The "Tool Box" for Educational Facility Management Professionals

New This Year ~MASMS "Non Day on the Hill"

February is traditionally when MASMS takes members to the State Capitol for "Day on the Hill".

Based on feedback from our membership, the decision was made to not to do a Day on the Hill this year. Instead, MASMS leadership is encouraging you to invite your legislators to your school. Telling the local story on how proposed budgets affect your schools and the students they serve is the most compelling arguments you can make for increased funding for building and grounds.



As building and ground directors/managers we need to be building a strong relationship with our Legislators. First we need to know who the Legislators are, then introduce our self to them and contact them on a regular basis, so when it's time for us to ask for their support they already know who we are and what we do.

We need to share information about our school buildings and invite them to visit on a regular basis. They will not be able to come every time you invite them; however they will remember you did take the time to keep them informed. Our success will be enhanced by building relationships and being informed of the advocacy process.

Now is the time for Building and Ground Departments to start building positive, ongoing relationships with elected officials!

How-to Guide - Legislator Meetings at your School District

Here is some basic information on how to setup a meeting at your school: Talk with your administration to get everyone onboard with meeting with your reps.

- 1. Find your legislator.
 - a. http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/ ~ type in your school address, hit Enter
 - b. A list will appear of your:
 - i. MN House Representative
 - ii. MN Senator
 - iii. U.S. House Representative
 - iv. U.S. Senators (2)
- 2. Click on the legislator you want to contact.
 - a. Each legislator has an assistant with their phone number listed.
- 3. Call your legislator's legislative assistant to schedule the meeting.
- 4. Follow up with an e-mail confirmation of the meeting.
 - a. Since you will likely have a quorum present from the School Board:
 - i. Post the meeting as you normally would
 - ii. Create an agenda, "Meet with legislators to discuss relative topics"
 - iii. Make sure that the meeting is officially convened and adjourned (it is an actual School Board meeting)
 - iv. Be aware that local media outlets will likely attend.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

"Non" Day on the Hill	1
How to Guide	1
Message fro m the Bd	3
Vendor Corner	3
New Members	3
Hearing Protection	4
Call for Presentations	6
Vultures/ Hummingbirds	7
MASMS Lobbyist	8
Boot Camp January	9
Over 50?	10
Memo Board	11

Continued on page 2



How-to Guide – Legislator Meetings at your School District (Continued from page 1)

- 5. Poll members of your Administration Committee, Cabinet, School Board Members, etc. to come up with topics of concern to discuss. Here is an example list from a meeting last year.
 - a. Teacher licensure
 - b. New demographic reporting requirements
 - c. Long term facility needs
 - d. Voluntary pre-Kindergarten

It is important to remember that there are numerous legislative concerns from school districts and your agenda item may or may not make the list. However, just the brief introduction puts a face with the name when you need to e-mail your legislator supporting or opposing legislation.

- 6. During the meeting, introduce yourself, keep your comments fact based, refrain from bias and be respectful of the other items on the agenda. Keep your list of topics short. Asking for too much will likely water down all of your requests.
- 7. Offer additional information to the legislators if they request it, and offer to be a resource should they have any questions.

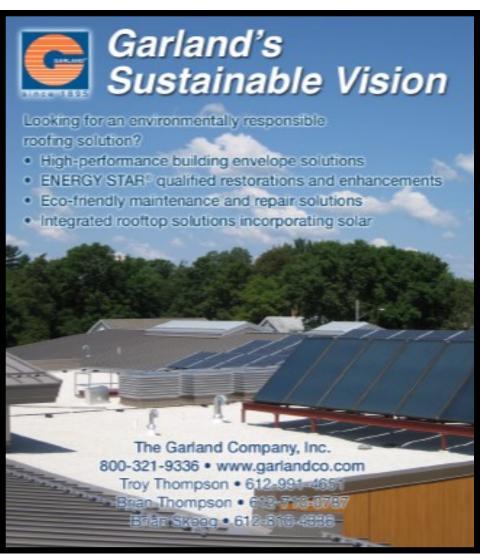
While it can be intimidating to initiate something like this, it can happen and has proven successful for other school districts. Meeting with legislators on your "turf" tends to raise their level of concentration on the specific requests and can make them more approachable. Good luck with scheduling your next meeting and feel free to reach out to the MASMS Legislative Committee with any questions.

