

A Message From Doug Erickson Coordinator of Student Activities

I am sure some of you have noticed-the 2012-13 school year is passing quickly. It is a little bit like my gas gauge. The needle stays on full forever and then plummets to empty. OK-maybe not yours but it seems that way to me. The same is true for the school year. We just crowned a homecoming queen and now people are planning prom. Of course, that does mean we are rapidly approaching the state leadership convention. I will not spend time on what our convention coordinators will cover elsewhere in the newsletter except for a few reminders.

If you are reading this article, you have found our new website. Find the calendar heading at the top of the page and click on it. You will see **March 11th** is an important due date for many different honor society items. Pay especially close attention to the state officer due date. I need to have that information by the due date. I will contact anyone who is running for state office and let them know I have received their information to run. Also, **March 5** is the day the advisor must make reservations at one of the four hotels in the Owatonna/Medford area.

Our president, Molly Sandstrom, has been busy. On January 17, she spoke to a large group of school board members. Their questions centered mainly on safety and the difficulty of high school courses. Molly handled every question with a deftness that most of our politicians lack. She did not even need to grab an awkward drink of water as Mr. Rubio did during the Republicans response to President Obama's address. On January 30th, Molly was honored by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals at their winter conference.

Your executive board heard a thought provoking presentation by a group promoting Medical Amnesty.

Hello everyone! I apologize for the slight delay of this newsletter. I've fighting with my Open Office for a few weeks now, and at last I'm victorious! Please feel free to submit content to publish, and send us recommendations in regard to changes you'd like to see in future seasonal newsletters. Thank you for your kinda patience.

-Rakin Solaiman
MAHS V.P

Basically, the group was proposing a law that would eliminate an underage drinking violation if a person called 9-1-1 to get medical help for a friend who had too much to drink. The students, who are part of the University of Minnesota student governing body, will present during our hot topic sessions. The delegates will vote on whether to support this initiative. This is a real life issue that your executive board has decided to let you give your input.

As part of my position of CSA I have had the opportunity to meet with students across the state and even travel to North Carolina and Illinois. Each time I meet students who are involved in leadership, I am more and more impressed with the depth of their commitment. I am so excited to see many of you at the state leadership convention. The Medford and Owatonna student councils/honor societies have put countless hours into the planning of this convention. We have great speakers, activities, the excitement of an election, and even a semi-formal(if you want to get dressed up) banquet. If that is not possible, we have the summer leadership camp in St. Cloud on August 4 and 5. Whenever possible, whether it is state meeting or a LEAD conference, try to expand your leadership experience and bring back that experience to your school. It has been an honor to serve you as the coordinator of student activities.

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A Message from your President

Salutations National Honor Society members throughout Minnesota, our chance to interact with each other at the annual state convention is coming up fast. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Earlier this month the Minnesota leadership council had the opportunity to participate in the Region IV meeting on February 8th and 9th. Student leaders representing both honor societies and student councils were present from Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Michigan. Reports were given from all the states, and it was a great chance to hear other opportunities out there, as well as get ideas to make state conventions better and more productive.

Through all our training and discussion it occurred to me that it is not just about making sure out state convention participants have a good time, not about the dances, or even about the speakers we bring in for you. All of these aspects are great, and really make a convention worthwhile, but even more that it is about what we do the other 362 days of the year. It is about the actions we take in the name of leadership and service, and not to just students on one end of the spectrum or the other, but about all students. In one of the simulations we went through at Region IV each of us were given a playing card, and we had to treat one another based on that card's value; what I took away from this was that as

leaders we can't just focus our attentions on the kings and queens of our school, or even the aces and the twos. As you prepare to attend the state convention think about what you can do, as an individual and as a chapter, to target all students in your school and community.

In order to build the leadership necessary for a thriving honor society it is often necessary for an investment from the chapter, either in the form of time or monetary value. This can be a difficult pill to swallow, due to the nature of our organization. It is very ingrained that our time and money should focus on others and not ourselves. I encourage you to try to look at things from a slightly different angle. Service is incredibly important to me, as I expect it is to all of you, and investing in chapter development will only aid in enhancing all aspects of National Honor Society. The state convention can be an excellent place to enhance yourself as a leader, and gather the ideas that will enhance your chapter. Do not be afraid of investment opportunities such as this; I strongly believe and support that these investments will pay off ten-fold in the long run.

I look forward to the chance to meet all of the amazing leaders throughout Minnesota at the state convention

-Molly Sandstrom
Minnesota of Honor Societies President



Useful Links:

New MAHS-MASC Website!

