



THE MASMS MESSENGER

APRIL 2026

Register for 2026 Custodial Grounds Maintenance Days

Education Members:

You and your staff are invited to attend the 2026 MASMS Custodial/Grounds/Maintenance Days! It is a great way to thank your custodial, grounds and maintenance staff. Give yourself & your staff a day for learning new things and networking with peers. It will include education, networking, a Vendor Showcase, Door Prizes, Great Food and some Fun!

Business Members:

This is a great opportunity to spend time with custodial, maintenance & grounds staff from many school districts. The exhibition of materials & products is an important part of each day!

**A GREAT WAY TO
SAY THANK YOU TO
CUSTODIAL, GROUNDS
& MAINTENANCE
STAFF!**

North/NW June 11, 2026
West Little Falls Middle School, Little Falls MN
Southern June 16, 2026
Jackson County Central HS, Jackson, MN
Metro June 23 & June 24, 2026
Jordan Middle Schools, Jordan, MN
(Same schedule each day, new attendees each day)

Schedule for each day:

8:30 AM	Registration & Coffee
8:50 AM	Welcome
9:00 AM	Educational Sessions
10:00 AM	Educational Sessions
11:00 AM	Product Showcase
12:15 PM	Lunch/Entertainment
1:30 PM	Educational Sessions
2:20 PM	Prizes/Closing

Click here for registration forms:

[Educational Registration Forms](#)

[Business Registration Forms](#)

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MASMS Email: office@masms.org
www.masms.org



Message from the Board

Heather Nosan *Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ISD*
State Secretary

As the days grow longer and the temperatures start to rise, we can all feel it... spring is in the air! With the academic year winding down, now is the time to reflect, plan, and prepare for the busy summer months ahead. But it's not all work - it's the perfect season to learn, reconnect, and strengthen your involvement within the MASMS organization. It's a great time to invest in **you!**

The educational opportunities through MASMS are endless. There truly is something for everyone. Please be sure to take advantage of these upcoming opportunities:

- **Leadership Training:** Build your leadership skills and gain practical tools to support your team.
- **Custodial, Grounds & Maintenance Days:** Hands-on learning, skill development, and networking with peers.
- **Boot Camp:** A valuable opportunity for members to strengthen foundational knowledge and connect with others.

These opportunities offered through MASMS allow our members to:

Discover new ideas that improve efficiency and bring a fresh perspective to your work.

Learn best practices from peers who face the same challenges.

Recharge before the summer project season kicks into high gear.

As we move toward the final stretch of the school year, I hope this season brings renewed energy - and maybe even a little fun - to your routine.

Heather Nosan, MASMS State Secretary

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Vendor Corner

The Customer IS Always Right!

When I think about the old phrase "the customer is always right" I think about customer service issues and responding to complaints, but this is another way of looking at it – it is the customer that truly defines success or failure.

These are great examples of some very large and successful companies that had "great ideas" that ended up not working out well because the customer never bought into the idea as well:

Google tried to get involved in the huge social networking industry by creating Google+ and later Google Buzz and both of those failed because they simply didn't attract enough customers. Microsoft had their own version of the iPod called Zune but that failed and later tried to enter the cell phone business with their Windows Phone but it simply couldn't compete with the iPhone and Android models. Amazon had the "great idea" to open up actual brick and mortar retail stores but shut down their Amazon Fresh and

Amazon Go grocery stores earlier this year. The company formerly known as Facebook changed their name to Meta and spent \$80 billion to develop and promote the "metaverse" which was going to be an online virtual world for customers but recently Meta announced it will no longer add new apps in this virtual reality world.

The lesson here is: no matter how great you think a new idea or product or service would be – it is truly the customer that defines whether it will be a success or not. Even these wildly successful large companies had what they thought were great ideas that fell on their face simply because their customers weren't interested and didn't buy into it. You need to keep this in mind when you or your organization comes up with "great ideas" in the future – realize as much as you think something is a great idea, your customers will actually define whether it is a success or not.



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Mark Your Calendar | 2026 Tour

May 5, 2026 at St. John's University & the College of St. Benedict

We're pleased to invite MASMS members to a special behind-the-scenes tour of a local college campus.

This guided tour will highlight both campus facilities, maintenance operations, power plants, grounds practices, and a few surprises. It's a great opportunity to see how another institution keeps everything running smoothly.

In addition to the tour, members will have time to ask questions, share ideas, and connect with peers who face many of the same challenges and opportunities in their day-to-day work.