Take it a step more.. Create an Shvite Your Leaislato

"Invite Your Legislator to School Day"



Involve
the
entire
school,
including
students!







Don Hanson, State Vice President

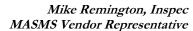
There are many ways to get involved with the MASMS organization, from volunteering for a chapter or state position, presenting on a topic or working at an event. Another way is to serve on a committee. From time to time our committees do need some new ideas, perspectives and people. Currently there are 10 committees to choose from. This is a good way to get to know other members and you get to

have a hand in helping shape the future of the MASMS organization.

Think about what you can offer a committee and contact the Chairperson to inquire about joining them. Or just have a quick conversation with one of the Exec Board members who will gladly provide more information to you. I have enjoyed all of the committees and groups that I have had the pleasure to work with. You will get so much more out of serving this organization than you can imagine. I hope you would see the same benefit as well.

Thanks Don Hanson, State Vice President

Vendor Corner





Submit a Presentation for the MASMS 2018 Fall Conference!

In case you missed it, the Call for Presentations for the MASMS 2018 Fall Conference was sent out in January, and you should strongly consider submitting a proposed educational presentation! The Fall Conference dates are Thursday, October 4th and Friday, October 5th so get those dates on your calendar now.

This is a great opportunity to educate MASMS members, give back to the organization, and get a little recognition for you and your company at the same time. Proposed presentations must be educational in nature (not a sales pitch) and about 50 minutes in length. Based on past feedback from our members we are seeking more presentations that would relate to non-administrative positions and any type of "hands on" workshops would also be of interest. You don't need to submit the actual presentation, you only need to submit a 100 word summary and a short professional bio of the presenter. You can contact Ruth or me for more info.

Consider submitting a presentation, it doesn't take much time to submit and it is a great opportunity for all MASMS Business Members!

Thanks, Mike

WELCOME NEW EDUCATION MEMBERS

Chandala Nagendrappa, Wayzata Schools Jason Youngberg, Moose Lake Schools Todd Vrklan, LeSueur-Henderson Schools

WELCOME NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

Scott Ramacier, American Time Kelli Newma, J & J Flooring Group Craig Hidde, Skold Specialty Contracting Steve Edwards, CertaPro Painters Amy Holmes, ARC Technology Solutions Patrick McClain, Veritiv Corp

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Jeff Kath (The Retrofit Companies), a long time member of MASMS, passed away unexpectedly from natural causes on January 15, 2018. Jeff lived in Owatonna and was 63 years old. Services were held on Saturday January 20th.

Our sympathy goes out to his family and co-workers.



■ Health & Safety Section

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

Hearing Protection: From Apps to Earplugs

Even a low level of noise can be hazardous to the human ear and noise exposure can have serious health consequences, ranging from hearing loss and tinnitus to hypertension, ischemic heart disease, annoyance and sleep disturbance. Earplugs and other devices can reduce and even eliminate noise exposure, and there are now apps to measure the noise level and obtain recommendations on appropriate hearing protection.

Let's start with the good news: "When it comes to the damage a person can suffer from a noisy workplace, there has been an increasing awareness recently," says Manfred Schuster, head of hearing protection at Uvex.

Joao Rosario, an application engineer in the Personal Safety Division of the multi-technology group 3M, said he believes that this

is important because "although medicine has made amazing progress in the treatment of hearing damage in recent years, it's impossible to eliminate all hearing problems."

Hearing loss can start at a relatively low noise level of 85 decibels. This is because noise is cumulative, so that even low-level noise can add up to a dangerous total. The pain threshold starts at around 120 decibels. If the noise level is very high, it can damage a person's hearing within a very short time.

Noise-induced hearing loss occurs when the hair cells in a person's hearing organ virtually are dissolved for lack of oxygen, caused by repeatedly excessive sound waves. This is because the hair cells react to pressure fluctuations of the membranes, which they then pass on to the brain as electrical stimuli. Hair cells that have been destroyed cannot be replaced or newly formed.