<http://masc-mahs.org/>

MAHS Forms:

<http://masc-mahs.org/minnesota-association-of-honor-societies/mahs-forms/>

Every year, executive boards from Wyoming, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, all part of Region IV, gather for a weekend meeting to not only share ideas, have some laughs, but also create lasting relationships with out-of-state Honor Societies and Student Councils I've asked a few out-of-state attendees what they thought about Region IV:



Above: Executive Boards from Wyoming, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.

Ryder Wilson--SDSCA President



I have previously attended Region IV, so I somewhat expected what it was going to be like but for some reason this year was by far the best experience. I enjoyed how close all of the states became in such a short amount of time. I will forever cherish some of the friendships I have made because of Region IV and NASC.

Brock Gilmer--SDSCA Secretary



Region IV was a blast! I was excited to see and meet some of the best leaders in the U.S! My favorite moment was the talking to the other leaders and learning about how other organizations work!

Cole Bachmeier--Vice President on ND Stuco.

I thought it would be a meeting were I would have the opportunity to meet excited Stuco Members from across the Region. It certainly was that and more. I liked that I came close to many out of state officers, as well as my own. As far as fun goes, the whole trip was enjoyable. However, I really enjoyed walking the town with many officers. It was a blast.

Jasmine Fosheim

I'm the SoDak Capitol Region Representative on the state board. Going into the conference I was very excited to meet other leaders from across the country. I had no idea how beneficial the conference would actually be though. The ideas swapped between states was incredible. I think everyone walked away equipped with new ideas and a greater sense of their job as a leader.



Tanvir Dhani--WyASC (Wyoming Association of Student Councils) V.P.

As the Vice President of the Wyoming Association of Student Councils, going to the Region IV Meeting in Minneapolis was something I was definitely looking forward to. I was expecting to meet new people similar to me, and learn a lot about leadership that I could bring back to Wyoming and share with all of my fellow leaders. Needless to say, I was not disappointed with how well my expectations were met at the meeting. We learned compassion, strength, goal-setting, and in my opinion most important of all - humility. The exercises we participated in ignited the leaders within us and showed us the many reasons we are leaders to be with. The officers and representative from all of the Region IV states had many ideas to share, with ways to better involve the community and students in citizenship efforts. The Region IV meeting was an experience that I wouldn't mind repeating over again just for the wonderful time that I had. I was humbled to be around such great people who had the same goals and capabilities as I, and for me, it was a once in a lifetime experience that I will be sure to remember.

A Few Thoughts

Rakin Solaiman

Then end of this school year is approaching, and it's important that we students don't start slacking (this includes me). Try something new! Don't just stick with what you're chapter has done for the last 10+ years. Also, be sure to submit your information in regard to the state service project (amount of money raise, pounds of food collected, etc.). These numbers can be sent to Doug Erickson (your CSA), or myself at either rsolaima@gustavus.edu, or rakinsolaiman95@live.com . Some cool new things to try before the end of the year:

American Cancer Society Tape a Teacher: Essentially, you need a few teacher to will agree to be duck-taped to a wall if they get the most amount of points in a money-collecting jar ([positive points]-[negative points]). Set the jars out for 1-2 weeks. Coins are (-), and dollar notes are (+). This not only encourages individuals to bring dollar-bills, but also make a good profit. This fundraising idea can be used for other causes as well.

Also, we took away the chair. (:

Elderly Service: Read stories! Play music! Host a bingo! The possibilities are endless!

Easter Egg Hunt: This can be for individuals of all ages!

Spring Food Drive: Go around town collecting food with a group of students.

NHS Dance: Proceeds go towards a cause.



Medical Amnesty

At the February MAHS & MASC executive meetings, two students represented the University of Minnesota gave us a presentation on Medical Amnesty and asked for our support in this cause. When first introduced to this topic, I had no idea what was ahead of me. If you're currently in that position, I suggest you read a briefing below:

10 States Have Successfully Implemented Medical Amnesty:

Help Make Minnesota the next state to put safety first and eliminate the fear of calling for help.



1. California
2. Colorado
3. Indiana
4. Michigan
5. New Jersey
6. New York
7. North Dakota
8. Pennsylvania
9. Texas
10. Utah

Medical amnesty legislation gives minors an incentive to make the right choice in a bad situation. This change in the law will grant immunity from underage alcohol consumption and possession prosecution to minors who seek help, as well as the persons receiving the attention. To receive immunity, minors must give their name, stay at the scene, and cooperate with authorities. Immunity from other crimes besides alcohol consumption and possession would not be granted. The policy is one of public safety and has the potential to save lives.

In short, this is a promising piece of legislation, and I strongly suggest you visit the Medical Amnesty for Minnesota Facebook page listed below. All content in regard to Medical Amnesty has been taken from the Medical Amnesty for Minnesota Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MedicalAmnesty>