The tour is free to educational and business members and includes lunch.

The tour will start at 9AM and will conclude at about 4PM.

Schedule:

9:00AM

Gather at the Gorecki Center at the St. Benedict's Campus (CSB) for a general overview of the two campuses.

9:30 AM

½ of the group take a bus over St. Johns University (SJU) for tour,
½ of the group will stay for a tour of CSB

Noon Lunch for everyone at SJU

1:00 PM

½ of the group take a bus over CSB for tour;
½ of the group will stay at SJU for a tour.

3:30 PM Gather back at CSB for a short Q & A

4:00 PM Event is finished.

To Register for this event:

Go to the MASMS website: www.masms.org;
Select "Member Login" (Top of the window)

Enter your username (first initial and last name); Enter your password.; Select "Meeting Registration" (left hand side); Select May 5th Tour; Enter your name, school/organization and email. Select the send button.



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Please join us in welcoming our newest members!
We're thrilled to have you
as part of the Association
and look forward to working together.

Welcome New Educational Members

Brent Erickson, Becker ISD
Adam Rich, Bloomington ISD

Welcome New Business Members

John Peterson, JP's Coating LLC
Dinah Boelter, BLB Consulting
Adam Seidel, McKinstry
Eric Runez, McKinstry
Rich Hotchkiss, Hercules LED, LLC.
Joe Conway, Hercules LED, LLC.
Jim Bain, Hercules LED, LLC.
Brian Flander, Parellel Technologies
Larry Sknow, Mulch Ninjas
Andrew Flory, IncidentIQ
Buzz Meade, Restoration Professionals, Inc.
Robert Mattson, Mission Filtration

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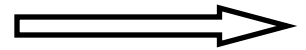
JUSTIN CRANDALL | OWNER/OPERATOR
WWW.MIDWESTGROUNDCOVER.NET
MIDWESTGROUNDCOVER@GMAIL.COM

Each year we ask for submissions of construction projects to be featured on our MASMS Directory Cover/Back. We had a ton of submissions, so we were not able to use all of them on the Directory! Those that were not selected will be featured in our newsletter throughout the year!

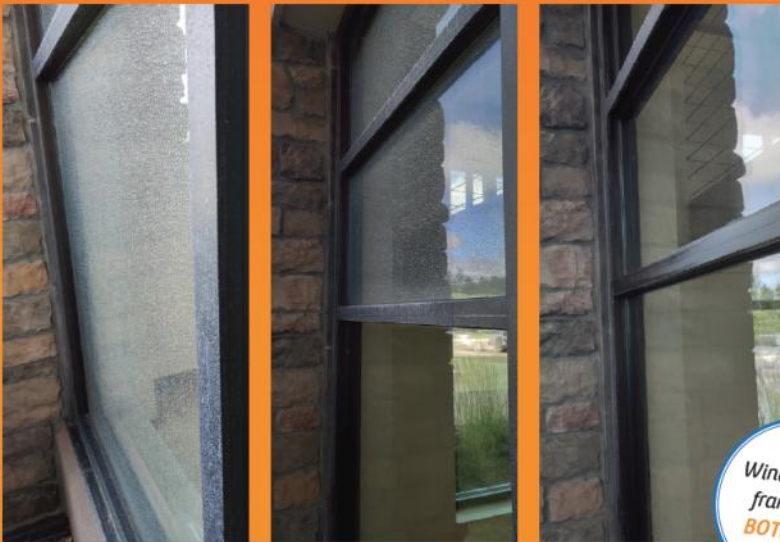
When Eastern Carver County Schools evaluated building automation systems (BAS) across the district, Chaska High School emerged as a top priority for modernization. The school's legacy BAS was still operational but increasingly difficult to maintain — a patchwork of aging components that had outlived vendor support. "There's nothing more distracting in a classroom than the climate... trying to take an exam when it's too cold or hot. This project needs to be done." – School Board Member, Eastern Carver County School District

LOCATION: Chaska High School Chaska, MN, USA

AREA SERVED: 410,000 Square Feet Recognizing the need for a long-term solution, the district's engineering consultant designed a complete replacement system and put the project out for bid. However, no contractors submitted proposals, likely deterred by the project's scope and complexity. While these challenges threatened to delay the project, the district avoided setbacks by pivoting to Daikin Applied Service. As a long term trusted advisor with deep institutional knowledge of the school's existing infrastructure, Daikin provided a clear path forward. Leveraging that relationship, the district engaged Daikin Applied to deliver a full BAS modernization plan, confident that the team understood both the technical requirements and functional realities. Daikin offered a blend of theoretical and service based knowledge, enabling customers to fully evaluate the nuances of the solution.