Preventative action to reduce noise exposure continues to be vital to the prevention of hearing loss, and so does the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Protection of the workforce is gaining in significance, partly due to demographic changes to the workforce and partly to shortages of skilled employees.

Younger workers just entering the workforce tend to underestimate the hazards caused by noise. "This puts them especially at risk," says Rosario, as they usually only react quickly if they experience acute hearing loss, caused by excessive noise. It often takes 10 to 20 years before people become aware of any long-term damage.

Yet a person's hearing is not the only thing that is affected by noise. Noise can cause stress to the entire body, causing poor concentration, gastrointestinal disorders and high blood pressure. It can even increase the risk of a heart attack.

Continued on Page 5



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Hearing Protection: From Apps to Earplugs (Cont'd from page 4)

Different Noisy Environments

One major challenge is the variety of noise levels in the working environment. "As working conditions change," says Rosario, "it becomes more and more important to use hearing protection which is suitable for a variety of noisy environments."

The 3M technology group has developed earplugs where users can toggle between a higher and lower level of protection, while also being protected against impulse noise - i.e. short, sudden bursts of noise.

Although efforts continue to reduce machine noise, some industrial worksites and work tasks remain noisy, such as demolition and construction projects and any work that involves metalworking and woodworking equipment. But even the "pleasant noise" of a band or orchestra can have a detrimental effect on the listener's health.

Probably the most reasonably priced way for protection is to use a pair of simple foam earplugs. Although this form of PPE protects the wearer against the damaging effects of noise, created by air pressure in the ear, the noise still is perceived by the user and communication can be difficult.

One alternative to ready-to-use earplugs is ear molds that can be individually adjusted. With this form of hearing protection the emphasis is on both speech intelligibility and comfort. This kind of specially customized hearing protection now can be manufactured in a 3D printing process at a millimeter accuracy. Nevertheless, the devices still need to be checked – both at

delivery and then at regular intervals – to make sure they maintain their protective function.

Another hearing protection product that currently is gaining in popularity is one that can be used in conjunction with a smartphone, when listening to music or making phone calls. For certain professional groups, such as wind turbine mechanics and forestry workers, it is important to stay in touch with colleagues across distances. This can be ensured through active hearing protection.

Another area which is receiving more and more attention is earplugs, earmuffs and hearing aids with miniature batteries. They can deliver level-dependent attenuation while also amplifying very low noises – a useful feature for military purposes.

The more complex and expensive the hearing protection, the more there is a demand for accessories. "Hygiene sets, for instance, play a major role – both in passive and active earmuffs," says Rosario. "Active hearing protection involves accessories such as wind protection for microphones, rechargeable batteries and rechargers."

Accessories now offer increasingly smart solutions. "Electronic hearing protection," says Manfred Schuster, "can now be provided with packaging that has integrated rechargers."

Hearing Protection Is More than PPE

Training is another important factor in hearing protection. Once the right kind of protection is identified, employees should be given training and information on the appropriate use of equipment. Uvex puts up small stands in its customer company's cafeterias to provide information. In addition to obtaining advice and training on their own premises, some PPE companies, such as Uvex and 3M, offer safety engineers train-the-trainer type courses so they can share best







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CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS/SESSION SPEAKERS FOR MASMS 2018 FALL CONFERENCE

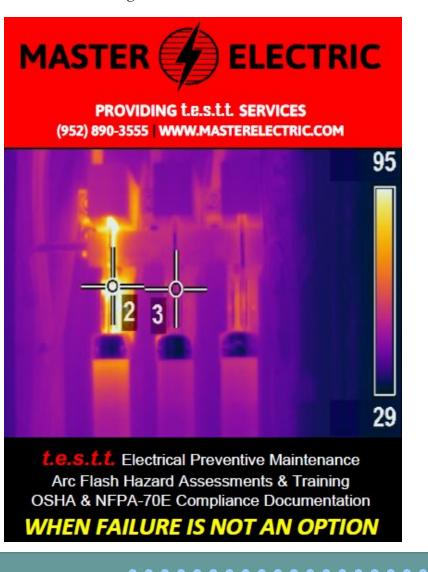
MASMS is soliciting presentations and session speakers for the 2018 MASMS Conference. The dates of the conference are Thursday October 4th and Friday October 5th, 2018 – at the St. Cloud MN Holiday Inn & Suites. If you submit and are selected to present you could be scheduled for either of the two days. Presentations will be selected by the Educational Committee by March 31, 2018.

