I am a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at my post-secondary college. In the summer, I work as a field and crop researcher at a Pioneer Hi-Bred Research Station. My tasks for this job included running experiments and collection data points. It may sound cheesy but I LOVE school! I love school so much that I plan to pursue my PhD in history and become a college professor. While pursuing my PhD, I hope to gain experience and knowledge that will help me become a better person and I hope to discover new ways to improve my community. I am a firm believer that, "Teamwork makes the dream work". I can't wait to meet you all at the 2018 MAHS/MASC State Convention.



Convention Coordinator: Jaren Kaddatz

Hello everyone! My name is Jaren Kaddatz, and I'm apart of the MASC/MAHS executive board. I am currently a senior at ACGC high school. I enjoy hanging with friends, playing sports, and of course watching Netflix. At ACGC I participate in football, basketball, baseball, student council, NHS, and math league. I'm very excited to show you guys our school and community. See you all at the convention!



National Convention

Minnesota Invades New Hampshire

Well, not really. In fact, 60 Minnesotans did travel to Boston then Pinkerton Academy in New Hampshire to attend the NASC National Student Council Convention. It was an amazing trip that included tours of Boston, a day at the Hampton Beach, a night at an amusement park, inspiring speakers, and great workshops. Pinkerton Academy was an amazing site. It was more of a college campus than a high school. When Robert Frost was a faculty member and Alan Shepard, the first US astronaut, was a student, the school does gain a great deal of credibility. MAHS president Andy Baran and MASC president Isaac Eggebraaten led the Minnesota delegation. Most delegates would agree that the best part of the convention was the bonding of the Minnesotans and the networking with the rest of the state delegations. Next year, nationals will be coming to our state's Wayzata High School!



Summer Leadership Academy

Students from across the state travelled to Sauk Rapids/Rice High School on July 30th to attend the Summer Leadership Academy. The students participated in workshops and discussions. Dr. Phillip Campbell ended the Sunday session with an energetic keynote presentation. That evening the delegates traveled to stay at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn. They enjoyed the pools and volleyball courts before ending the evening with, according to one delegate, “The best dance ever!”



After a great breakfast the next morning, Doug Erickson closed the conference with his insightful comments. Out of the nearly 100 evaluations filled out by the students, all but one said they would recommend the Summer Leadership Academy to everyone.

Leadership Forum

We are excited to have Houston Kraft as the workshop presenter for the students at the Forum. Houston presented at the state convention two years ago. He was overwhelmingly rated as one of the best speakers we have had at the state convention. The advisors will benefit from the wisdom of Tom Heethuis. Tom presented at the 2014 Forum and the advisors' response was outstanding. The Leadership Forum will provide advisors and students excellent training and an opportunity to network with leaders from across the state. Registration information is on the MASC-MAHS website. The site is at Cragun's resort, and we have been given a guarantee that the room will all have a Gull Lake view from the balcony!

SEVEN MISTAKES HINDERING KIDS FROM BECOMING GREAT LEADERS

So many who read our blog posts work with students, and many of you develop student leaders. Our goal is to help you in that process.

After consulting with both high schools and universities this past year, I noticed several common traps that ambushed young leaders (student leaders and young professionals) during their first year of leading. Several students who fell into these “traps” ended up quitting their leadership position, due to frustrations or unmet expectations from fellow students. More than once, I heard the phrase from students: “OMG! This leadership thing is harder than I thought it would be.”

There may never have been a truer statement.

So, let me offer seven of the most common mistakes young leaders make, so you can spot them when they happen and perhaps even prevent them this year.

In the beginning, everything is new and fresh. Leaders are just happy to have teams around them. People are excited; the project is novel and everyone appreciates each other. Over time, we take people for granted. Leaders often make the mistake of presuming peers don’t need consistent encouragement and feedback. Leaders continue to climb to higher heights and new levels of activity, leaving their team below, in the dust. Effective leaders schedule times to stay in touch with their people. They remember that people tend to get down on what they’re not up on.

1. Mistake One: We keep our head down and get lost in our work.

Often, students are given leadership positions because they are “get it done” people. They are result-oriented and high achievers. This is the positive side of the coin. The other side of the coin is—this can push some of them to get completely caught up in the work, and they lose sight of the big picture or the little people. Their personal drive can sabotage their ability to lead a team. It’s been said for years: If you want to travel faster, travel alone. If you want to travel farther, travel together. But—you must go slower to take others with you.

2. Mistake Two: We forget to stay close to our people.

In the beginning, everything is new and fresh. Leaders are just happy to have teams around them. People are excited; the project is novel and everyone appreciates each other. Over time, we take people for granted. Leaders often make the mistake of presuming peers don’t need consistent encouragement and feedback. Leaders continue to climb to higher heights and new levels of activity, leaving their team below, in the dust. Effective leaders schedule times to stay in touch with their people. They remember that people tend to get down on what they’re not up on.'

SEVEN MISTAKES HINDERING KIDS FROM BECOMING GREAT LEADERS (continued)

3. Mistake Three: We assume it's less difficult than it really is.

Experienced leaders know: There's always more to a job than you first think, especially if you've never done it. Often, when I have mastered my work over the decades and assume I know what team members are feeling or thinking, I can lose sight of how hard something is, especially at the beginning. Student leaders can fall into this trap, forgetting what it feels like to be in the dark about how to do something and too afraid to admit you don't know. It's always helpful to step into the shoes of a new person and imagine what they feel.

