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# MASC/MAHS

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**By: Kalley Anderson and Maddie Theisen**

Welcome!

This newsletter is the first of many newsletters for the 2015-2016 school year. These newsletters are the MASC/MAHS executive boards way of keeping everyone in the loop with events for students in both student councils and National Honor Societies. We will also utilize these newsletters to share details concerning the State Service Project and the State Convention! We wish you an amazing year and can not wait to discover all we can accomplish together!

-Kalley Anderson (MAHS Vice President) & Maddie Theisen (MASC Vice President)

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# The Presidents



## **Gopi Ramanathan:**

Hello MASC-MAHS! My name is Gopi Ramanathan and I am the President of MASC! I am currently a senior at Sartell High School, which is right across the Mississippi River from Sauk Rapids – the site of our next State Convention! I have been involved in Student Council in Sartell since 5th Grade, exploring my passion for leadership and service to others. I also serve in Student Council at the Division level, having been Delegate-at-Large as a junior and currently serving as President of Central Division. Outside of Student Council, I also participate in leadership roles as a member of National Honor Society, a student representative on the Sartell School Board, and as a member of the Curriculum Development Committee for the Sartell Schools. Outside of these, I am also involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters, Soccer, and Knowledge Bowl; I volunteer at Catholic Charities of St. Cloud; and I work during the summer at KUMON Math and Reading Center and Sartell Police Activities League.

During these past few years, I have attended many conferences and conventions. I am excited to use the skills and tools that I have gained from all of my experiences to lead MASC to greater heights. I hope to see Student Councils play a bigger role in Minnesota schools and communities, and see Student Councils interact with each other more often to exchange ideas and create connections. We have a big year ahead of us in MASC-MAHS, and we as the State Executive Board are excited to take on the challenge and make this year another successful and exciting year for our Student Councils and Honor Societies! Twitter Handle: @GopiRam8



## **Derek Frank:**

Hi everybody, my name is Derek Frank. I am the President of MAHS and a senior from Chisago Lakes. I first joined NHS my junior year, and have loved both the years I've been in it. I'm also in Student Council, My school is in the Eastern Division. In fact the first State Convention I attended was through Student Council my Sophomore year, where I voted for Gopi during his first run for office. Also running for office that year was my older sister, Paige, who became the MAHS President before me. Other than student leadership, I play soccer, swim, I'm also on my school's knowledge bowl team, and I am in our fall musical. Although I have to admit I am a bit of a conference junkie, having attended all of my division conferences, three state conventions, numerous other conferences (summer leadership academy, Arrowood etc.) and one national convention. As a junkie, I am looking forward to attending many of the fall Division meetings to talk about all of the exciting events coming up this year. First up is the Leadership Forum in Fergus Falls. One of these is the state service project,

more information will be available soon, I hope many of you participate this year. Along with serving, I'm looking forward to planning and putting on the state convention this year in Sauk Rapids, I strongly encourage Honor Society members to come, it's gonna be a lot of fun.

## The Vice Presidents



### **Maddie Theisen:**

Hi Everyone! My name is Maddie Theisen, and I am a senior this year at Prior Lake High School. This year I am the MASC Vice President and I am very excited to take part in everything MASC-MAHS does! I have been in Student Council since my sophomore year and have loved every second since. This year I am the President of our Student Council and Vice-President of my class. Other than student council I play tennis, a student representative for our school board, lead a confirmation table at my church, am a

member of Lakers 4 Life, and I am a part of the Laker Superfans. I believe conferences have a huge impact on people and councils and encourage you and your council to go to as many as possible! The most important thing to me this year is to make our conferences efficient and fun. I can't wait to see everyone and look forward to making this year great!



### **Kalley Anderson:**

Hi MASC/MAHS, my name is Kalley Anderson. I am a senior from Becker High School as well as this year's MAHS Vice President. I have been involved with my school's NHS program since my sophomore year and I am currently the president. Last year I was my chapter's committee chair of fundraising so we could host events like blood drives. A proud NHS moment for me was coordinating Tackle Cancer, benefiting the Randy Shaver Cancer Foundation, for my school district. Outside of NHS, I am a spokesperson for Becker's robotics team, a tutor, a basketball player, a volleyball captain and a Senior Leader. With my interest in technology, I have given Ted talks for Apple concerning our one-to-one iPad program and helped teachers integrate iPads into class curriculum. When I am not doing school or NHS related activities, I am either reading or binge watching my favorite TV shows. I can not wait to see what exciting things this year brings for both MASC and MAHS.

## The Secretaries



### **Grace McClintock:**

Hey there, hi there MASC-MAHS! I am a senior this year and serve as the MASC Secretary. In Owatonna I am also the President of our Student Council. I am a little obsessed with conferences having attended over 14 including Nationals twice, and State three times as well as many other forums and division meetings. Outside of student council I am involved in NHS, Link Crew, and I play cello for the symphony orchestra. I also am a peer minister at church and am on the Youth Ministries council. I teach cello to beginning students and work part-time at Starbucks. Some may say I am addicted to coffee, but I like to call it a healthy appreciation.

