

August 2019

# MANAGING YOUR FACILITIES

Newsletter for the National School Plant Management Association



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

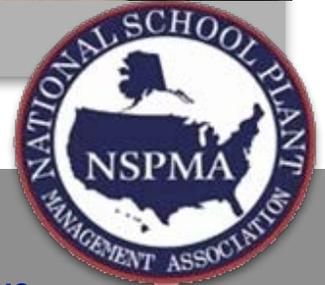
## 100 Days and Counting...

We embarked on this journey 100 days ago. Eager and with a sense of excitement, we set out our goals and aspirations. Underlying all is the challenge of how to embrace growth and change in a meaningful way. We looked to strengthen our relationships and enhance our relevance and value to our membership and business partners. In short order and while still fresh in our minds, our board and business partners reflected upon our 2019 conference. Building upon the many positive experiences, our template is in place and our conference team is in the process of identifying speakers, professional development opportunities, and breakout session topics.

Committees have been assigned and all teams are actively engaged in their specific agendas. The bylaws are being reviewed and assessed, and our scholarships & awards have been updated. We have introduced a new “member scholarship” open to members who are continuing their education in their school related vocation. This promotes professional development and adds additional value to membership. A win-win. Our newsletter and website continue to be a major attraction and a feature benefit of membership. We are exploring new ways to expand our reach and provide additional member services via these resources.

Our membership and business partner committees have been reaching new heights as well. The membership team has launched a very

*continued next page*



### In This Issue

[An Easy Answer to Student Absenteeism](#)

[Accolades: NSPMA School Plant Manager of the Year](#)

[2019 NSPMA Annual Conference](#)

[Awards and Opportunities](#)

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

vigorous and ambitious membership drive. This nationwide campaign is in place with very realistic and obtainable goals. We have already begun to receive response to our outreach. Our business partner team conducted a vendor forum in which our many new and creative business partner opportunities were explored. Our business partners are reaching out in new ways that demonstrate their commitment and support to our organization and membership. It's exciting to be a part of the collaboration.

There has been this and even so much more. We have been very active and fully engaged across the board, strengthening our bond with old friends and creating new relationships. A very active 100 days, indeed. We look forward to our continued success and invite you to be a part of our 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference. Join us in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, February 9-12, 2020. It's bound to be our biggest and best yet!

*Rick*

## An Easy Answer to Student ABSENTEEISM

It's clear that disinfection response can reduce absences after an outbreak. If norovirus invades a school, targeted protocols can stop the cycle of infection. But that's reactive. A proactive approach that shuts down the pathways for virus and bacteria transmission in a school can stop outbreaks before they happen and bring down the number of days lost to cold and flu.

Chronic absenteeism costs student progress, adds to teacher workload, and impacts school budgets. Not every cause of absenteeism has an easy answer, but there is one big section of the pie chart that we can do something about. That's absences due to sickness.



How would that work? Beyond the best practices for standard cleaning, a three-pronged approach should look at the surfaces we touch, the air we breathe, and of course, our hands. That means special protocols for surfaces that harbor infectious agents (desks and other common touchpoints) and methods that interrupt vectors for transmission (student's hands and the air they share).

The Center for Disease Control will thank us if we start with handwashing. The CDC says handwashing cuts respiratory illness by 16-21%. Research shows 51% less student absenteeism is possible with student access to disinfecting soap and hand sanitizer. That makes prong one of our approach supporting student hand hygiene. Resources like hand sanitizer need to stay available and placed properly so they're used.

Prong two is moving up from reactive surface sanitation to preventive. Rhinovirus (the most

common cause of the common cold) can live on surfaces for seven days, but non-porous surfaces can reach 100% sanitation in a few minutes using electrostatic disinfection. That makes it possible to efficiently add proactive infection-blocking to your cleaning routine.

Prong three is controlling the air. Proper humidity is key to reducing the transmission of cold and flu (if it's too dry, airborne virus particles can travel much farther). There's another factor to air quality control, and that's indoor pollutants and irritants. One of the leading causes of absenteeism is asthma. Properly maintained filters keep particles out of the air, but there are newer technologies, too, such as applications for windows that harness the power of sunlight to destroy volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the air.

*Gordon Buntrock is National Director of Service Delivery for education services at ABM and has more than 40 years of experience in the facility services industry. He joined ABM in July 2016.*

## Webb Honored as National School Plant Manager of the Year



Keith S. Webb (right) and Dr. Rick Walters, NSPMA President, at the national NSPMA Conference in Louisiana. Webb was honored as NSPMA's School Plant Manager of the Year.

