

April 2019

MANAGING YOUR FACILITIES

Newsletter for the National School Plant Management Association



Reflecting Back, Looking Forward...

Dr. Rick Walters, Incoming President
National School Plant Management Association &
Past President
Virginia School Plant Management Association

Greetings NSPMA brothers and sisters! As we cross the threshold of our 25th year (NSPMA est. 1995). I am all at once very humbled at having been elected your President and very excited with the opportunities presented. Engaging this milestone year gives cause for reflection and celebration. We have shared many enjoyable moments, cherished memories, and some very, very meaningful experiences. Our most recent conference at the fantastic L'Auberge Casino and Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, being a prime example. Kudos to Past President, John Rome, and Conference Planner, John Bailey, for a top-notch event!

Following in the footsteps of those who served before us, we have a very ambitious agenda ahead of us. As we continue to honor our past, we must look to a future with new avenues of approach; how do we strategically purpose ourselves as an organization in a meaningful way that enhances our relevance and increases our bond with our Members and Member State Affiliates? With a formidable path and a world of opportunity before us, we have the team to meet that challenge! I am looking toward a great year, and I thank you all for your support and participation.

Rick



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“The research is clear that a safe, functional, well-maintained, and aesthetically pleasing learning environment has a direct impact on student performance and their overall well being.”



Thank You!

John P. Rome, Jr., Past President
Chief Plant Services and Security Officer
St. Charles Parish Public Schools, Louisiana

Now that the sun has set on our annual conference and my term as the 2018-2019 NSPMA President, I would like to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to represent and serve you and the organization this year. As you know, the NSPMA & LSFMA 2019 Joint Spring Conference and Expo was recently held at the L'Auberge Hotel and Conference Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The NSPMA was delighted to partner with the LSFMA to bring facility professionals from the state of Louisiana and all across this nation together to network, collaborate, and share successes. Not only our successes as organizations and in our facilities, but the celebration of the successes of our school systems, our staffs, and most importantly, our students. In this past president's report, I will give a summary of the conference and offer many thanks to those who made the event possible.

The theme for the conference this year was **Faisons-le pour les enfants!** The English translation of this French saying is “**Let's do it for the children!**” The theme served as a reminder for all in attendance in regards to how extremely fortunate and blessed we all are to have a professional calling that has a direct impact on the lives of children every day. The research is clear that a safe, functional, well-maintained, and aesthetically pleasing learning environment has a direct impact on student performance and their overall well being. The students served as our muse, our inspiration, our focus. In keeping with the theme, the focus of the conference program on topics and speakers that impact students was deliberate and intentional.

The NSPMA and LSFMA Boards of Directors worked diligently to design a

comprehensive conference program that attempted to meet the needs of all registered members, guests, and business partners/sponsors. We appreciate all of our business partners/sponsors that joined us in Louisiana to help support the conference and our



attendees. This year we completely SOLD OUT our trade show well in advance of the conference. The continued commitment of our business partners/sponsors will remain vital to the success of our organizations, and we cannot thank them enough for their contributions. Equally important, is our membership...the lifeblood of our organizations. The engagement of this diverse group of attendees from around the country added value to the experience. This year we had member representation from over 30 states. The wealth of facility knowledge at the conference was amazing and all in attendance were able to take advantage of that through networking and collaborating sessions.

The conference kicked off on Sunday, February 24th, with registration and a poolside social/mixer where members, business partners, and sponsors were able to introduce themselves, collaborate, and network. Conference attendees were treated to performances by the Hahnville High School Choir and ROTC during the opening session on Monday, February 25th. Following the president's welcome/address was a keynote educational session titled

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“I think we are just at the tip of the iceberg and big things are on the horizon for this organization with the vision and leadership that is in place.”

"Newtown Lessons Learned" presented by Dr. Joseph Erardi and sponsored by Sourcewell. A second keynote educational session titled "Mission Possible! A Story of Disability, Overcoming Adversity, Being Positive, Having Hope, Courage, and Living Life to the Fullest" was presented by Ms. Merlyna Valentine and sponsored by the NSPMA. Both of the keynote speakers were very well received as the topics they focused on involved students and were in keeping with our conference theme. After the keynote sessions the first day our business partner/sponsor trade show commenced. Members and business partners engaged in conversations regarding products and services designed to maintain and improve school facility operations.



