

December 2020

# MANAGING YOUR FACILITIES

Newsletter for the National School Plant Management Association



**Keith W. Watkins, CDF, NSPMA President**  
Assistant Director of Facilities  
City School District of New Rochelle, NY

*New Year, New Hope*

Greetings! Hopefully some sort of normalcy has returned to your day to day operations, and that the school year has remained as positive (no pun intended), as it can be. COVID concerns and implications continue to be at the forefront for all Plant Managers and Facility Directors. My advice is to trust what you've learned, rely on and continually improve the safety and preventative measures you've implemented, and continue to ask questions and work collaboratively. I have personally appreciated, and am very proud, of how our NSPMA members have shared their ideas

*continued next page*



## In This Issue

2021 NSPMA/SCSPMA  
Conference

State Spotlights

Give the NSPMA  
Scholarship an  
AmazonSmile

*My hope is that 2021 will be much different, and that all the chaos and unknowns are reversed, and we experience consistency and clarity.*

and experiences through this pandemic. Your collaborative efforts have been very helpful and supports the added value of membership in professional associations.

As we get deeper into the holiday season, I want to wish everyone the best, and hope the New Year brings clarity and focus for your professional and personal lives. I encourage you all to be patient, caring, flexible and supportive, as the New Year begins. My hope is that 2021 will be much different, and that all the chaos and unknowns are reversed, and we experience consistency and clarity.

Please remember to register and spread the word for our upcoming annual NSPMA Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC on February 14-17 2021. Our attendee and business partner registrations continue to grow! Please join us to celebrate all of our accomplishments and continued professional development.

*Thank you for all that you're doing as Facilities Professionals for our students, teachers and community!*

*We are stronger and better together!*



**REGISTRATION**  
**NOW OPEN!**

**NSPMA & SCSPMA  
JOINT CONFERENCE  
& TRADESHOW EXPO**

**FEBRUARY 14-17, 2021**

**JOIN US AT  
THE KINGSTON PLANTATION,  
MYRTLE BEACH,  
SOUTH CAROLINA**

[www.nspma.org](http://www.nspma.org)

[www.scspma.org](http://www.scspma.org)



# State SpotLIGHT(s)

## “Ready for Learning” During the Pandemic

The 2019-2020 school year ended in Arkansas on March 13 when Governor Hutchinson, by emergency order declaration, closed on-site instruction for all 235 school districts and 24 charter schools. The Arkansas School Plant Management Association (ASPMA) immediately began weekly Zoom meetings for members to share ideas and discuss crucial topics related to school plant operations during the remaining spring and summer months and leading to the re-start of school on August 24. Arkansas was fortunate in that the state committed to maintain current funding which allowed all school employees to remain on contract.

Work continued in districts across Arkansas under health and safety protocols established by the Arkansas Department of Health and CDC.

Early on Arkansas made a commitment to on-site learning for the 2020-2021

school year, with the option and ability to pivot to virtual/blended learning when needed. A start date of August 24 (about two weeks later than usual) was established. The plan for re-engagement was called the “**Arkansas Ready for Learning**” plan and included an extensive section on school facilities and transportation. School

plant managers spent countless hours auditing necessary materials and determining a supply chain for cleaning, disinfecting, and preventing spread of disease following CDC and OSHA guidance. Additional preparation was needed in establishing procedures for returning to school such as signage, access points, physical distancing, and water quality. Cleaning guidelines, work schedules, and emergency plans had to be updated and implemented. Maintaining indoor air quality was extremely important and outlining pro-active efforts to address this issue and relaying these efforts to other school staff and parents, was critical and essential.

As we move into 2021, the challenges for Arkansas school plant managers have been stressful at times but rewarding as they have successfully dealt with schools and entire districts pivoting from on-site to virtual instruction and back again on short notice, requiring work schedule changes to meet additional cleaning and disinfecting expectations. In addition, plant managers have dealt with employees (sometimes entire departments) being quarantined as they tested positive or were identified as “close contacts.”

ASPMA has supported their members by providing an avenue for the sharing of ideas and discussion of crucial topics as they reviewed, and problem-solved issues related to the daily school operations. This ongoing collaboration between school plant managers statewide has allowed for ASPMA members to do their part in having their campuses “**Ready for Learning**.”



---

### COVID Brings New Lessons in School Facilities Management

Check out this article on the City School District of New Rochelle, New York, the home district of NSPMA President Keith Watkins.

<https://www.bpcmag.com/case-studies/keith-watkins-city-school-district-of-new-rochelle/>

More *Spotlights* next page

## Tennessee School Plant Management Association (TSPMA)

The State of Tennessee has basically left in-person or virtual learning in schools up to each school system. Districts have in-person learning and then depending on the number of COVID cases will go to all virtual. Some districts, such as Hawkins County, have a blended model with a mix of in-person learning and virtual. The county is so large, one area of the county may be experiencing a high number of new COVID cases, while another area of the county is not, so some schools are in-person and others may be virtual at the same time.

