



MASFAP December 2023 Communication

Happy Holidays MASFAP!



This past year proved to be an exciting year for MASFAP on many fronts. We anxiously awaited the unveiling of the 2024-25 FAFSA and its release date. We are in December, and we're still not sure ("it will be available by December 31")...but somehow, this is not surprising. This late release will push all of our timelines back for awarding students to mid- to late-Spring, an uncomfortable amount of time for both us and students who are trying to make decisions on where they are attending. As with everything else, this too shall pass.

Within MASFAP this past year, an ad hoc committee was created to examine the annual Access Missouri processing and to find ways to make that process more efficient for everyone involved. After MUCH work, this committee released a series of 10 recommendations backed by the MASFAP Board, many of which could be implemented within MDHEWD. Their work will be expanded into a State Aid ad hoc Committee for 2024, so I look forward to their continued work. Early Awareness held 14 high school counselor workshops with 439 attendees! That is over 100 more than in 2022. The Leadership Development Committee graduated another fine group of candidates, who I'm sure will be doing great things for MASFAP in the near future. We had 70 newcomers register for the Conference, making up nearly a quarter of the entire attendance! For Professional Development, there were 242 attendees for our "Wisdom Wednesdays" and 81 attendees for the state aid update. Also, I was excited to work with our Awards Chair to introduce Years of Service plaques rather than certificates at the conference, increasing our spending budget by only \$70 from the prior year. I received very good feedback from members on that change. It is one of the few ways that MASFAP gives back to its members.

Finally, the year was capped off with a stellar conference and an outstanding program and entertainment. I heard many positive reviews from this conference so I want to thank everyone who put in time and hard work to make it so. We capped off the conference with the gavel being passed to Matthew Kearney, the 2024 MASFAP President, and I look forward to the great things he has planned.

I'd like to close my final message with a quote attributed to novelist William Thackeray: "Whatever you are, try to be a good one." This is a good rule to live by in life: aspiring to be a good Financial Aid Administrator, colleague, partner, spouse, supervisor, or friend...

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your President; I enjoyed every moment!

Happy Holidays! – Tony Lubbers, 2023 MASFAP President

Save the Date

MASFAP's 2024 Annual Conference will be held November 4-6, 2024 at the Lodge of the Four Seasons.

Block your calendar now!

MASFAP January Newsletter

The next edition of the MASFAP Monitor will be published in mid-January. Please send any items for the newsletter such as office news, babies, weddings, promotions, trips, anything that is of interest to your MASFAP colleagues by January 12 to Melissa.Findley@moslf.org—Happy Holidays!