

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Montessori Administrators Association (MAA)

Events and Activities

MAA operates through the work of an all-volunteer board consisting of school leaders from a variety of differently profiled schools across the United States. This year, we hired a part-time (4 hours per week) contractor who acts as Membership Services Coordinator (MSC). The MSC is responsible for member outreach and relations, social media, and event support.

In July 2016, MAA's annual retreat was hosted in Breckenridge, Colorado. 55 MAA members and several guests gathered in this beautiful mountain town to enjoy fantastic content and time to enjoy connecting with other school leaders from all across the country. The group heard first from Chuck Ainsworth of the Center for Creative Leadership who worked with the group on a variety of leadership topics. Day two was led by Andy Mozenter who led us through a hands-on simulation demonstrating systems theory. In addition, the group had ample time to explore Breckenridge during a scavenger hunt, share receptions and meals together, and enjoy the incredible beauty of the mountains.

Membership

In 2016, MAA membership surpassed the 300-member mark. We continue to promote our organization at AMI events, AMS events, and at regional Montessori leadership gatherings. Our members benefit from a variety of services provided by our organization.

One of our most beneficial membership services continues to be our Google Group list-serve, where members are able to access resources from the vast experience of our membership. Here, members are able to find answers to questions posted to the group. In addition, members are able to upload documents to share with other members that are stored in our document vault and accessible for all of our members to utilize.

Media

MAA owns two websites, mariamontessori.com and montessoriadmins.org and manages a variety of social media pages. The Maria Montessori website provides school leaders with a variety of articles written by Montessorians and parents on wide range of topics. Mariamontessori.com is currently the most highly trafficked Montessori website in the world. This site is an excellent resource for parent education and professional development of staff. Our MAA website is intended to be used by our members and potential members for membership registration, information about upcoming events, and profiles of our members. Our Facebook page has 72,000 fans, and MAA also has the largest Montessori profile on Twitter, with 21,500 followers.

Collaborations

In February 2016, MAA co-sponsored the Administrators Workshop at the annual AMI-USA Refresher Course in Long Beach, CA. Jamie Notter spoke to the group about conflict resolution in the morning, and characteristics of generations. The sessions provided important and thought provoking content for the attendees.

MAA continues to work in collaboration with other Montessori organizations in the US in support of quality Montessori for more children. During the past twelve months, MAA board members have presented at NAMTA's Whole School Management workshop, attended meetings with the other AMI-USA Affiliates, and also attended the AGM and the gathering of Affiliate leaders from around the world each year.

Board

MAA continues to support past board chair, Sue Pritzker, in her participation in the Montessori Leaders Collaborative, comprised of leaders of a wide variety of Montessori groups in the US. MAA is enthusiastic about the collaborative work that is on-going in MLC, including public policy initiatives, research on Montessori and support of Montessori teachers and training.

Plans for the coming year include the launch of the redesigned mariamontessori.com website in February 2017. The MAA board will undertake a Strategic Planning process this summer during the annual retreat being hosted in Providence, RI.

The MAA board has ten board members. We have had several members complete their service to the MAA board over the past year. We express our sincere gratitude to Maura Joyce, Ann Kasunich, Nick Stocco, and Paulette Zoë for their years of service to the organization.

MAA expresses its deep appreciation and gratitude to Peter Davidson for his work during the past five years. Peter was one of the founding members of the MAA group and has provided vision and council to the group throughout.

The MAA Board of Trustees will meet again at the 2017 AMI-USA Refresher in Austin, TX and then at our Summer Retreat in Providence, RI in June 2017.

Michele Shane
MAA Board Chair on behalf of the MAA Board