

WCASC NEWSLETTER

February 21, 2025 Edition



CONTENT INCLUDES

Leadership Style of Focus	Page 1
General Assembly Recap	Page 1
MASC Convention.....	Page 2
SSL Opportunity	Page 2
HYC Excerpt	Page 3
Resources	Page 4

1/22/2025

General Assembly

By: Rachel Liu

The WCASC General Assembly hosted on Wednesday, January 22nd at the Center for Educational Services, brought together student delegates to INSPIRE ACTION within the delegate in hopes that they will bring the spirit back to their schools. The meeting was kicked off with opening remarks from WCASC President, Barna Begzad, followed by the

approval of the agenda and the President's report, setting the stage for a productive day. Delegates from each school then participated in a formal discussion and voted on WCASC's stance on several bills under consideration in the Maryland Legislature that were to be presented on Advocacy Day - where a group of WCASC delegates will travel to Annapolis to voice our collective opinions on these bills. After solidifying these opinions regarding student related bills, a series of student-led workshops provided valuable opportunities for students to build their leadership skills and learn practical strategies for taking action in their schools and communities. Workshops presented include: Speak Up: Intro to Giving Public Comment, Become a Planning Pro: Event Organizing 101, etc.

The afternoon featured an engaging Leadership Q&A panel with members of the WCASC Board of Student Leaders. Students gained insights into the roles and responsibilities of board members and learned how to get more involved in the organization. The session also featured guest speaker, Christopher Keane, who shared valuable perspectives on community engagement and youth leadership. Following the Q&A, individual school-based student councils, the Student Member of the Board, and the WCASC Advisor each provided reports on their recent activities and accomplishments.

Our GA concluded with important announcements, including information on the upcoming BOSL and SMOB elections, updates to the WCASC Newsletter and website, and details regarding MASC Convention. To conclude this productive day, participating delegates provided feedback on the day's events as the anticipated end of our 3rd GA this year arrived. The General Assembly proved to be a valuable experience for all involved, fostering collaboration and empowering student leaders to make a difference in their own student councils and personal communities. We hope to see new and familiar faces at our last GA!

Participative Leadership

Boosting team involvement and creativity creates psychological safety and an open environment. By participating, this type of leader fosters tight community bonds but can sometimes struggle with making quick decisions.

Remember to set deadlines to maximize efficiency!



MASC OCEAN CITY CONVENTION

By: Rachel Liu

We are so excited to announce that our delegates of WCASC are going to MASC's Convention! During this convention, WCASC delegates will be...

- Listening to a nationally recognized motivational speaker
- Participating in a grade-level workshop with the motivational speaker
- Learning with meaningful student-led leadership workshops
- Networking with student leaders from across the state
- Electing 2024-2025 MASC Officers

The 2025 Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Convention will be hosted in Ocean City; how exciting! It offers invaluable opportunities to learn from nationally recognized speakers and engage in meaningful student-led workshops, honing their leadership skills and empowering them to become positive examples within their schools and communities. Moreover, the Convention serves as a vital space for networking with peers from diverse backgrounds, fostering collaboration and broadening their perspectives on statewide issues. Students will gain firsthand experience in civic engagement and contribute to shaping policies that impact their lives.

Sending WCASC delegates to this convention underscores the organization's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders. These delegates are selected to represent their school and community, demonstrating their potential to make a difference. The Convention provides them with intensive leadership training, enhances their understanding of governance, and equips them with practical skills to implement positive change upon their return. This investment in their development not only strengthens their individual capacities but also enriches the entire WCASC network, as these delegates share their newfound knowledge and inspire others to become active participants in student advocacy.

Ultimately, the MASC Convention is an investment in the future. By empowering students with the tools and knowledge they need to lead, Convention cultivates a generation prepared to tackle challenges and shape a better tomorrow. Hopefully for these WCASC delegates, this experience will be transformative, ignite a passion for civic engagement, and foster a deep understanding of their potential to impact the world around them. We hope our student leaders will learn to become active advocates for their communities and commit to actions that spread the idea that students are capable of deciding what is good for their learning environment.

SSL OPPORTUNITY

Teen Volunteers @ Washington County Free Library

The Washington County Free Library participates in the Board of Education 75 hour Community Service Program (SSL hours). We encourage you to perform your Community Service hours at the branch closest to your high school. Please complete the application if you are interested in being a Teen Volunteer.

[Apply Now!](#)

Hagerstown Youth Council: Your Voice Matters!

Interview with Zander Hine, Co-President of HYC

The Hagerstown Youth Council (HYC) is made up of high school students working to make a difference in our community. Established in 2019 by the Mayor and City Council, the HYC gives students a platform to share their ideas and concerns about issues that affect them. They believe that youth voices are crucial in shaping the future of Hagerstown!