(Left to Right) Margie Mertens; Mike Mertens, Arkansas, Ex-Officio, Special Projects; John Rome, Jr., Louisiana, NSPMA Past President; Patty Nordt, New Jersey; John Noel, Kentucky, NSPMA Treasurer



“This year we completely SOLD OUT our trade show well in advance of the conference.”

The next session featured an overview of NSPMA National Endorsement Program and was presented by Dr. John Bailey and Mr. Rick Walters. On Tuesday, February 26th, 14 breakout educational sessions were held throughout the conference center. Members were able to select from various session topics at each designated breakout time. Session topics included, but were not limited to, HVAC systems, air quality, safe schools, energy efficiency, facility management, custodial training, data-driven facility operations, and procurement.

Throughout the conference, there were membership meetings for the NSPMA & LSFMA boards and general memberships. The NSPMA conducted its annual board position elections as well. Congratulations to all those who were elected to positions!

A formal conference banquet was held on Tuesday night. Members in attendance were treated to local Louisiana cuisine and a jazz band. Many awards/honors were given at the banquet. A recap of the awards and recipients will be shared in another newsletter article. Congratulations to all those who received honors/awards! Most importantly, a 50/50 raffle and silent auction to raise money for the NSPMA Scholarship Trust was part of the festivities/event. A huge thanks to all who participated/contributed! The conference closed on Wednesday, February 27th with a productive conference evaluation, collaboration session, and various NSPMA & LSFMA meetings.

In closing, I would like to thank the NSPMA Board for entrusting me with serving you in the president's position for 2018-2019. I think we made great strides with the goal we set forth at the beginning of the year. None of which would have been possible without the support and hard work by the NSPMA Board, the LSFMA Board, and all of our members and business partners/sponsors. I would like to specifically thank Dr. John Bailey, Mr. John Noel, and Dr. Rick Walters for their intricate roles and contributions in planning for this year's conference. Many thanks to all who were able to carve time out of their busy schedule to attend the conference and do this important work with us for the children. I look forward to continuing my involvement with the NSPMA Executive Board and to support Dr. Rick Walters during his presidency. I think we are just at the tip of the iceberg and big things are on the horizon for this organization with the vision and leadership that is in place.

Once again, we would like to offer thanks to all who were able to attend, and we hope to see everyone at the NSPMA & SCSPMA Joint Conference and Trade Show Expo in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, February 9-12, 2020.

AND remember, Faisons-le pour les enfants! AND Laissez les bons temps rouler!!!!

With warm regards,

John

NSPMA Scholarship Awards

4 Awarded Out of 223 Applicants



RJ Nordt, New Jersey
NSPMA Scholarship Chair

At this year's annual conference in Baton Rouge, LA, on February 24-27, 2019, one of the highlights of each annual NSPMA Conference is the announcement of the scholarship award recipients for the student graduates of this year's senior class.

This year we were once again very successful in getting 223 applications for the four (4), one thousand (\$1000.00) dollar scholarship awards to deserving students making our Scholarship and Award Committee's work extremely difficult. Our Committee consists of four (4) board members, besides myself. It is my honor to work with Ivan Smith, Sr., MS; Wayne Natzel, CT; and Vince Sodano, NJ.

Each of the 223 applicants was required to complete and submit their scholarship application by February 1, 2019. The total number of scholarship awards is based on the NSPMA Scholarship Trust Funds. Awards are based on the selection criteria of financial need, academic achievement, co-curricular participation, community service and essay response. The topic for this year's essay was: ***"How does a clean, well maintained and safe school environment makes a difference in a student's education?"***

For the past three years, Arkansas students have submitted the most scholarship applications with New Jersey making a strong second place in submissions. So it is not surprising that at least two scholarship awards went to Victoria Cline, Benton, and Amber Burke, Hindsville, both of Arkansas. To complete the awards, one went to Avary Payne, Saluda, VA and Kevin Felter, Merriam Woods Village, MO. A special recognition goes to Kevin Felter who will be using his scholarship award for an Associate's Degree in HVAC.

On behalf of the Scholarship Awards Committee, we want to thank all of our association members and vendor partners with their assistance in making these scholarships available each year.