The Tennessee School Plant Management Association is planning a one-day winter conference for Friday, February 12, 2021 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee at the Music Road Hotel. The annual conference, at the same location, June 21-23, 2021. Other state organizations are welcome to attend, and no, you don't have to wear Orange!

## Virginia School Plant Management Association (VSPMA)



The mission of the Virginia School Plant Management Association (VSPMA) is to support public school facility professionals and K-12 educational environments in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We serve as the vehicle for promoting education facility improvements

within our school divisions and with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Within the Commonwealth, there 133 School Divisions organized into 8 Regions comprised of 1,860 local schools, 155 local centers, and 91 regional centers. The VSPMA Board is comprised of elected representatives from each of the 8 regions as well as 2 members-at-large and headed by an Executive Committee.

Our network of facility professionals is an invaluable source of information for help with on-the-ground issues as well as staying current with the latest facility techniques and technologies. We also look to our vendor

partnerships to help us solve our “issues of the day” such as the newly mandated menstrual supplies initiative. We maintain a good working relationship with the VDOE and provide input on proposed VDOE guidance such as the legislated “Lead in Drinking Water” testing requirement.

The highlight of every year is the Annual Conference and Trade Show drawing attendees from across the Commonwealth as well as nation-wide vendors serving educational facility professionals. The Conference features guest speakers and learning sessions addressing relevant facility issues as well as issues-of-the-day. Although the 2020 Conference was postponed due to COVID we look forward to holding our next Conference, “School Facilities: Past, Present and Future” in October 2021 at the beautiful Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, VA. Please join us – we welcome all School Plant Managers and Facility Vendors!



---

## Shop AmazonSmile

Shopping at Amazon is an easy way to donate to the NSPMA Scholarship Fund. Use AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate money to the NSPMA to be used to recognize students furthering their education in colleges, universities, and technical schools. <https://nspma.org/awards/>  
Click on the link below to sign up:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-1045118>



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021



## OFFICERS

Keith Watkins – President  
New York  
[kwatkins@nredlearn.org](mailto:kwatkins@nredlearn.org)

John Noel – Treasurer  
Kentucky  
[kspma@gmail.com](mailto:kspma@gmail.com)

Jimmy Martin – President-Elect  
South Carolina  
[jmartin09919@gmail.com](mailto:jmartin09919@gmail.com)

Shannon Frankenberger – Registrar  
Virginia  
[shannon.frankenberger@jci](mailto:shannon.frankenberger@jci)

Bill Shedden – Vice President  
Tennessee  
[billshedden54@gmail.com](mailto:billshedden54@gmail.com)

Dr. John Bailey – Conference Planner  
Virginia  
[baileynspma@gmail.com](mailto:baileynspma@gmail.com)

Dr. Rick Walters – Past President  
Virginia  
[rickwalters37@yahoo.com](mailto:rickwalters37@yahoo.com)

## BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Meyers – Board Member  
Illinois  
[Dave.meyers@psd150.org](mailto:Dave.meyers@psd150.org)

Mike Mertens – Ex-Officio/Special  
Projects  
Arkansas  
[m.mertens@theaaea.org](mailto:m.mertens@theaaea.org)

Leon Sturkey – Board Member  
South Carolina  
[lsturkey@marion.k12.sc.us](mailto:lsturkey@marion.k12.sc.us)

Kim Keener – Ex-Officio/Special Projects  
New Jersey  
[kimberly.njsbga@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.njsbga@gmail.com)

Brian Wright – Marketing Rep  
Texas  
[bwright@hvac.mea.com](mailto:bwright@hvac.mea.com)

Greg Harrow – Board Member  
Virginia  
[gharrow@mcps.k12.va.us](mailto:gharrow@mcps.k12.va.us)

Aaron Twaddle – Marketing Rep  
Texas  
[atwaddle@hvac.mea.com](mailto:atwaddle@hvac.mea.com)

William Bland – Board Member  
Georgia  
[gasfa7@gmail.com](mailto:gasfa7@gmail.com)

Keats Wade – Ex-Officio, Marketing  
Virginia  
[keats.wade@us.belfor.com](mailto:keats.wade@us.belfor.com)

AJ Nordt – Board Member  
New Jersey  
[acnjsbga@aol.com](mailto:acnjsbga@aol.com)

Larry Nichols – Board Member  
Mississippi  
[lnichols@pearl.k12.ms.us](mailto:lnichols@pearl.k12.ms.us)

Debbie Gladson Shedden – Board  
Member  
Tennessee  
[debbiegshedden@att.net](mailto:debbiegshedden@att.net)