

### Poetry Out Loud Competition

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC, [www.msac.org](http://www.msac.org)) has partnered with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA, [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)), and the Poetry Foundation, to conduct the 2009 **Poetry Out Loud Competition**, which is open to grades 11 and 12 in all schools in Maryland, both public and private, and will begin with competitions at each school in the fall of 2008. By encouraging high school students to memorize and perform great poems, *Poetry Out Loud* invites the dynamic aspects of the spoken word, and theater into the English class. This exciting new program, which began in 2005, helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. Scholarships & cash prizes are awarded!!

The MSAC Project Director, Ms. Chris Stewart and Project Coordinator, Ms. MiMi Zannino, will provide toolkits of Program materials. Each participating classroom will hold a contest for which each student memorizes and recites **one** poem from the POL on-line anthology. The winner of each classroom memorizes **two** poems from the anthology to compete for the high school title of school champion. The school champions then memorize **one additional poem** in order to compete at the Maryland State level. Of the **three poems**, one must be 25 lines or less and one must be a pre-20th century poem. These poems are placed in special categories on the POL web site, and can be found here: <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/poems/browsepoems.html>.

The state level winner will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to compete for the national championship. The state winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. A runner-up in each state will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. A total of **\$50,000 in scholarships** and school stipends at the National Finals will be awarded to the winners.

In addition, MiMi Zannino, a poet-in-residence with the MSAC since 1989, is available to present a **30-minute assembly presentation for students and educators** to talk about the POL program, to model the techniques for recitation, and to answer questions and provide some coaching. If enough of you are interested, we could create a training session where Ms. Zannino can present this material to you and coach you so you may model the techniques in your classrooms, and provide information and toolkits to teachers.

#### Important deadlines:

**October 1, 2008** Date by which schools confirm participation by notifying MSAC

**December 15** – Date by which schools send the MSAC the name of your school champion

Information on organizing an event at your school and Judges' guidelines can be found at: <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/teachers/resources.html>.

To watch a short video about the Poetry Out Loud 2006 National Finals, use this link: <http://www.poetryoutloud.org/news/nationalfinals.html>.

### Mock elections

It is time to talk to students throughout Maryland to prepare them to participate in their own national student mock election. October 30, 2008 is the Mock Election day and hopefully your social studies departments will participate this year. Over 5 million students have participated since the project began in 1980.

This is a project supported by Character Counts and the Maryland Parent Teacher Associations and many other like-minded educational entities. The project is designed to teach students about the importance of voting. As civic-minded citizens we can help ensure that today's young Americans realize their responsibility in taking an active role in the democratic process.

To participate in the National Mock Election go to their website ([www.nationalmockelection.com](http://www.nationalmockelection.com)). Your local League of Women Voters in cooperation with the local school boards will provide the ballots for the Presidential candidates and the Congressional candidates in your district.

#### MPSSAA

Mr. Tony Thompson, principal of Meadowood Education Center and Mr. Jay Berno, principal of Middletown High School will continue to represent MASSP with the Maryland Public Schools Athletic Association.

### REGIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2008 FREDERICK COUNTY at MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.

**We invite all members from our Western Maryland counties to join us at Middletown High School. We will be inviting central office staff from these four counties as well as senators and delegates from that area to join us. This is your organization and we hope that you'll give us a few hours on that Saturday.**

### Professional Standards and Teacher Education Advisory Board

In 1971 the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Advisory Board (PSTEAB) was established through regulation. Its primary function was to advise the State Board of Education concerning the following:

- standards related to the certification of teachers;
- policies on the waiver of certification requirements; and
- the accreditation of teacher education programs.

In 1991, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation that created the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB). This semi-autonomous board is composed of 25 members and shares, with the SBE, the authority to develop rules and regulations for the certification of teachers and other professional personnel and requirements for the preparation of teachers and other education personnel. Mr. Tim Dawson, principal of Baltimore City College, will represent MASSP for the next three years.

### 2009-2010 Principal of the Year Program

MASSP and NASSP are beginning the 17th year of recognizing outstanding school leadership. The applications for the 2010 National Principal of the Year are now available on the NASSP website [www.principals.org](http://www.principals.org). The new application has several revisions, so please use the current one that is on line. As judges review the applications they will be watching for indications of student achievement, e.g., what is the schools. Record of academic achievement, how has it improved over the years, and what steps have been taken to close the achievement gap. Applications should be submitted to the MASSP office on or before March 6, 2009. The winner will be recognized at the MASSP Spring Conference in Ocean City on March 19-21, 2009.

### NASSP Convention

There are several changes in format for the NASSP annual convention.

- The NASSP Exposition will move to a two day format– Friday and Saturday only. There will be non-compete times for the vendors. They are 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. –2:00 p.m.
- There will be a festive opening reception in the exhibit hall on Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This new reception will welcome convention attendees and officially launch the 2009 NASSP Exposition.
- The Second General Session on Saturday will move to 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Traditionally presented early on Saturday morning, this session will now be held in the afternoon.
- There will be a luncheon format for the closing General Session on Sunday, 12:00-2:00 p.m.. The luncheon will be included in the registration fee and you will need to register for this event.
- MASSP has made a change in it's activities for Maryland attendees. Over the past few years we have offered a continental breakfast on two days and a sit-down breakfast on another morning. We are going to return to a format we followed several years ago. There will be an open house each evening for MASSP members and guests from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina. The specific room location will be published when we have the details.
- Our NASSP Coordinator Tony Thompson will be sending out information about the MASSP travel package.