2018-2019 Pat Cochrane Memorial Award

Pictured Kimberly Keener,
New Jersey, NSPMA Past
President, and Recipient Dr.
Rick Walters, Virginia

The Pat Cochrane Award is given in honor of Pat Cochrane, former NSPMA Board Member, from the state of New York. Pat always challenged the Association to look ahead; his vision of growing NSPMA to be a leader in the K-12 facilities area was always first on his mind. Training and outreach to its members was a priority for Pat in his position within the NSPMA. This award is given to someone in the Association who exhibits leadership skills, passion, and a vision for K-12 facilities in America.

Kimberly Keener, NSPMA Former President, nominated and presented the 2018-2019 Pat Cochrane Memorial Award to Dr. Rick Walters, NSPMA President-Elect, at the annual conference. Rick has been actively developing a national credentialing program for school plant managers and involved in designing and presenting professional development workshops to many organizations across the nation. Rick's passion for lifelong teaching, mentoring, and learning make him a truly deserving recipient of this honor! Congratulations, Rick!

Looking Forward to 2019-2020

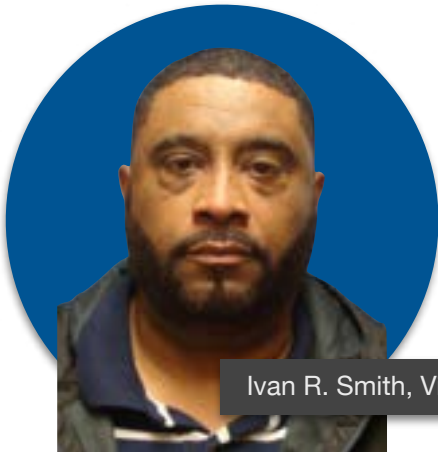
NSPMA Board Changes



Dr. Rick Walters, President



Keith Watkins, President-Elect



Ivan R. Smith, Vice President



John P. Rome, Jr., Past President

The NSPMA & LSFMA 2019 Joint Conference and Expo was recently held at the L'Auberge Hotel and Conference Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Not only was this conference a huge success, the collaboration and networking seen by attendees and business partners were remarkable.

As President-Elect, I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce our current Executive Board:

- President – Dr. Rick Walters, Virginia

Rick is a Past President of the Virginia School Plant Management Association 2016-18

- President Elect – Keith Watkins, CDF, City School District of New Rochelle, New York

Keith is a Past President of the New York State School Facilities Association 2014-15

- Vice President – Ivan R. Smith, Mississippi

- Past President – John P. Rome, Jr., Louisiana

In speaking for the entire board, I look forward to an exciting year ahead and want to thank everyone for their continued hard work and dedication. I can't express our gratitude enough and, without everyone's effort and support, NSPMA wouldn't be aligning itself as a professional association leading the way in facilities management excellence.

Sincerely,

Keith Watkins, CDF – City School District of New Rochelle, NY



Facility Masters Achieving Excellence

SAVE
THE
DATE

2019-2020

State Conferences



Mississippi	June 3-4, 2019	Pearl, MS	mspmawebsite.org
Tennessee	June 10-12, 2019	Pigeon Forge, TN	tspma.com
Florida	September 30-Oct 4, 2019	Orlando, FL	fspma1.csd.schooldesk.net
Missouri	Sept 22-24, 2019	Branson, MO	mspma.com
Arkansas	October 7-9, 2019	Hot Springs, AR	theaaea.org
New York	Oct 13-16, 2019	Saratoga Springs, NY	nyssfa.com
Virginia	October 20-23, 2019	Blacksburg, VA	vspma.org
Kentucky	October 23-24, 2019	Lexington, KY	kspma.org
NSPMA	February 9-12, 2020	Myrtle Beach, SC	nspma.org
South Carolina	February 9-12, 2020	Myrtle Beach, SC	scspma.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2019-2020**

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Rick Walters, President Virginia rickwalters37@yahoo.com	Mike Mertens, Ex-Officio/Special Projects Arkansas m.mertens@theaaea.org
Keith Watkins, President-Elect New York kwatkins@nredlearn.org	Kim Keener, Ex-Officio/Special Projects New Jersey president@njsbga.org
Ivan Smith, Vice President Mississippi ismith@hinds.k12.ms.us	John Noel, Treasurer Kentucky nspm@windstream.net
John Rome, Jr. Past President jrome@stcharles.k12.la.us	John Bailey, Conference Planner Virginia john.bailey@cpschools.com

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