We ask that presentations fit into one of the modules listed below. Submittals are due by March 10, 2018.

Please note that based on feedback from our members we are looking for more sessions that would relate to non-administrative positions. Hands-on workshops would be welcome. As in the past years, we ask that presentations be product and vendor neutral, and that the endorsements of certain products or vendors be avoided.

Instructions:

- -Review the modules below and decide where your presentation fits
- -Presentations should be 50 minutes in length (including answer/question)
- -Expect approximately 25-40 people in each session
- -Prepare a 100-word descriptor of the course
- -Provide a short professional bio of the presenter
- ~Email this to ruth@masms.org
- Custodial Operations ~ Staffing Levels, Hiring Procedures, Supervision & Evaluation, Product Equipment/Selection
- Building Systems ~ Boiler Operator Review, HVAC, Energy Benchmarking, Lighting, Automation Systems
- Environmental Health & Safety ~ H & S 101, Indoor Air Quality, Playground Safety, Funding Basics, ADA, Crisis Planning
- Maintenance Management ~ Building Envelope/Roof/Preventative/Grounds Maintenance, Building Codes & Construction Practices
- Financial Management





The Messenger



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OR



Vultures and hummingbirds don't have the ability to choose. They each fly over the same land coexisting in the same areas.

Vultures fly over the landscape looking for the dead carcasses that they feed on. They have incredible eyesight and can spot a dead animal from miles away.

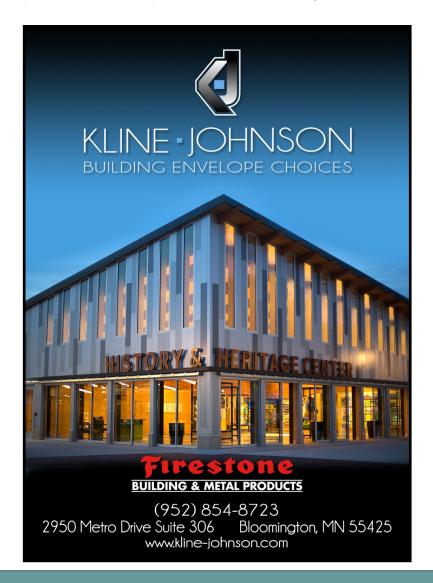
Hummingbirds fly over the same landscape looking for the flowers that they feed on. Hummingbirds are attracted by the bright colors and consume the sweet nectar inside the flower.

Vultures fly over flowers and hummingbirds fly over dead animals, but they only notice what they're looking for.

But you can choose.

If you are constantly looking for dead smelly stuff, you'll find it. If you are looking for gossip, bad news, negativity, gloom and doom, you will find them. However, if you're looking for sweet nectar, you'll find it. If you are looking for exciting, positive, joyful experiences, you will find them.

Who do you choose to be today? A vulture or a hummingbird?



Note from Randy Morris, MASMS Lobbyist

The Association of General Contractors (AGC) is drafting legislation for public-private partnerships (P3) as a viable alternative delivery method. P3 can best be described as a way of delivering public infrastructure through a partnership between government and private parties. The process can be applied to a great variety of projects, among them schools. With public funding for projects becoming increasingly hard to come by, the investment by private sector entities could move projects forward that would otherwise languish for years.

In the P3 process, the private party works jointly with the government entity to develop a project. The private party assumes the risk and the government entity establishes a method for the private party to recoup their investment, typically through a long-term contract

This issue is beginning to have a fair amount of discussion among affected organizations. I will keep you posted.

Sincerely, Randy



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Good article for more background

on P3s. (Submitted by Larua Larsen, Stillwater Schools) https://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/how-do-you -build-effective-public-private-partnerships

Mark Your Calendar
May 8th ~ MASMS State Meeting
The CHS Field, St. Paul MN
Keynote Speaker will be Mike Veeck,
St. Paul Saints Owner
Tour of stadium.
Much More!

