



Minnesota Educational Facility Management Professionals

The Messenger

July 2020
Newsletter

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MASMS.ORG

The MASMS 2020 Conference and Scholarship Golf Event CANCELLED DUE TO COVID 19

After careful consideration, the MASMS Executive Board has decided to cancel the 2020 MASMS Conference and Trade Show and the Scholarship Golf Event.

We feel that the risks to hold these events are too significant to ignore. We have been monitoring current updates and recommendations from the CDC and the State of Minnesota, and with our large group we could not stay within the recommended guidelines. Along with this is the risk of spreading the coronavirus to our schools and communities, and with a great concern of the health of our members, the final decision to cancel was made with a heavy heart, but also knowing it is the right thing to do.

Reschedule Info

At this time there are no plans to reschedule the conference. Instead, we are looking at ways to provide additional education and networking opportunities throughout the year at the chapter level.

Refund Info

Registrations for attendees, exhibitors and sponsors will be refunded. The MASMS office will be contacting those that registered to confirm refund methods.

Hotel Info

If you are a business member, and made a hotel registration at the Holiday Inn and Suites, please call the hotel to cancel your reservation. The MASMS office cannot do this (as much as we tried), as the rules for the hotel state that reservations must be cancelled by those who made them. Their front desk number is 320-253-9000. If you are an educational member, MASMS will cancel your reservations.

Membership

Please know that the MASMS membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th each year, so even with the conference being cancelled, you still need to renew your membership. You may use the membership forms in the conference packet, or you may go to www.masms.org and under "Quicklinks" select "Membership Forms" and then select the printed version to view all membership options and marketing opportunities.

Next Year

The 2020 MASMS Conference will be held September 30th and October 1st, 2021. Mark your calendar!

If you have questions, please contact Ruth at the MASMS Office 320-685-4585 or ruth@masms.org.

MESSAGE FROM
THE BOARD*Jim Leuer*

MASMS organizational members,

All I can say by starting out this monthly newsletter is WOW what a year to be MASMS President. The position started out great with having meetings and events until one morning in March I wake up and the state, nation, and world has changed completely.

COVID-19 as they call it; which will be the word of the year and maybe the century, hits us and so many guidelines for both education and our personal lives. All of us in education and business must scramble within two weeks to get plans together for distance learning, disinfecting facilities, meal distribution, what to use to kill the virus, then hurry up and wait for the next guidelines to come out from the Governor and his experts as what we can or cannot do this each week. I don't think anyone reading this newsletter could have ever imagined this happening in the world we live in today, it's like a twilight zone. I also believe someone reading this letter has had COVID impact their life somehow with either losing a loved one, know someone that had/has COVID and for that I can speak for MASMS, you have our deepest sympathy. People whether you believe it's real or not, IT'S REAL so you need to take precautions to protect yourself and loved ones at home.

MASMS has had to cancel several events because of COVID and I can say this organization really misses our relationships with our colleagues and business members mostly. It affects us not just financially, but

most important the interactions with our colleagues and friends in both education and business. I miss everyone. If you are not aware yet MASMS has a couple things going on to try and bring people together regarding this COVID thing. We started a COVID information / question page on our website for everyone to go to for questions, share points of interest, share what you are doing that works in your facilities ECT. The second item we started a few months ago is an online virtual meeting for members to interact with colleges on questions, advice, share points of interest, what schools are doing regarding COVID, what works, what doesn't. It has been a great opportunity to get involved and share some of your knowledge with everyone. Every Thursday from 9:00am -10:00am, if you are interested reach out to Ruth and she will send you the link. Plus the education committee has agreed that this discussion session will earn 1 CEU (thank you Ed committee). These are a couple of items that you can GET INVOLVED with!

I could go on and on, but my last thing is you need to take COVID serious, protect you and your family members young and old, and remember now more than anything in this world every life matters and we need to lean on each other to get through this hard tough world we live in.


Jim Leuer – MASMS President – God Speed to all





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Health & Safety

The MASMS Health & Safety Committee supplies information for this section. If you have a specific topic you would like to see covered, let the MASMS office know.

COVID-19 Additional Information

It is important that everyone in the school community take steps to reduce COVID-19 transmission, particularly to those at high risk, while balancing the need to maintain a strong education system that effectively supports staff, students, and communities.

More information is available: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/>
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/>
<https://mn.gov/childcare/>
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf>

State Fire Marshal Division COVID-19 website information update:

All of our COVID-19-related information has been relocated to its own webpage.

Here's the link: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/fire-code/Pages/covid-19-resources-for-businesses.aspx>

Link to the FDA warnings for Eskbiochem products :

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-consumers-not-use-hand-sanitizer-products-manufactured-eskbiochem>

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STAYING CONNECTED



Are you missing conversations with other MASMS members?

To keep MASMS members connected and informed, we created a weekly virtual meeting for directors/supervisors to discuss current topics.

We hold this meeting every Thursday at 9:00 AM.

To participate please email the MASMS office at ruth@masms.org.