What They Do For You:

“We advocate for you! We strive to make changes in policy and develop a system of youth leadership in our local community. It is our goal to communicate students’ complaints and ideas for improvement directly to city and educational leadership as well as partner group members. Recently, at one of our meetings, we spoke to members of the Board of Education and the superintendent of WCPS. During our meeting with the members of the Board of Education and Superintendent, we were able to provide the youth’s input on one of their recent educational blueprint plans. By doing this, we were able to communicate the student’s perspective to the people who have direct control over our learning environments.” - HYC

Get Involved! Upcoming Events:

Earth Day Celebration: Join us on Saturday, April 26th at 11:00 am as Hagerstown celebrates 40 years as a Tree City USA! We'll be storm drain stenciling, cleaning up gardens, and planting trees.

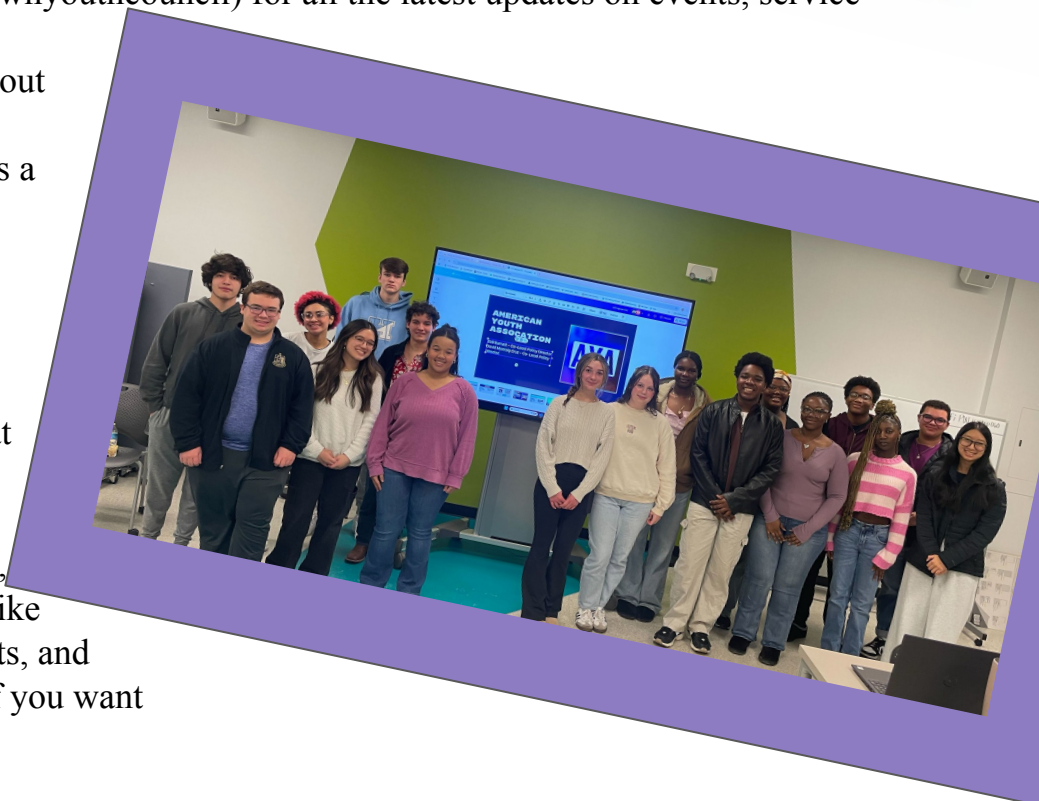
Charge 4 Change: Lace up your running shoes for a 3k run on Sunday, May 4th! Enjoy scenic routes, local performances, inspiring speakers, and post-run games like basketball and kickball with prizes!

Stay Connected & Get Involved:

Follow us on Instagram (@hagerstownyouthcouncil) for all the latest updates on events, service opportunities, and programs. The best way to get involved is to come out to our events and volunteer! Your presence shows that our work makes a difference. After the school year, you can even apply to become a member of the Council!

Calling All WCASC Students:

The HYC works on many issues that are important to WCASC students, including mental and physical health, education, civic engagement, and drug prevention. Make sure to like and repost HYC and WCASC’s posts, and consider applying to be a member if you want to make real impact!



Resources



Newsletter Request

Want to include something about your student council on the newsletter for all Washington County student delegates to see?
Contact: rachelliu1211@gmail.com

Website → <https://www.wcascmd.com/about-wcasc>

Instagram → @wcasc_md

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Committee**