

# Managing Your Facilities

Monthly Newsletter of the National School Plant Management Association

October 2018



John Paul Rome, Jr.  
NSPMA President

Chief Physical Plant  
Services and Security  
Officer, St. Charles  
Parish Public Schools

Dear NSPMA Members,

THEY ARE BACK!!! Students, teachers, and school support staff that is...and we wouldn't have it any other way. Having these groups return to school brings the life into our buildings that we all worked so hard to prepare this summer. Just as we will be busy with work orders, safety audits, extracurricular activities, academics, arts, athletics, and Friday night football within our school districts, the NSPMA Executive Board will be busy working on the 2018-2019 goals for the organization and planning for the 2019 joint LSFMA & NSPMA Joint Spring Conference and Expo.

In terms of goals, the organization has established a steering committee/task force to begin a national certification framework. The steering committee has engaged in conversations with potential coursework/certification providers such as community colleges and a draft framework of course modules has been

developed and is being honed down with input from the NSPMA Executive Board.

Our membership and vendor committees are working hard to build our bank of members and vendors. We are excited to announce that we have fully launched our new membership process, which allows for membership with benefits for those who are not able to participate in the annual conference. You can visit the membership portal on our website, [www.nspma.org](http://www.nspma.org), for details on membership benefits and for registration information.

In regards to vendors, we are pleased to announce that we have added three representatives to our board: Brian Wright and Aaron Twaddle with Mitsubishi and Keats Wade with Belfor. We believe their insights will be invaluable to us in enhancing our vendor experience within the organization. During our monthly NSPMA Board meetings, we continue to get updates from our awards/scholarship, bylaws, nominating, past presidents, and conference committees.

Another one of the NSPMA 2018-2019 goals was to tap into the wealth of knowledge possessed by our current members. To kick start

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*President's letter continued*

this initiative, we conducted an NSPMA Safety and Security Survey. This survey was shared with facility managers across the country. Our survey received 27 responses. The received questionnaire responders represent members from the states of Arkansas, California, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Virginia. See the results in the box to the right.

Also, feel free to submit an “ask the NSPMA Executive Board a question” request, which can be found under the membership tab on our [website](#), if you have any follow-up questions to the survey. Please consider using this information when having important conversations within your district and with first responder groups regarding the safety of our staff and students. Thanks to all who participated in this important survey.

Last, but not least, is our ongoing plans for our annual conference. The NSPMA and the LSFMA have collaborated and created a partnership agreement to host a joint conference. We are excited to announce the 2019 LSFMA & NSPMA Joint Spring Conference & Expo at the L'Auberge Casino, Hotel, and Conference Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We anticipate a large and diverse attendee and vendor representation from across the nation. The joint conference and expo will feature facility-specific training sessions, product and service demonstrations, a trade show, dynamic guest speakers, hospitality events, and a formal awards banquet. Plans are in the works for a spouse/guest tour package.

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## NSPMA Safety and Security Survey Results

### Question #1

#### Top Safety Challenges

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1. Easy entry to school; lack of one entry point (14)
2. Lack of funding (8)
3. Lack of training related to safety (5)

### Question #2

#### Top Safety Measures in Place

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1. Secure front entrance/ access control at front entrance/front entry vestibules (11)
2. Install/increase/higher quality security cameras/ surveillance system (9)
3. Added security officers/resources officers (6)

### Question #3

#### Safety Measures You Would Like to Implement if Money was No Object

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1. Secure front entrance /access control at front entrance/front entry vestibules (7)
2. Added security officers/resource officers (8)
3. Install/increase/higher quality security cameras/surveillance system (5)

### Question #4

#### Any State Legislative Requirements in Regards to Safety

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1. Mandatory school safety plans (3)
2. Mandatory drills: fire, lockdown, tornado (3)
3. Mandatory staff training on active shooter (1)



*The NSPMA/LSFMA conference dates are strategically selected as they fall in the week preceding the world famous Louisiana Mardi Gras Celebration!*

**[REGISTER NOW!](#)**

*President's letter continued*

To date, the conference program has been drafted, speakers are being scheduled, our vendor and sponsorship and booth package has been finalized, registration has opened, and we are experiencing high-volume registration for member and vendors. Our September 1<sup>st</sup> registration report indicates we currently have 26 member registrations and 13 vendor registrations (6 vendors with standard booth registration and 7 with partnership registration).

**The conference dates are February 24-27, 2019. There are many more details to come, but please register now as space is limited, and we anticipate selling out our vendor hall and fully booking our hotel room allotment.**

Also, please visit our website at [www.nspma.org](http://www.nspma.org) for any updates and information regarding the NSPMA. Have an enjoyable and safe start to the school year!

## “Potential National Model:”

### Arkansas School District Installs State’s First Significant K-12 Solar Energy Facility



Batesville School District owns and operates over 820,000 square feet of facilities, including six major school locations. Starting in 2017, the district set out on a mission to reduce its physical footprint, increasing revenue streams, and reduce operations costs. Part of that effort involved closing two schools and relocating the children to other facilities in the district. Once this consolidation was approved, the district hired Entegry in October 2017 to conduct a district-wide energy investigation of the remaining six schools in operation. The investigation revealed opportunities to reduce energy waste in many areas: inefficient interior and exterior lighting, manual thermostats, single pane windows, dated HVAC equipment, and high-flow water fixtures.