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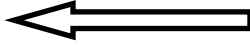


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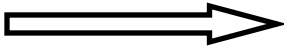
Chaska High School
Chaska, MN, USA

Before Project



Chaska High School
Chaska, MN, USA

After Project



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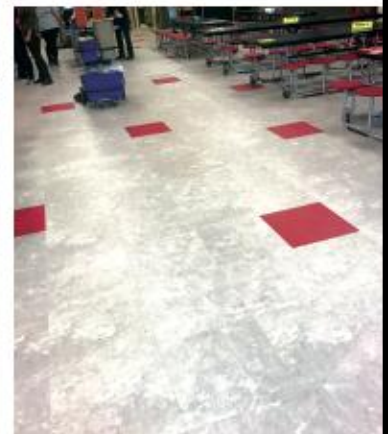
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Joining MASMS can offer a variety of benefits:

Networking Opportunities: MASMS provides access to a community of professionals and individuals in the Educational Building & Grounds profession. This can be invaluable for expanding your network and finding potential business opportunities, mentors, or collaborators.

Professional Development: MASMS offers educational resources, training programs, certifications, and conferences that can help you improve your skills, stay current in your field, and advance in your career.

Advocacy and Representation: MASMS works to represent the interests of our members by lobbying for favorable policies, providing resources for navigating industry regulations, and advocating for industry standards.

Credibility and Prestige: MASMS members can boost your credibility and prestige. It signals to others that you are committed to maintaining high standards and ethical practices.

Community and Support: MASMS provides a sense of belonging and camaraderie with like-minded individuals. They can offer a supportive environment where you can share experiences, ask questions, and get advice.

Career Advancement: MASMS provides activities where you can increase your visibility and demonstrate your leadership skills, which can lead to new career opportunities.

Industry Influence: MASMS provides members the ability to influence industry practices, policies, and trends through involvement in committees, discussions, or voting processes.

Ultimately, MASMS can help you grow personally and professionally, provide access to resources and opportunities, and connect you with a broader building & ground community.



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**2026-2027 MASMS Memberships
Renewals are due by June 30th!**

It's that time of year, MASMS Membership Renewals are due!

Our membership year runs from
July 1st to June 30th of each year.

Click here for Membership Forms:

[Educational Membership](#)

[Business Membership](#)

[Retired Membership](#)

1	2	3
+ 1	+ 2	+ 3
-----	-----	-----
2	4	6

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MASMS 2026 Scholarship Opportunity

This opportunity is open to all Educational and Business MASMS Members Children

The MASMS Scholarship Committee is accepting essays from sons and daughters of all dues-paying and life members (**educational and business members**) of MASMS who are high school seniors graduating in 2026 or are currently a post-secondary student attending a post secondary school in the United States.

The MASMS Tom Robinson Memorial Scholarship program is in memory of a long time employee with the Hopkins School District in the field of maintenance. He was instrumental in writing software for the State Department of Energy and served on multiple MASMS committees for many years.

HOW TO APPLY

All applications and essays will be submitted electronically using the link below. You will receive an email confirmation once you submit your application. When you click on the link, complete the application form and submit your essay by **April 15, 2026**. (You may also go to www.masms.org and select "2026 Student Scholarship" to submit your information.)

Essay specifications:

Maximum of two pages, type written, double spaced narrative.

Financial need is not a consideration.

This essay should NOT have your name on it, or any reference within its context that would identify the applicant or his/her MASMS parent. (We do not want the judges to know who the applicant is.)