To the point, that when it comes to the needs of the students:  
**“he gets it.”**

gets it.” Whether it is routine maintenance, new construction, or renovations, Keith understands that the needs of students and the instructional programs are priority number one.

Through his years from 2007 to present, Mr. Webb has taken on many responsible positions as a member to the Virginia Chapter of the Council of Educational Facility Planners International from treasurer to President. He has also been instrumental in the Association for Learning Environment (A4LE) promoting STEM competition and mentoring of future college architecture students via College Design Competition.

Mr. Webb has been a conference presenter, panelist and judge with several state and national school plant organizations. In addition, Keith has been a webinar planner and had an article, “Earn and Learn-Creating a State-sanctioned Training Program that Develops Skilled Workers and Benefits the Entire Industry” in the March/April 2016 issue of the *Facility Cleaning Decisions* magazine.

Mr. Webb, through his tireless actions and leadership in teamwork, is responsible for the Newport News Public Schools being recognized for the Virginia Go Green Award for environmental sustainability from 2010-2012 obtaining the Silver Level, 2013-2016 Gold Level and continued to make improvements until they reached the Platinum level in 2017-2018. In 2011, Mr. Webb was the recipient of the NSPMA's Platinum Level Facility Masters Award, 2012 was the recipient of the APPA Educational Facilities Professional credential, and in 2013, he received the Grand Award by AS&U magazine for Best Green Cleaning Practices in K-12 divisions nationally, and in 2015 was one of the top five recipients of the *Cleaning Decisions Magazine* Manager of Distinctions.

In total, Mr. Webb is the epitome of what any Plant Manager should be!

On behalf of the Scholarship and Awards Committee, we want to thank all of the qualified candidates for this year's award. We wish them much success in their future.

*AJ Nordt, CPE, CEFM  
 NSPMA Scholarship and Awards Committee Chairperson*

At this year's annual conference in Baton Rouge, LA, on February 26, 2019, one of the highlights of each annual NSPMA Conference is the announcement of the National School Plant Manager of the Year award recipient.

We are honored to announce that the winner of the 2019 National School Plant Manager of the Year award is Keith S. Webb, Executive Director – Plant Services for Newport News Public Schools, Virginia. Mr. Webb is in his 11<sup>th</sup> year of his current position with a total of 27 years in school facilities management. Mr. Webb exemplifies every trait desired within a facilities director as demonstrated daily by his innovative and creative skill sets. In his 27 years of service, Mr. Webb has continued to demonstrate through his leadership how to mold his staff, by leading by example, and insisting on critical thinking, safety beyond measure, and a desire for perfection.

Keith not only has been recognized for his professionalism in the school plant management field by his many accomplishments with the receipt of many local, state and national awards, but also by his fellow academic administrators. Several provided testimony of Mr. Webb's contributions and passion for providing students with safest and most conducive learning environments. To the point, that when it comes to the needs of the students; “he

# 2019 Mississippi School Plant Managers Conference



From left to right: Larry Nichols, Pearl Public Schools, NSPMA Board Member; Dr. Rick Walters, NSPMA President; Ricardo Clayton, Conference Speaker, Meridian School District Police Department; and Ivan Smith, NSPMA Vice President, Hinds County School District

Approximately 200 vendors and school plant managers were in attendance at the Hind Community College in Pearl, MS, on June 4, for the 2019 Mississippi School Plant Managers Association Annual Conference. This year's agenda was packed with excellent keynote speakers, and special guests - including NSPMA board members, - breakout sessions, and a large trade show. The event was an excellent opportunity for applicable professional development, business contacts, and up-to-date information on a variety of topics and products relevant to school plant managers.

MSPMA is an organization committed to promoting and enhancing the educational process through effective operation and care of Mississippi K-12 and higher education facilities. MSPMA's expertise is in the areas of maintenance, housekeeping, grounds, health, transportation and safety operations, energy management, and environmental stewardship.



From left to right: Dr. Rick Walters, NSPMA President; Larry Nichols, NSPMA Board Member; Mike Mertens, NSPMA Board Member; Ivan Smith, NSPMA Vice President; and Joel Noel, NSPMA Treasurer

NSPMA is pleased to announce the following award programs for 2020. The deadline all all of the programs except the student scholarship program is December 1, 2019. The scholarship application is due December 15, 2019.

## **FACILITY MASTERS AWARD PROGRAM**

In 2003, a program was created that identified the best practices of a high performing maintenance organization. This document, **Planning Guide for Maintaining School Facilities**, was conceptualized and developed by the School Facilities Maintenance Task Force of the National Forum on Education Statistics.