New Info Added Daily to the COVID-19 Discussion Forum

The MASMS COVID-19 Discussion Forum is for members to share information during this time. Feel free to use this forum to share information or ask questions about COVID-19 applicable to MASMS members.

Login at www.masms.org

- Select the "Covid-19 Discussion Forum" button on the left side of this window.
- Share information

Contact the MASMS office with questions (320) 685-4585 or ruth@masms.org

Find out all the answers to the questions you see MASMS members post during the month.

Go to www.masms.org and select the
QUICKLINK labeled
Questions and Answers from
MASMS Members



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\$1,000 MASMS Grant to be Awarded to a MASMS Member School District

MASMS will be awarding a school district who are MASMS members a grant for \$1,000. The project theme this year is “getting students involved in a facility and/or grounds project”. This grant will be awarded in fall. This grant is to be used in your school for a project that involves students. The project will need to be submitted to MASMS by August 15, 2020. All applications are reviewed by the MASMS Executive Board and a winner will be chosen from the submissions.

MASMS suggests that you try and involve the students if you can.

Some project ideas include:

- Landscaping (trees and/or shrubs)
- Start/revitalize a nature center area
- Install a low maintenance garden
- Recycling and/or waste reduction
- Sponsoring a field trip(s) related to facility and/or grounds
- Building project

If you are interested in this opportunity please complete the following steps:

1. Identify the project—Provide MASMS with an overview of the project.
2. Provide MASMS with a timeline for the project.
3. Email this information to ruth@masms.org before August 15, 2020

We look forward to receiving your project ideas and to awarding this to one of our member schools this fall!

On-line Training Opportunities

MASMS realizes that opportunities over the past few months to receive credits for the MASMS certification program have been cancelled. You now can find information for on-line courses that you can take on-line, and receive credit for the MASMS Certification program.

Login at www.masms.org and select the "On Line Training Opportunities" button on the left side of this window.

If you choose to take any of the on-line classes (listed on this site or others that you find), **you must email the MASMS office to receive credit for the class.**

Contact the MASMS office with questions (320) 685-4585 or ruth@masms.org



BUILDING STRONG CONNECTIONS

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Vendor Corner



Value of Having a Mentor

You cannot overestimate the value of having a mentor. Of the many years I have been involved with the MASMS Executive Board, numerous times there have been discussions about the importance of mentoring, personal stories from Board Members how different mentors helped them tremendously in their careers and lives, and how MASMS can create more mentoring opportunities for its members. As Benjamin Franklin once said: "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." Having a mentor invest some of their time and insight can help you learn the ropes more quickly and can also provide a reliable and trustworthy sounding board when various issues arise.

Mentors can provide a wealth of knowledge and experience which can help you gain valuable insights into various situations and how best to handle them. Mentors often have decades of experience to draw on, and like everyone else they prob-

ably made some mistakes along the way so why not learn from their mistakes and try to avoid some of your own as a result? Their experience allows them to be a great sounding board for ideas and concerns you may have. They've been there, often right where you are now, and you can tap into that wisdom and experience to help you decide the best thing to do.



Mentoring

Mentors can provide very objective and trustworthy input. In today's world it can be hard to know who to trust, and the fact you can have someone you can trust to provide you open and honest feedback is invaluable. A mentor can give you an unfiltered opinion that comes from a position of experience and wisdom. They can help guide you to making the best decisions, and maybe more importantly help you avoid making bad decisions. Because they've been around the block much longer than you have, especially if it is the same block you are currently on now, they can many times see things that you don't see and get you thinking about different angles to some situations that you would never thought of on your own.

Mentors can also be a strong source of encouragement and motivation, especially during difficult times. Oprah Winfrey is quoted as saying: "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." They can help you sort through difficult situations, and they can be your cheerleader when you really need one. Being able to talk to someone about a difficult situation, knowing they have been through similar situations before themselves, is truly a blessing and treasure to have at your disposal.

I have been very fortunate in my life with having several strong mentors. One of the most important to me, Dick Phillips, just called me this morning to see how things were going. He has provided me with everything listed above and more including helping me see things I didn't see myself, helping me avoid mistakes that I would have made without his counsel, being a cheerleader, and even "talking me off the ledge" a few times when things were especially difficult. I realize how truly lucky I have been, and still am, to have a "go to" person that has walked in my shoes many times before and can provide wisdom and a voice of reason whenever needed.

If you are looking for a MASMS mentor, or would be interested in being a MASMS mentor, please let Ruth or any Board Members know and we'll see what we can do to connect you with the right people.