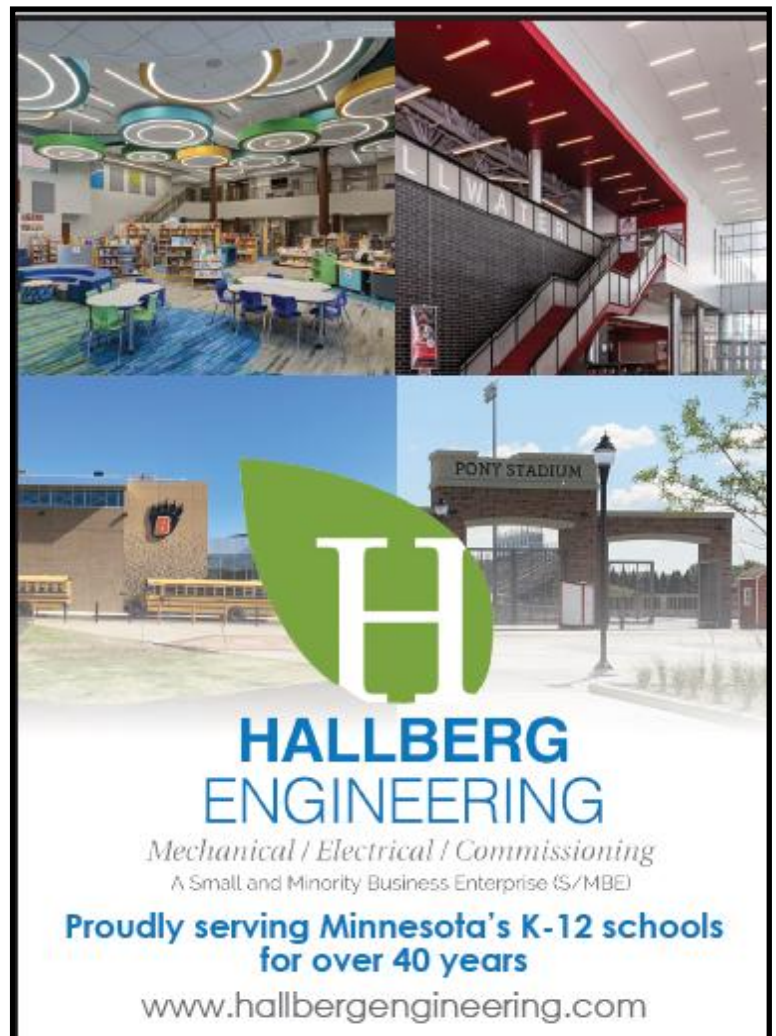


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MASMS 2026 Scholarship Opportunity

Essay should contain:

- Personal data to include school, community activities in which you have participated during high school and/or post secondary (e.g. student government, music, sports, church work, volunteer work, etc.)
- Discussion of awards and honors you have received.
- Description of your work experience (without any reference to a business which may be owned by your parent). Include how long you have worked at each job and the number of hours worked per week.
- Discussion of your grade point average. While the committee will not base scholarship awards on the highest grade point average, they do feel that some discussion on this topic is appropriate.
- Your educational goals and aspirations.

All information will be reviewed by the MASMS scholarship Selection Committee. **Awards will be announced by letter in early May 2026.** Checks will be issued after proof of enrollment has been received.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The number of scholarships awarded will be based on available funds. Awards will range from \$250 to \$1500 per person. Each person may receive a lifetime limit of \$2000.

Applicants will need to have a google account to submit this form.

Link: <https://forms.gle/fiAhHPdMCxjmhXsJA>

Please note:

You must be a registered business or educational member of MASMS. Your child is not eligible if someone else at your company or school is a member, and you are not. Grandchildren are NOT eligible.

If you have any questions, please email Scott Clemente at: scott@servpro10278.com or the MASMS Office at office@masms.org.



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Maintain a Safe Facility Outside of Normal Operating Hours

When are our buildings NOT being used? As more games are added to MSHSL schedules, more sporting associations are created and pickleball leagues are being formed, our facilities are used 7 days a week at this point. What are you doing to ensure those using your buildings are provided the same safe usage and management as the students and staff are provided during the school day?

When hiring and training after hours site supervisors it is important that they have been trained similarly to your full-time custodial staff to operate your buildings. I see in larger metro school districts very organized plans which can be used as a template to train site supervisors. But in smaller districts, many of our experienced custodial staff have simply learned over time from their predecessors. How do we ensure that our site supervisors know and understand this same information? For that matter, what are you doing to ensure your full-time staff know how to address a fire alarm, tornado warning or armed intruder?

In order to ensure "non-events" continue to not happen, it is important to take time to create a checklist of operational procedures to train your site supervisors. It is important that the information you provide is "digestible" and manageable for staff who are not present in the building they are supervising on a day to day basis. Any instructions with more than one page front and back are difficult to navigate in an emergency.