For additional information on this award and the requirements [CLICK HERE](#)

### [FACILITIES MASTERS AWARD APPLICATION](#)

## **PAT COCHRANE MEMORIAL AWARD**

The Pat Cochrane Memorial Award is given each year in honor of Pat Cochrane, a former board member of the National School Plant Management Association. 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 on the NSPMA Board. Each year this award is given to someone in the association who exhibits leadership skills, passion and a vision for the k-12 facilities in America.

### [PAT COCHRANE MEMORIAL AWARD APPLICATION](#)

## **NATIONAL SCHOOL PLANT MANAGER AWARD**

Do you have someone that has excelled and deserves recognition for excellence? As a member you can fill out a form and submit this to the Board!

### [SCHOOL PLANTS MANAGEMENT AWARD APPLICATION](#)

## **NATIONAL SCHOOL PLANT MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The National School Plant Management Association seeks to assist students who are continuing their education by offering scholarships to those pursuing an Associate or Bachelor degree.

Any graduating senior, college freshman, sophomore, or junior is eligible to apply for a scholarship. A total of \$5,000 has been budgeted for the program for up to five individuals based on the selection criteria (financial need, academic achievement, co-curricular participation, community service, and essay response). The individual scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,500 depending on candidate interest, evaluation results, and upon recommendation from the Scholarship Committee.

### **2019 SCHOLARSHIPS WINNERS**

Victoria Cline – Nursing  
Harmony Grove, AR

Amber Burks – Music Education  
Hindsville, AR

Kevin Felter – HVAC Associate Degree  
Branson, MO

Avary Lewis Payne – Finance  
Middlesex, VA

Each student was awarded \$1000.00 to further their educational goals.

### [2020 NSPMA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#)

SAVE  
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2019-2020

State Conferences



<b>Florida</b>	September 30-Oct 4, 2019	Orlando, FL	<a href="http://fspma1.csd.schooldesk.net">fspma1.csd.schooldesk.net</a>
<b>Missouri</b>	Sept 22-24, 2019	Branson, MO	<a href="http://mspma.com">mspma.com</a>
<b>Arkansas</b>	October 7-9, 2019	Hot Springs, AR	<a href="http://theaaea.org">theaaea.org</a>
<b>New York</b>	Oct 13-16, 2019	Saratoga Springs, NY	<a href="http://nyssfa.com">nyssfa.com</a>
<b>Virginia</b>	October 20-23, 2019	Blacksburg, VA	<a href="http://vspma.org">vspma.org</a>
<b>Kentucky</b>	October 23-24, 2019	Lexington, KY	<a href="http://kspma.org">kspma.org</a>
<b>NSPMA</b>	February 9-12, 2020	Myrtle Beach, SC	<a href="http://nspma.org">nspma.org</a>
<b>South Carolina</b>	February 9-12, 2020	Myrtle Beach, SC	<a href="http://scspma.org">scspma.org</a>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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Keith Watkins, President-Elect New York <a href="mailto:kwatkins@nredlearn.org">kwatkins@nredlearn.org</a>	Kim Keener, Ex-Officio/Special Projects New Jersey <a href="mailto:president@njsbga.org">president@njsbga.org</a>
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### BOARD MEMBERS

Kevin Barney, Louisiana <a href="mailto:kbarney@stcharles.k12.la.us">kbarney@stcharles.k12.la.us</a>	AJ Nordt, New Jersey <a href="mailto:acnjsbga@aol.com">acnjsbga@aol.com</a>
William Bland, Georgia <a href="mailto:gasfa7@gmail.com">gasfa7@gmail.com</a>	Vince Sodano, New Jersey <a href="mailto:vsodano@live.com">vsodano@live.com</a>
Dusty Duncan, Arkansas <a href="mailto:dduncan@msd3.org">dduncan@msd3.org</a>	Aaron Twaddle Mitsubishi Electric-HVAC Division Vendor/Marketing Representative <a href="mailto:atwaddle@hvac.meaa.com">atwaddle@hvac.meaa.com</a>
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Lloyd Jackson, Arkansas <a href="mailto:jacksonl@hssd.net">jacksonl@hssd.net</a>	Brian Wright Mitsubishi Electric-HVAC Division Vendor/Marketing Representative <a href="mailto:bwright@hvac.meaa.com">bwright@hvac.meaa.com</a>
Wayne Natzel, Connecticut <a href="mailto:wnatzel@att.net">wnatzel@att.net</a>	
Larry Nichols, Mississippi <a href="mailto:lnichols@pearl.k12.ms.us">lnichols@pearl.k12.ms.us</a>	