I am unbelievably excited to be a part of the executive board. It is a wonderful group of people and I know this year will be great. I look forward to seeing old faces and meeting new ones! Twitter: @gracemcclintock



### **Michelle Lensing:**

Hey MASC and MAHS! My name is Michelle Lensing, and I'm a senior at Orono High School. I am the MAHS Secretary this year and very excited to help grow the participation of MAHS. At my school, I have been in NHS since junior year, and I am also involved in Student Council as the Senior Class Vice President. I think both of these organizations are very important and beneficial, and I'm excited to be a part of the executive board this year so we can enhance and expand MASC and well as MAHS. Other extracurricular activities I am involved in include Lacrosse, Tennis, German Club, and DECA. Outside of school, I work at Fashion Avenue 2 in Wayzata and I volunteer at Resale 101 in Plymouth, which partners with Interfaith Outreach.

Throughout high school, I have attended all of our division meetings (Hennepin). In addition to these, I have gone to numerous other leadership conferences, including Arrowood, the Summer Leadership Academy, and LEAD Conference in Washington D.C. I am committed to growing my knowledge in how to lead and serving as a leader for all of you guys in Minnesota! We are all looking forward to a great year.

# State Convention Coordinators

## Sydney Bitz:



Hey Minnesota! My name is Sydney Bitz and I hold the position of conference Co-Coordinator for MASC. I am seventeen years old and a senior at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School where I am actively involved in my Student Council as our co-president! I am the third of five children, my sisters are 21, 18, 17 (we're twins), and my little brother, who also happens to be my best friend in the world, is nine years old. My family has three dogs, a Springer Spaniel named Lucy, a Black Lab called Hunter, my brother's Catahoula Leopard Dog named Winchester, and my sister's Siamese kitten, Mara. (Still waiting on my pet mouse). I value my family and animals more than nearly anything, which

is why I felt the need to include them in my bio! I work at Papa Murphy's in Sauk Rapids, and yes, you can in fact get sick of pizza.

I am incredibly excited for this next year working with the Executive Board to plan the State Convention of a lifetime! The conventions I've been through over the years have made all the difference for me, and I hope this one will make all the difference for you! As Dr. Seuss would say, "We're off the great places, we're off and away". Twitter: @SydneyBitz



## Luke Vannurden:

Hi Minnesota, my name is Luke Vannurden! I am one of the conference Co-Coordinator for this year's MASC state Convention and a junior at Sauk Rapids-Rice high school! I joined student council my seventh grade year and since then I have been to 2 national conferences and participated in many different central division events! Outside of student council, I am also an officer for our school's FFA chapter where I serve as secretary and an active member in our school's Diggin' Diversity club. I am also a member of Link crew and choir where I am the robe king and I have participated in 5 school drama productions over the years.

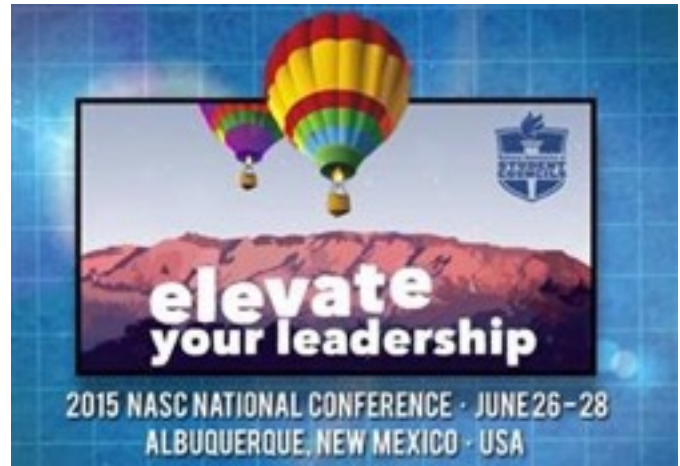
When I'm not in school, I spend a majority of my time volunteering for 4-H where I am a camp counselor, county ambassador and member of the Graham 4-H club. This year I am most excited about getting the opportunity to be apart of the MASC executive board and to plan our state convention! Twitter: @LVannurden

## **NASC National Conference**

Hello Members and Advisors!

This year's National Student Council Convention took place at Rio Rancho High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Minnesota sent a delegation of 50 students and advisors to the Convention, themed as "Elevate Your Leadership." Our State Delegation had an amazing time together throughout the entire

convention, from the 23 hours on the bus both ways to the activities and workshops of the convention itself. The Convention speakers inspired us to be the best leaders we could be and to never forget about anyone -- including yourself -- when serving as a leader. The workshops taught us about many various things, like how to execute a good state service project and how



to improve your school spirit and school activities. There was also a lot of bonding amongst the student leaders who attended from across the nation, and many of the student leaders bonded with our Minnesota Delegation (which was the most popular State Delegation there!). Overall, this National Convention was an experience that we will never forget, and we hope that all students will consider attending a National Convention in the future!