Continued on Page 13



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Maintain a Safe Facility Outside of Normal Operating Hours

Here is a list of items to consider including on a Site Supervisor Event Checklist:

- Emergency contact phone numbers including Head Custodian. School name and address
- Primary access door numbers to share with emergency personnel
- Location of AEDs
- Safe clean up of Blood/Vomit procedures and location of disinfecting chemical
- Locations of storm shelters
- Fire Alarm/Fire procedures
- Active Shooter procedures
- Safe site preparation details - prevention of slips and falls is recommended
- Ensure all IAQ measures are operating properly
- Greet the manager of the outside group when they arrive
- Provide a radio for communication - cell phone service is lost during severe weather events
- Check in with manager of the group and their activity every 30 minutes
- Location of tool to shut off water to urinals/stools and sinks.
- Clean up and lock up procedures for the end of the event
- Ideally, fit all of this on a one laminated page!

Continued on page 14



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Clarification to March Health & Safety Information:

In the March MASMS Newsletter I shared information about upcoming changes related to Carbon Monoxide (CO) monitoring in schools.

I mistakenly stated that "Legislative" action will take place related to the changes to the State Fire Code. The act to make changes to the State Fire Code is left to the Department of Public Safety and State Fire Marshals. The legislature doesn't need to take any action.

The DPS and SFM are looking at adopting changes to the requirements related to CO monitoring based on the 2024 IFC. Although clarification on which parts of the 2024 IFC will be included, it is in the works and my intent was to bring it to your attention so you can plan and be prepared for the change if/when the changes are made.

I apologize for the confusion created by indicating the Legislature was taking action related to the Fire Code change.

Marc Bachman, MASMS Health and Safety Committee chair

Maintain a Safe Facility Outside of Normal Operating Hours (Continued from page 13)

The reality is, as our buildings are used more and more outside of school hours, our districts need to insist that users of the buildings include the real cost of providing a safe and seamless experience for our weekend users as we do for our students and staff. The days of just opening our doors for the community just simply don't exist anymore.

For support in creating an accepted and supported facility use policy I encourage you to talk with your business manager and school district insurance company. I also encourage you to join us April 9th at 9 a.m. to hear what districts around the state are doing to provide safe usage of their buildings during our April Health and Safety Tool Box Zoom

Naloxone Management

In the 2023 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature mandated the carrying of naloxone hydrochloride, an opiate or opioid antagonist that reverses opioid overdoses, to select groups in the state including K-12 schools and Charter Schools. During our March MASMS Health and Safety Zoom this information was shared by members and I thought it would be helpful to pass along.

The Department of Human Services operates a web portal which can be used by schools to order nasal naloxone. The Minnesota Department of Health continues to operate the naloxone standing order system. Get or renew your standing order with the [Standing Order Registration and Renewal Form](#). A standing order is not required by DHS to obtain nasal naloxone.

Go to the following page to register for the ordering portal. [Naloxone Ordering Portal Registration Form](#) You will be notified by email when your account is approved.

The State of Minnesota is providing this naloxone at no-cost to your organization.

I spotted 19 robins outside my office window as I put this month's newsletter together. Make sure you take time to take in this very short but incredible transition from the brown of winter to the **GREEN** of Spring!

Marc Bachman
MASMS Health and Safety Committee
Chair



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Planting the Work That Makes Success Bloom

The saying "April showers bring May flowers" calls to mind many metaphors.

In facilities and grounds work, we know better than anyone that the messier seasons often come before the most rewarding ones. The "April showers" might be repairs, maintenance challenges, and preparing for the unknown—but those efforts are what bring the "May flowers": safe buildings, smooth operations, and spaces people are proud to use.

"April showers" can be interpreted literally, in that these rains do help the flowers grow, or metaphorically as the challenges in our lives that allow us to blossom. April reminds us that growth often begins in the messiness of change.

No matter what season of life you happen to be in, you can become a better version of yourself by transforming your mindset and refreshing your skill set, you can reclaim your personal and professional journeys.

Reignite Your Mindset

Mindset is front and center when it comes to achieving success. A positive mindset and a willingness to share ideas that reflect your goals and desire to contribute will take you far in life. Transforming your mindset is an important first step to moving your career journey as well as your personal life forward. When we are more about the greater good, wonderful new experiences are able to manifest and our lives tend to be more joyous and fulfilling!



Head in a New Direction

Old questions and concerns are often focused on the individual: How have I been treated? When will I get promoted? When will I receive increased wages or vacation benefits? These old questions that center around "me" do not work anymore.