### MARYLAND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Applications for the Maryland Assistant Principal of the Year are due to the MASSP office on or before **Friday, October 10, 2008**. The application can be found on our website at [www.md-massp.org](http://www.md-massp.org). The winner will be announced at the AP Conference on Tuesday, October 21, 2008. This year we have tried a new approach to this program. We asked principals around the state to nominate outstanding assistant principals at the middle and high school levels. We received 23 nominations and sent an application packet to each of the nominees and a copy of the letter to their respective principals. This new approach in no way negates any MASSP assistant principal from submitting an application for the annual award. We are hoping that this approach will help with increased participation.

### NASSP Federal Grassroots Network

In recent years, principals have felt the weight of onerous federal education laws. Now, you have a chance to influence those laws. NASSP has created the Federal Grassroots Network, so that you can educate your members of Congress on how the policies they create in Washington affect schools in their states and districts. Network members promise to:

- \* Foster relationships with their members of Congress and meet with each member at least once a year
- \* Share experiences and strategies with other Network members in quarterly Web conferences or conference calls.

NASSP will support you in this work by providing you:

- \* Regular updates on federal policy
- \* Strategies and "talking points" for meeting with your elected officials
- \* Easy access to the Network to share ideas and strategies.

The most powerful voice is that of a constituent, and we ask that you use yours to advocate for federal education policies that serve the interests of students in middle level and high schools across the United States.

In addition, NASSP will help us with strategies to enhance our skills in working with the Maryland legislature. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Federal Grassroots Network, let me know at [massp@comcast.net](mailto:massp@comcast.net). We need five MASSP members to volunteer for this activity.

### MASSP/NASSP MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder that the invoices for membership will be arriving in mid-September. Our calendar year with NASSP is November to November. Some of you may have received "pro-rated" invoices this summer. This is an attempt to bring all of the membership into a single month. Of course, you can join at any time, but we are trying to align our membership times.

The membership dues for individual and institutional members for MASSP/NASSP are \$336 for the 2008-2009 school year. The **associate membership** is \$126. This is one of the areas that I would like to increase our membership. This membership category is open to department heads, teachers, graduate students, administrative interns, and professors. Associate members receive all membership benefits except the legal and liability coverage. Please encourage your leadership team to join.

From the checks that I receive for membership, a large number are from the school accounts or from the county accounts. Those counties who do not pay directly for membership usually offer some type of reimbursement. I hope that our entire membership will encourage fellow principals and assistant principals and other school leaders to join MASSP/NASSP. The liability and legal coverage would be reason enough for most people, but the services of NASSP are extraordinary and in Maryland you are represented at every possible venue where education is discussed.

### MASSP General Meetings

As we noted in the last newsletter for 2007-2008 and on another page in this newsletter, we will be having regional meetings for MASSP. We hope that many of you will be able to join us at our regular meetings at Eastern Tech High School and at our regional meetings.

The first regional meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Middletown High School in Frederick County. In addition to the directors and assistant superintendents of our four western counties, the following Maryland Delegates have been invited; Joseph Bartlett, Wendell Beitzel, Galen Clagett, John Donoghue, Donald Elliott, Sue Hecht, Richard Weldon, Nancy Stocksdales, Susan Krebs, Paul Stull, LeRoy Myers, Paul Stull, Christopher Shank, and Tanya Shewell. Senators David Brinkley, George Edwards, Alex Mooney and Donald Munson have also been invited. If you know any of these legislators, please encourage them to attend the meeting and share what they think is coming up in the next legislative session.

Our first general meeting is at 9:30 a.m. at Eastern Tech High School in Baltimore on Saturday, September 13, 2008.

Other meeting dates are:

Saturday, October 11, 2008	Middletown High School Frederick County
Saturday, November 8, 2008	Reservoir High School Howard County
Saturday, January 10, 2009	Eastern Tech High School Baltimore County
Saturday, February 14, 2009	Lockerman Middle School Caroline County
Thursday, March 19, 2009	Spring Conference Ocean City
Saturday, April 18, 2009	Lackey High School Charles County
Saturday, May 9, 2009	Eastern Tech High School

### ISLLC TEST PREPARATION November 1 and November 8, 2008

MASSP is offering a test preparation workshop presented by Dr. James McGowan and Dr. Noel T. Farmer. Dr. McGowan was an associate superintendent in Howard County and a faculty member at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Farmer is a former superintendent in Frederick County and department chair of graduate education at Hood College. The prep course requires two sessions and will be offered on **November 1 and November 8** in the morning at Reservoir High School in Howard County. The cost of the two sessions will be \$100 which covers breakfast each morning and all materials. Registration materials are on-line at [www.md-massp.org](http://www.md-massp.org). Dr. McGowan and Dr. Farmer do an excellent job in preparing candidates for the test which will give the candidates Administration II certification. Check with your staff to see if anyone would like to take advantage of this service. I have been in a number of their sessions and I can assure you that everyone will come away fully prepared to take the test in January or June. In September 2009, the ISLLC test will take on a new format, so have your staff members take advantage of this opportunity. You do not have to have Admin I to take the prep course or take the test.

The Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC), organized by the Council of Chief State School Officers, was formed for the purpose of developing model standards and assessments for school leaders. ISLLC's primary constituency is the state education agencies responsible for administrator licensing. It includes representatives of state agencies/departments of education and professional standards boards, with considerable participation by professional associates.

The content of the assessment is based on the standards developed by ISLLC members and on a national job analysis. The standards are based on

- a thorough analysis of what is known about effective educational leadership at the school and district levels
- a comprehensive examination of the best thinking about the types of leadership that will be required for tomorrow's schools
- syntheses of the thoughtful work on administrator standards developed by various national organizations, professional associations, and reform commissions in-depth discussions of leadership and administrative standards by leaders within each of the 24 states involved in the ISLLC testing program.