## **Summer Leadership Conference**

This year the Summer Leadership Conference was held at Sauk Rapids Rice High School in early August. Student leaders from all over the state, and even a few from out of state came to network and participate in small breakout sessions. Students heard from several speakers, including a few of our own advisors. These speaker touched on various topics that are key to being a great leader. Every summer this conference gets better and we strongly encourage all councils to consider attending!

## Letter From Doug

By the time you receive this letter, most of you will have homecoming and the surrounding events behind you. Orono's homecoming was in the second week of school. Who set that date! My co-advisor, Grace Nohner, was home with her new baby boy. Flying solo was a reminder of how wonderful it is to have the support of another faculty member during homecoming week. Every year my council and I learn from our mistakes and reinforce what went well. Hopefully you did not have to learn from too many mistakes.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> I met with the new MAHS and MASC officers at the TIES building in St. Paul. Under the leadership of Gopi Ramanathan (MASC president) and Derek Frank (MAHS president) we are blessed with a great MAHS/MASC executive board. They started to look at developing the MAHS/MASC State Leadership Convention schedule at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School. The executive board has decided on a state service project. This year they would like each school to take on an environmental project. There will be a designated time at the state leadership convention to present each project to the entire convention. This year students will be housed with host families for the state leadership convention. The St. Cloud Holiday Inn will be made available for schools who require a hotel stay for students. More details will be made available as the year progresses.

On Sept 22 nearly 30 new honor society and student council advisors met at the TIES building for the MAHS/MASC New Advisors' Workshop. A big thank you to Karrie Fredrickson and Sue Brenden for sharing their expertise. An interesting side note-over half the attendees were from the honor society. I think the new Minnesota Honor Society (MHS) has increased interest in our organizations.

The executive board also discussed the upcoming MAHS/MASC Leadership Forum to be held at the Fergus Falls Best Western on November 1 and 2. Last year we attracted nearly 400 students and advisors. We sent out all the information in a recent email. **Please try and meet all the deadlines.** The Best Western can only guarantee room rates until October 19<sup>th</sup>. Ted Wiese [www.heartedtalk.com/](http://www.heartedtalk.com/) will do a fantastic job for the students. Please visit his website to see the energy he will bring to the forum. Dr. Michelle McGrath will keynote the MAHS/MASC Advisors Workshop on November 2. She will bring a strong curriculum and ideas for both the honor society and the student council advisors. Both students and advisors will have a chance to share ideas. We moved the forum and advisor workshop to the Fergus Falls Best Western. The Best Western will be able to offer a breakfast buffet included in the room rate. The room rate is also lower. They have been very accommodating and are excited to host this event. Finally, if I can help in any way, do not hesitate to call anytime (763-232-2501.) It has been an honor to serve MAHS and MASC over the past three years.

Enjoy our beautiful Minnesota fall-you know what is coming,

Doug Erickson  
Coordinator of Student Activities  
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

## **2015/2016 State Service Project**

This year, MASC-MAHS has decided to make this school year a “Year of the Environment.” We are partnering with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to complete environmental projects around the state, and we will be meeting with them in December to finalize all details in relation to this project. What will happen is that the DNR will give MASC-MAHS a list of environmental projects that they need done, such as State Park or cleanup projects, and we will communicate with divisions and local councils to let you know of projects that your councils/honor societies can do. We decided to do this State Service Project for two major reasons: to make a direct and visible impact on our state, and to strengthen our ability to communicate with Divisions and member councils/honor societies. If your council/honor society already has a project in mind in relation with our “Year of the Environment” theme, we encourage you to follow through on your project idea! We also encourage your groups to take pictures while you are doing your project(s), as our State Board will put together a slideshow for the State Convention to commend our councils and honor societies for the hard work they have done. Now, let’s go out there and make a difference!





## 2015/2016 Goals

- Updating of State Website
- Successful Service Project
- Attendance of Division Meetings by State Executive Board Members
- Amending the Constitutions (MASC and MAHS)
- Less usage of paper and more usage of technology
- Streamlining Registration
- Increasing Communication between State Board and Division Presidents
- Budget Resolution (including scholarships and other expenses with MASC-MAHS)
- Better Executive Board Turnover

## Upcoming Events

January 29-3, 2016  
LEAD Conference - Washington D.C.

February 12-14, 2016  
LEAD Conference - Chicago, Illinois

April 9-11, 2016  
State Convention

June 21-25, 2016  
NASC Conference - Portland, Oregon