MASMS Custodial/Grounds/ Maintenance APPRECIATION DAYS

Every June MASMS holds events to show appreciation for the custodial, grounds and maintenance staff from our schools.

The day is filled with education, a trade show, networking, prizes, lunch and fun.

Mark your calendar to send your staff and yourself.

June 13th & 14th Metro at White Bear Lake

June 19th Northern/NW/West at Grand Rapids

> June 21st Southern at Mankato

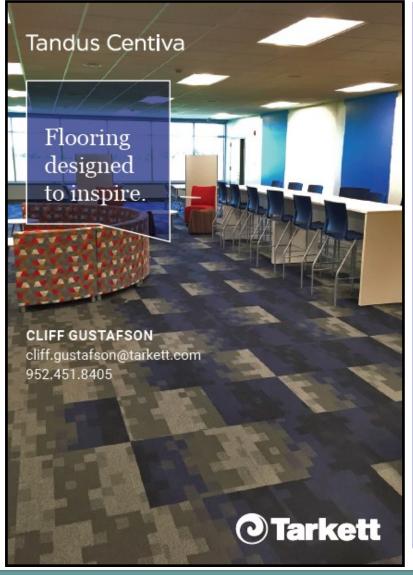
The Messenger



MASMS Boot Camp ~ January 2018 26 MASMS Members Attended Boot Camp on January 17th & 18th, 2018. Great Group!

Special thank you to our Boot Camp instructors.

Mike Boland (No St. Paul/Maplewood/Oakdale Schools), Scott Hogen (Mankato Schools), Chis Pint (Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Schools) and Laura Masley (Elk River Schools), who have over 75 years of combined experience!





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The Messenger

Over 50? Some interesting financial facts! The Powerhouse Generation ~ 50+ Demographic (Boomers)

At 111 million strong, the 50+ demographic is the #1 consumer-age demographic in the United States,

far exceeding Gen X's 61 million and Millennials' 75 million.

- The 50+ demo is the fastest growing group in the Untied States.
- Boomers are drinking the "fountain of youth" and living longer than ever before. In fact, Americans are living 3 decades longer now than they did a century ago! Boomers are not just living longer, they are living better, feeling more youthful than their predecessors and remaining engaged, active and fulfilled.
- Boomers own the majority of U.S. Financial Assets. They own 63% of all American financial assets.
- Boomers outspend the GDP of several major nations. The U. S. 50+ population spends \$3.2 trillion annually. That is a total greater than the GDP of the nations Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom, Brazil and France.
- The 50+ demo accounts for half of all consumer expenditures!



1909 Valentine's card	
Also called	Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint
	Valentine
Observed by	People in many countries;
_	Anglican Communion (see calendar)
	<u>Lutheran Church</u> (see <u>calendar</u>)
Type	Christian, cultural, commercial
Significance	Feast day of Saint Valentine; the celebra-
	tion of love and affection
Observances	Sending greeting cards and gifts, dating,
	church services
Date	February 14(fixed by the Western Christian Church)
	July 6(fixed by the Eastern Orthodox Church)
	July 30 (fixed by the Eastern Orthodox Church)





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February 13, 2018 Metro Chapter Meeting February 15, 2018 Northern Chapter Meeting February 21, 2018 Southern Chapter Meeting February 28, 2018 Northwest Chapter Meeting March 13, 2018 Metro Chapter Meeting Northern Chapter Meeting March 15, 2018 March 21, 2018 West Central Chapter Meeting April 10, 2018 Metro Chapter Meeting

April 18, 2018 Southern Chapter Meeting April 19, 2018 Northern Chapter Meeting April 25, 2018 **NW** Chapter Meeting

May 2, 2018 West Central Chapter Meeting May 8, 2018

State Meeting





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February Fun!

Serve up some yogurt! February 6th is Frozen Yogurt Day

Let them know! Send a card to a friend day is February 7th. February 14th!~Valentine's Day Gumdrops Anyone? ~ National Gumdrop Day February 15th Random Acts of Kindness Day ~ February 17th Happy Hour? Margarita Day February 22nd Mardí Gras—February 28th

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