Instead, ask questions that focus on the "we. Ask how you can expand your skill set to make a bigger contribution in your profession. Ask how you might help others, perhaps through volunteering or assisting a coworker struggling with a new system. Shedding the old focus on "me" and instead asking about the "we" will help you make a valuable contribution that is sure to be noticed.

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Continued on Page 16

Planting the Work That Makes Success Bloom (from page 15)

Stretch Your Wings and Fly

While transforming your mindset is important, it needs to be complemented by a renewal of your skill set. To do so, you must stretch your wings out of your comfort zone to learn new skills and embrace what you might not yet do well. For example, how can you help your company become more efficient, and what do you need to learn? Explore skills with which you don't feel confident and consider what steps you might take to improve and gain confidence in them.



Hunt Down New Opportunities

It is not enough to transform your mindset, renew your skill set and just sit around waiting for opportunities to come to you. Once you start out with a new mindset and skill set, hunt down new opportunities. Show up, be innovative, and make a concerted effort to demonstrate how what you want correlates with the requirements of others. By reigniting your mindset, heading in a new direction, stretching your wings to take flight, and hunting down new opportunities, you can realize your dreams and goals in every

24HR

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MASMS is offering CPS class in August 2026
CPS is required for the MASMS Certification Program.
It will be held in St. Cloud at the Holiday Inn.

Dates: Wednesday August 5, 2026 & Thursday August 6, 2026

Cost: MASMS covers the cost of hotel and lunch both days.
Cost of CPS is \$500
The CPS Exam and materials are provided by AFE, and MASMS has a contract with them for the discounted rate of \$500. Payment for this is made to MASMS

Location: St. Cloud Holiday Inn & Suites, 75 -37th Ave South, St. Cloud, MN

Instruction: This class is a review of the study materials, and is not meant to be a complete instruction. You must spend the necessary time studying the materials prior to the class. The first 1 ½ days will be a review of the study materials; the last ½ day will be the test. Mat Miller, MASMS CPS Certified Instructor will be facilitating this class.

You must give yourself enough time to study prior to this class – we suggest 6 weeks.

If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please contact the MASMS office at 320-685-4585 or at office@masms.org and registration forms will be emailed to you.

Once the registration forms and payment are received at MASMS, the study materials will be mailed to you.



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Call for Proposals | MASMS 2026 Fall Conference | October 1st & 2nd, 2026

We invite members and business partners to submit presentation proposals for the 2026 MASMS Annual Conference.

Do you have a success story, creative solution, or lesson learned worth sharing?

Do you have knowledge, experience, and ideas that would provide real-world value to our members?

Do you have information on effective practices, innovative solutions, and lessons learned in facilities, maintenance, operations, and grounds?

Then your knowledge and experience can help others keep their buildings running safely, efficiently, and successfully.

Education is a very important part of our conference each year.

Assistance in delivering high quality educational sessions is truly appreciated.

- Specific topics that we are looking for are listed on the next page. (We are open to topics that are not on the list.)
- Presentations should be 45 minutes in length (including Q & A).
- Presentations must be product and vendor neutral. Endorsement of products/vendors must be avoided.

If you are selected you could be scheduled for either of the two days. If you cannot present on one of the conference dates, please indicate that. You will be notified by May 30th, 2026 if you are selected to present.

Conference dates: Thursday October 1st & Friday October 2nd, 2026

Location: St. Cloud MN Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud Minnesota

Submittals are due by May 1, 2026. Include this information and email to office@masms.org:

- Provide 100-word descriptor of the course.
- Provide a short professional bio of the presenter(s)



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Call for Proposals for the 2026 MASMS Conference List of Suggested Topics

