

# "Rising to the Peak of Leadership: MASC to Olympus"

January 2026

Welcome To Your Monthly MASC Newsletter!

## A Message From Our State President

Happy New Year, MASC!

I am so excited to welcome you to our January edition of the MASC Newsletter. With a new year underway and fresh momentum building across the state, January is a powerful time to reset, refocus, and recommit ourselves to purposeful leadership.

As we continue our climb toward Mount Olympus, the MASC Executive Board is proud to introduce January's Deity of the Month: Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, strategy, and thoughtful leadership. Athena reminds us that leadership is not just about action, but about intention. She teaches us the importance of reflection, learning, and making choices rooted in understanding and empathy. Her sacred symbol, the owl, represents clarity, insight, and the ability to see what others may overlook.

January is the moment to "lock in." It's a time to take what we've learned from the first half of the year and apply it with confidence and wisdom as we move forward. Whether you are setting goals for your council, preparing for conferences, or finding new ways to include and uplift others, Athena challenges us to lead thoughtfully and lead well.

One of the most meaningful ways we are putting Athena's values into action this month is through our Unified Bocce Ball Tournament in partnership with Special Olympics. This event embodies the heart of inclusive leadership, bringing students together through teamwork, respect, and shared joy. We are thrilled to host Unified Bocce at three locations across the state:

January 23rd - Oakmont Regional High School

January 24th - Duxbury High School

January 25th - Marlborough High School

Unified Bocce is more than a competition; it is a celebration of community and connection. It is leadership in action, choosing inclusion, building understanding, and ensuring everyone feels valued and welcomed. As Athena would remind us, true wisdom lies in how we treat one another.

January also marks an exciting point in our journey toward Hyannis, where we will gather to celebrate leadership, growth, and student voice from across Massachusetts. As we look ahead, I also want to highlight our Spring Conference, taking place March 4-6, an opportunity to learn, collaborate, and continue rising together as leaders.

These moments bring us closer to the summit and remind us why MASC is such a powerful community.

As we move through this month, I encourage you to ask yourself:

How can I lead with wisdom?

How can I be more intentional in my actions?

How can I create spaces where everyone belongs?

MASC, the climb to Olympus is demanding, but January reminds us that strength paired with wisdom is unstoppable. You are doing incredible work, and every step you take matters. Remember, you are never climbing alone - the MASC Executive Board and I are always here for you and never more than a message away (@ma\_stuco and @mascpresident).

Stay focused, stay thoughtful, and keep rising to the peak of leadership.

With wisdom and excitement,  
Kate Carnahan  
MASC President Holidays MASC!

## Our Deity of the Month: Athena

Hey MASC! For the month of January, we decided to highlight the goddess Athena. Known for her wisdom and quick thinking, Athena has all the desirable traits of a good leader. Athena knows how to support her community and leave a lasting positive impact. This can be seen in her race against Poseidon to gain patronage from the citizens of Athens. Both deities were tasked with offering a gift to the people of Athens. Rather than offering something extravagant like the large saltwater fountain created by Poseidon, Athena planted an olive branch that would eventually flourish into its own tree—an act that gained the support of her community. Athena could have given a large and impressive gift like Poseidon, but instead she used her wisdom to leave a more thoughtful mark on her community—something sustainable that could help nourish and support others. This act of empathy and use of intellect is something we should all strive for when serving others.

## Who is like Athena?

For the month of January, we have chosen to highlight several leaders across the state who embody the leadership traits of Athena. Congratulations to:

**Jonathan Klayman**

Rockport Middle High School

**Kanza Nasrullah**

Greenfield High School

**Annie Kro**

Longmeadow High School

**Dylan Poirier**

Hanover High School

**Zach Phan**

Arlington High School

**Sophia Campbell**

Tewksbury Memorial  
High School

**Cameron Bennett**

Quabog Regional Middle  
High School

**Jed Steinberg**

Longmeadow High School

**Kelsey Goyer**

Blackstone-Millville Regional  
High School

**Julia Korencsik**

Blackstone-Millville Regional  
High School

Want to nominate someone for our next “Deity of the Month?” Please use the form below!

[Deity of the Month Nomination Form](#)



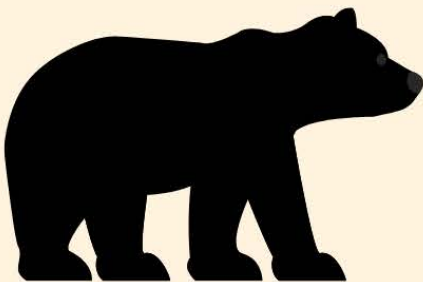
## What's Coming Up?

**Get ready for our annual Special Olympics Bocce Tournaments! They will be taking place at Oakmont High School on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Duxbury High School on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and Marlborough High School on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you all there!**



***Special  
Olympics***  
*Massachusetts*

**Our annual state conference is approaching fast, MASC! Make sure you are practicing your routines for lip sync, as well as beginning to fundraise and come up with costume ideas for our annual Polar Plunge!**





## Important Dates For MASC

### January

- Annual Conference Registration Begins - January 6, 2026
- Commonwealth Awards Nominations Open - January 6, 2026
- Five Star Council Nominations Open - January 6, 2026
- Administrator of the Year - DUE January 16, 2026
- Top Ten Project Applications DUE - January 16, 2026
- Henry Sullivan Award Nominations DUE - January 16, 2026
- Unsung Hero Award Submissions Due - January 16, 2026
- Unified Bocce at Oakmont RHS- January 23, 2026 (4pm-7pm)
- Unified Bocce at Duxbury HS - January 24, 2026 (9am-1pm)
- Unified Bocce at Marlborough HS- January 25, 2026 (9am-1pm)

### February

- Annual Conference Registration Ends - February 3, 2026 (Unless openings previously exhausted)
- MASC Excellence Award Submissions DUE - February 3, 2026
- Lip Sync/Talent Show Registration DUE - February 3, 2026 (Unless openings previously exhausted)
- Annual Conference Final Payment DUE - February 27, 2026

## Regional Updates



**Hello WMASC! We are so excited for our roundtable coming up in february!! We hope everyone has a safe a healthy new year!**

**Hello CDMASC, our winter day of service will be on January, 31st at Tahanto Regional High School. Check out the instagram for more information, see you all there!**



**SEMASC President nominations are in and campaigning has begun! Registration for the Winter conference is open!**

**NEMASC, planning for the connections event and spring conference has begun. Happy new year!**



**MSAA**