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Goals of MASMS Members in the COVID-19 Era

Submitted by Marc Bachman, St. Peter Schools

The fundamental goal of our school districts is to educate children for the benefit of both their and our futures. As MASMS members we will use our resources to maintain healthy and safe learning environments for students and staff. During this era we will strive to:

- Share information and demonstrate accurate usage of EPA approved disinfectant products.
- Share most recent information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding recommendations related to keeping employees and students healthy.
- Support School Administration in developing safe avenues to bring students back into schools.
- Understand that the COVID-19 Era requires learning new “norms” and that change is difficult for everyone.
- Understand there is nothing to gain in lambasting ignorant decisions but much to gain in showing we know how to respond when COVID-19 enters our buildings.
- Immediately share observations of behaviors which threaten the health of all with the appropriate supervisor.
- Provide our staffs with tools/phrases to address unhealthy decisions such as
- Our district has a policy of social distancing, to keep our school open can I ask you to distance?
- How can I help?
- Be aware of and enforce OSHA guidelines necessary for our staff to safely provide their services.

Let's Open Our Schools...Safely.

In the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, what we cannot see poses the greatest risk to our students, teachers, staff, and future.

That's why we've taken powerful medical-grade clean air technology, developed at the request of a leading healthcare organization, and evolved it to safeguard schools. Our patent-pending **Iso-Aire** filtration solution captures and destroys 99.99% of viruses, bacteria, mold, pollen and other airborne contaminants through use of proven components, including **HEPA** (High-efficiency Particulate Air) filters, **UVC sterilization** and **Ozone-Free Ionization**. Our team of professionals is here to help your school's community breathe easier. Contact us:



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It is the role of facility management to ensure that everything is available and operating properly for building occupants to do their job.

Facility management generally has the most influence upon the quality of life in a facility.

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MASMS provides facility professionals the training and resources they need!

Please remember to renew your MASMS Membership!

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MDH on Lead in Water and Radon testing recommendations for schools during the COVID-19 response.

This has been verified and submitted by IEA.

COVID-19 School Occupancy	Lead in Water (LIW) Testing	Radon Testing
Scenario 1 (In-Person Learning)	Testing can occur as normal	Testing can occur as normal
Scenario 2 (Hybrid Model)	Testing can occur as normal Schools may see more elevated results due to parts of the buildings receiving lower water usage. More follow-up testing or remediation may be needed.	Testing can occur as normal Operate HVAC in typical occupied mode during testing as if building is fully occupied with normal schedule.
Scenario 3 (Distance Learning Only)	Lead testing should be delayed until the school is able move to Scenario 1 or 2.	Conduct testing as normal during Monday through Friday. Operate HVAC in typical occupied mode during testing.
LIW Note: No pre-stagnation flushing should occur before testing. Schools should be operated as close to normal operating conditions the day before testing. Schools implementing a hybrid model are likely to do so for half the year to the full year so that could be considered a “new normal” for water flow.		
LIW & Radon Note: Report documentation needs to include building occupancy condition during the testing		

UPCOMING MASMS EVENTS

10/21/20	MASMS Southern Chapter Meeting
10/28/20	MASMS Northwest Chapter Meeting
11/10/20	MASMS Metro Chapter Meeting
11/18/20	MASMS West Chapter Meeting
11/19/20	MASMS Northern Chapter Meeting
12/8/20	MASMS Metro Chapter Meeting
12/16/20	MASMS Southern Chapter Meeting
12/17/20	MASMS Northern Chapter Meeting
12/23/20	MASMS Northwest Chapter Meeting

MASMS Newsletter Articles

MASMS is accepting articles for the Newsletters.

Articles received before the 20th of each month will be considered for the following months publication. If we have too many articles, they will be held and used in an upcoming month.

Please email them to: ruth@masms.org

MASMS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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MASMS is Accepting Nominations for the 2020-2021 State Vice President Position

Members of the MASMS Executive Board provide leadership, have a shared vision, a sense of mission and are responsible for the health and growth of MASMS. This position is a four (4) year commitment that rotates through the following positions:

Year One Vice President	Year Two President Elect
Year Three President	Year Four Past President

Nominees must be employed by a school district and be a current active MASMS educational member.

Considerations include:

- Commitment to MASMS
- Leadership Ability
- Appreciation for the Respective Roles on the Board
- Ability and Willingness to Serve (disclosed their intent to their employer to serve on the MASMS Executive Board as well as understand the time commitment necessary to fulfill this role).

Complete duties of each position within this commitment are outlined on the nomination form.

Vice President | Shall be responsible for planning the educational programs at the State professional growth seminars.

President Elect | Shall Chair the State Conference Committee; be an ex officio member of all standing and special committees.

The President | Shall be the Executive Officer of the State Association; preside over meetings of the State Association; prepare the agenda for the State business meetings; sign all necessary documents and other instruments of the Association authorized by the Executive Council.

Past President | Shall provide support and leadership as requested.

Note: All positions have the support of the Executive Administrator who helps secure locations, speakers, plans details of events and any other support requested and/or required.

Nomination and Election Timeline

- Nomination forms will be emailed to membership and posted on the MASMS website no later than June 1st of each year.
- Completed forms are due back to the MASMS office no later than August 15th of each year.
- Ballots will be distributed electronically.
- Voting will be completed electronically.
- Job duties start on October 15, 2020.

Nomination Process

To nominate yourself or another MASMS member please complete and follow the instructions on the nomination form.

[Click here for the nomination form](#); or go to www.masms.org and select membership information under "quick links".