- ◆ Inventory Supply Distribution Systems
- ◆ Maintenance Systems
- ◆ Employee Retention
- ◆ Gym Floor Care
- ◆ Bleacher Repair/Care
- ◆ LTFM—Deeper Dive
- ◆ Health & Safety 101—Pay-as-you-go H & S parameters vs. other LTFM funds; allowable and non-allowable; using your ECSU's
- ◆ Custodial performance expectations
- ◆ Pavement/hard surfaces striping and signage
- ◆ Registered Un-Licensed Electricians
- ◆ Labor union issues
- ◆ Geothermal systems
- ◆ Advancements in cleaning
- ◆ Mediation
- ◆ Active listening
- ◆ Info on glycol
- ◆ Gym equipment
- ◆ School finance—explanations from per-pupil units (PPU) to bonds to lease levy to taxation; funding streams and parameters on how they can be used (e.g. ComEd, Child Nutrition, SPED, Capital, Transportation, etc.)
- ◆ EV charging & electrification
- ◆ Taking control of your data
- ◆ Trends in CTE training, facilities & needs
- ◆ Crisis planning
- ◆ Irrigation basics for your facilities
- ◆ Outside/Grounds Maintenance—irrigation repair, general mechanical and repairs
- ◆ Leadership and management
- ◆ Custodial and grounds emerging products
- ◆ Staff motivation/staffing calculations
- ◆ Proper cleaning procedures
- ◆ Small equipment maintenance
- ◆ Outdoor Air Quality & How it Affects Buildings
- ◆ Tile Floor Maintenance/Refurbishing Techniques
- ◆ Dealing with Finding Employees
- ◆ Onboarding New Custodians
- ◆ Self-care and Mental Health
- ◆ Bids & Quotes
- ◆ Artificial Intelligence
- ◆ Boilers—Basics to Advanced & Inspections



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Registration for the July 2026 MASMS Boot Camp is now open.

Boot Camp Information:

The MASMS Boot Camp is specifically designed to provide training for facility professionals. The institute will be of great value for newly employed facilities managers or seasoned veterans. Custodial, Grounds, Maintenance Management, Security, Health & Safety and Transportation. This is also required for the MASMS Certification.

This 2 day course is free for MASMS Members. MASMS Covers the cost of the training, hotel and meals.

Dates & time: Tuesday July 21, 2026 and Wednesday July 22, 2026
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Dinner at 6:00 PM on Tuesday evening.)

Location: Holiday Inn and Suites, St. Cloud, MN

To Register Contact Ruth at the MASMS office (masms.org or 320-685-4585)
Please provide your phone number, email address & if you need a hotel room for 1 or 2 nights (night of Monday 7/20/26 and/or night of Tuesday 7/21/26).

Cost:

MASMS covers the cost of this training for members. This includes the cost of the class, hotel rooms, and Tuesday lunch and dinner; Wednesday breakfast & lunch; and breaks.

The following topics will be covered for each of the above aspects:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| ☐ Standards | ☐ Best Practices | ☐ Training | ☐ Budgets |
| ☐ Equipment Needs | ☐ Management Tools | ☐ Inspections/Checklist | ☐ Staff Management and Development |

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Course Description

This course will provide practical experience and proven techniques to help improve skills in the facilities management field. We will describe today's best maintenance practices and show how other schools have developed high performance facility departments

- ☐ Improve management skills
- ☐ Optimize maintenance department performance and productivity
- ☐ Increase leadership skills
- ☐ Prepare facilities department for the day to day challenges

Instructors This course is taught by seasoned experienced facility staff from public schools. Dan Kretsinger (Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan ISD#196), Kain Smith (Faribault Schools), Chris Pint (SW Metro Intermediate #288) and Lindsay Elwell (Inver Grove Heights Schools), that have over 50 years of combined experience!

To Register

Contact Ruth at the MASMS office. (office @ masms.org or 320-685-4585)

Questions?

Contact Ruth at the MASMS office. (office @ masms.org or 320-685-4585)

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Sunshine, Mud, and Custodial Superheroes

There's something magical about spring. The snow melts, the birds return, and mysteriously—overnight—every hallway, entryway, and patch of grass decides to absolutely fall apart.

For most people, spring means fresh air and sunshine. For custodial staff, it means mud. So much mud. It's as if every student made a personal promise to track in at least five pounds of it before first period.

Outside, the grounds crew is locked in an intense battle with leaves that apparently waited all winter just to make a dramatic comeback. Meanwhile, inside, custodians are opening windows for "fresh air"... and immediately closing them because apparently fresh air also includes pollen, dust, and the occasional confused bug.

Spring cleaning? Oh, it's happening. Lockers reveal artifacts from the fall semester, lost water bottles are rediscovered like ancient treasure, and someone inevitably asks, "Has that been there all year?" Yes. Yes, it has.

But through it all—mud, mess, and mystery smells—custodial staff keep things running, floors shining, and buildings functioning. They are the true sign of spring: because no matter how messy things get, they somehow make it look like everything is blooming right on schedule.

And if you listen closely, you can almost hear them saying: *"April showers bring May flowers... and a whole lot of extra work."*



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