After examining the district’s utility rates, Entegry added a final recommendation to install a canopy solar energy facility at the

district’s high school campus. The financial impact of these measures, when bundled together in a single project, was significant: over 40% reduction in electric energy cost district wide, over \$1.8 million in lifetime savings to the district, and over \$200,000 in co-funding support from utilities. Additional benefits such as enhanced building aesthetics, as well as the opportunity to integrate the project into student learning on campus, made the decision a true no-brainer for the district.

By approving the Entegry project in March 2018, Batesville School District became the first K-12 district in Arkansas to install a significant solar energy facility. The project, described as the **Net Zero Plan**, officially began in April 2018 and is expected to be complete by December 2018.

*Batesville Solar Energy Facility continued*

With the **Net Zero Plan**, the district is guaranteed to save approximately \$7 million over the next 20 years, on an initial investment of approximately \$5 million on energy solutions. These figures are very conservative. In every case, Entegry has exceeded their guarantees across the country for school districts.

Entegry said, "Batesville School District is one of the best projects for savings and energy turnaround we have EVER seen and could be a national model." We not only have efficiency but functional purposes for our plan.



*This plan would mean that Batesville School District is undertaking the most comprehensive energy waste reduction project to date for a K-12 district in Arkansas, using the state's guaranteed-savings energy legislation.*

*Rob Guthie, CEM Energy*

## Solar Farm Dedicated in Virginia Public Schools

*by Tom Chillemi, Southside Sentinel*

Two of three Middlesex County Public Schools are now powered by solar energy; and another school solar project could be in the offing.

On August 22, 2018, Middlesex County Public Schools (MCPS) and partner Sun Tribe Solar were joined by the superintendent of Virginia Public Schools Dr. James Lane to celebrate groundbreaking success in Virginia's transition to clean energy. The event was the dedication of a one-megawatt solar system installed by Sun Tribe Solar on land adjacent to Middlesex Elementary School and St. Clare



Dr. John Bailey (VSPMA President), superintendent Dr. Pete Gretz, state superintendent of instruction Dr. James Lane and Greg Harrow (VSPMA Vice president) at the solar farm ribbon cutting ceremony

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### VA School District Solar Facility Continued

Walker Middle School that will power both Locust Hill schools. The system is only the second of its kind in the Virginia public school environment. The array will completely power the two surrounding schools with an annual generation of 1.6 GWh, which is the equivalent of reducing gasoline consumption by about 134,000 gallons. This system breaks several records for solar projects within Virginia, according to a Sun Tribe Solar press release. The array is the largest single net-metered installation for a school in Virginia as well as the first large ground-mounted solar system for a Virginia public school. MCPS will achieve aggregate savings of over \$2 million through a power purchase agreement with Sun Tribe Solar. The renewable energy will be sold through a pilot program administered by the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy and Dominion Energy at the lowest price in the program's history, 6.84 cents per kilowatt.

Through a system called "net-metering," any excess kilowatt-hours generated are sent to the Dominion Energy electricity grid to offset any kilowatt-hours pulled from that grid at night, explained Devin Welch, vice president of business development for Sun Tribe Solar of Charlottesville.



The Sun Tribe Solar facility near Middlesex Elementary School (above) and St. Clare Walker Middle School now powers both schools and will save \$2 million in electricity costs over 25 years.

### Only the beginning

Middlesex supervisor John Koontz, who has worked in the solar industry more than 12 years, commented, "This is only the beginning of us having major state figures, and perhaps federal, coming out and to see how we can innovate as a small rural system. We are uniquely poised to do things different and embrace innovation and change in the 21st century. While this technology is not new to me, it is new to states like Virginia and this market is opening up."

There are two other solar facilities under construction in Middlesex—a large Dominion Energy facility near Hartfield that will open in December and another near Church View that is being surveyed.

"We were able to think out of the box and were able to respond to market conditions. We are going to save a lot of money that we can then spend on education," said Koontz.

"In the meantime we are going to be teaching our kids we do have a responsibility to our environment and there are things that we can do that will save money and do well by the environment," he said.

# NSPMA AWARDS

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## 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. Click [here](#) to access the 2019 Scholarship application packet.

## FACILITY MASTERS AWARD PROGRAM

In 2003, a document 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 more information on this award and the requirements [\(click here\)](#).

## PAT COCHRANE MEMORIAL AWARD

The Pat Cochrane memorial award is given each year in honor of Pat Cochrane, 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.

For more information on this award and the requirements [\(click here\)](#).

## NATIONAL SCHOOL PLANT MANAGER AWARD

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

For more information on this award and the nomination process [\(click here\)](#)

# 2018-2019 Upcoming Events

## MO School Plant Management Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

September 30 - October 2, 2018  
Branson, MO

## NY School Facilities Managers Conf. [\(link\)](#)

September 30-October 3, 2018  
Saratoga Springs, NY

## AR School Plant Management Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

October 1-3, 2018  
Hot Springs, AR

## MA Facilities Administrators Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

October 21-24, 2018  
Midlothian-Richmond, VA

## VA School Plant Management Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

October 21-24, 2018  
Midlothian-Richmond, VA

## KY School Plant Management Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

October 24-25, 2018  
Lexington, KY

## CT School Buildings and Grounds Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

November 6, 2018  
Hartford, CT

## NSPMA [\(link\)](#) with LA School Facility Managers Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

February 24-27, 2019  
Baton Rouge, LA

## Tennessee/Kentucky School Facility Managers Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

February 24-27, 2019  
Baton Rouge, LA

## New Jersey School Buildings & Grounds Assn. Conf. [\(link\)](#)

March 10-13, 2019  
TBA

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