4. Mistake Four: We neglect to ask for help.

Because leaders are frequently over-achievers, they can easily fall into a very different trap. They begin down a path with a plan, but then it doesn't work. Or, at least not as well as they felt it would. At this point, they forget they can and need to ask for help from others. Pause and reflect on how we all got to be leaders—by being productive and self-sufficient. Now that we're leading, it's up to us to include our team on the journey. Others will assume we know what we're doing, but remember, good leaders are not loners. Effective leaders remain teachable and have mentors.

5. Mistake Five: We wear a façade that we're fine and have it all together.

This is a very similar trap. It's the truth behind the *Habitude*[®]: *The Fun House Mirror*. When leaders don't know what they're doing, they can feel inadequate or embarrassed. The last thing they want is to be "found out." So they project a false image; they exaggerate reports on their progress. They stop being authentic. The distorted image is a little like the image a funhouse mirror reflects when you stand in front of it. Soon, young leaders start telling little white lies; they fudge on the budget numbers; they exaggerate their scores or their followers. Eventually, it all catches up to them. Good leaders commit to staying authentic and communicate honestly where they stand.

6. Mistake Six: We repeat what we've done in the past.

Often, our worst mistake can be to assume that what worked before will work again. Often, I see students too afraid to take a risk or try something new. They simply do what last year's leaders did, who coincidentally did what the previous year's leaders did. The fact is, the best players often don't always make the best coaches because they get stuck in the past. Good leaders combine the art of learning from the past, with the art of asking the question: If we started over with this goal, would we do anything different?

SEVEN MISTAKES HINDERING KIDS FROM BECOMING GREAT LEADERS (continued)

7. Mistake Seven: We feel misunderstood and withdraw from others.

Criticism comes with the territory of leadership. Our first reaction is usually to withdraw from others and feel lonely. Our culture today fosters both a fear of criticism and an ability to hide behind a screen when it happens. The fact is, leaders will get misunderstood. They will get criticized and accused. Good leaders decide—it's the price tag of leadership and it's worth it. Thirty years ago, John Maxwell taught me: If I don't let anyone get close to me, they won't hurt me. But if I don't let anyone get close to me, they can't really help me, either.

The fact is, leadership can be hard and tedious. But it's worth it. There's nothing better than achieving something with a team that you could've never done alone.

Questions for Reflection

1. Have you fallen into any of the “traps” above? Which ones?
2. Are your most common mistakes about dealing with people or with goals?
3. What might be the best steps you can take in response to your mistakes?

2017-2018 State Service Project Reveal

At the first executive board meeting of the year, Food for Kidz was named the state service project. Food for Kidz is located in Steward, Minnesota and this organization will play an important role in the 2018 state convention to be held at ACGC High School. Delegates to the state convention will actually participate in food-packing events. Individual schools can help with this state wide project with fund raising events to help cover the food costs. The website for the organization is foodforkidz.org. The MAHS/MASC is excited to combine a state service project with an activity in conjunction with the MAHS/MASC state convention.

The logo for Food for Kidz features the words "Food for Kidz" in a purple, rounded, sans-serif font. The letter "i" in "Kidz" is replaced by a red heart shape.

A Note From Doug

You are deep into the new school year and I am sure you are getting a pretty good idea how your year is going. If it is going well, do not let up. Keep focused on what is going well and why. Unfortunately, the school year may not be going as you planned it. Do not give up. Resiliency is an important life skill. Work hard to turn the year around. Do not wait for a miracle. You are the miracle that needs to happen.

I strongly encourage you to consider attending the Fall Leadership Forum on November 5/6. It will be held at the Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. Our featured speaker is Houston Kraft. He spoke at our state conference three years ago and was outstanding. Of course the interaction amongst the top student leaders from across the state is always the best part of the conference. Go on our MASC-MAHS.org website and find the conference agenda and registration forms.

The state service project has changed. At our last executive committee meeting, the leadership felt a new service project would define the 2017-18 year. This year's service project will focus on providing food for children. There will be a food-packing event at the state convention. Schools should focus on raising money for this event. I will let you know the amount needed to successfully carry out this goal. Councils and honor societies can individualize this goal to help their own communities. Please take pictures of your fund raising activities to present at the state conference.

Student leaders have asked me about our mid-winter national trip. This year we are going to Washington DC on January 25-28. Details on flights and costs have not been worked out yet, but I will let you know in November.

The new website has a place to share ideas and questions. Please email me both great ideas and even better questions. I will put them on the website and we will all become better in our positions. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email or call me.

Doug Erickson

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derickson@orono.k12.mn.us

Upcoming...

Region IV Meeting

- October 27-28, 2017
- Bloomington, Minnesota

MASC/MAHS Executive Board and Division Presidents' Meeting

- November 5, 2017
- Cragun's Resort, Brainerd

MASC/MAHS Leadership Forum and Advisors' Workshop

- November 5-6, 2017
- Cragun's Resort, Brainerd

MASC/MAHS State Leadership Convention

- April 7-9, 2018
- ACGC High School

Goals Report

After a long discussion and a brainstorming period, the state executive board put together a list of state goals for our upcoming year, and we all wish to share them with you. These goals cover various topics and they include:

- 1.** At the state convention, MASC/MASC would like to get 350 students and 75 schools to attend.
- 2.** MASC would like to reach a membership goal of 220 schools.
- 3.** MAHS would like to reach a membership goal of 210 schools.
- 4.** Minnesota Honor Society has a goal of beginning the process of integrating into division meetings and conventions.
- 5.** MASC/MAHS would like to reach 55,000 dollars for our state service project of Food For Kidz!
- 6.** Improve communication and efficiency with the use of the MASC/MAHS website and social media platforms.

Farewell

Well, that concludes our very first newsletter! Thank you so much for reading, and once again, we are all so excited to accomplish many things this year!