

## Newsletter for March 2025

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Tri State May 21-23, 2025 Details of the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Tri State Conference to be held in Whitefield, New Hampshire are finalized. Registration, program, and other information can be found at: <https://www.tristateasbo.org/>

*Tri-State Association  
of School Business Officials*

### Tri State Scholarships Available!

MeASBO will be supporting two scholarships, valued at \$500 each, to MeASBO members who have never attended Tri-State and whose membership dues are paid for the 2024-2025 year. The scholarships will be paid by MeASBO as a reimbursement after the conference. Receipts must be presented/verified by MeASBO to receive reimbursement. Interested and qualified members should send a letter of interest to [maineasbo@gmail.com](mailto:maineasbo@gmail.com) **by March 28**. Winners will be selected via a random process and announced at our April 4 meeting at Keeley’s Banquet Center in Portland.

## February Meeting Recap

Over 100 members came together at the Senator Inn on February 28 to network and learn at our meeting sponsored by Machias Savings Bank. The morning session featured a presentation by MePERS, which is available on our [website](#) under Member Center > Meeting Archives.

The afternoon featured a representative from the Maine Department of Labor's Wage and Hour team. This session may have been more beneficial to MDOL as it raised awareness regarding the volume and complexity of labor laws in relation to school administrative units as opposed to private sector business. Thank you to all that posed the hard questions to MDOL.

Members were also afforded the opportunity to visit one on one with Barbara Durr of Machias Savings Bank and Kim Oliver and Carrie Oliver of Harris Computing at their display tables.

A recording of the meeting and related materials are available on our [website](#) under Member Center > Meeting Archives.

## April 4, 2025 In Person Meeting Agenda

Registration for our April 4 meeting at Keeley's Banquet Center, sponsored by TD Bank, and featuring presentations by Tyler Backus of RHR Smith and MDOE's School Finance Team, is closing soon; remember, as MeASBO now provides lunch, *all* members, including vendor members, need to register. As of this writing, **only 15 seats remain** so please go to this link if you would like to attend: <https://measbo.memberclicks.net/april-04-2025>

If you did register to attend the meeting, please visit our [website](#) to view/download/print the meeting agenda and other supporting documents during the week of April 1 as these documents will not be emailed individually nor available in hard copy at the meeting. You will find the documents on the main page, under Quick Links>Upcoming Meetings. If you have difficulty accessing the documents, please email [maineasbo@gmail.com](mailto:maineasbo@gmail.com)

If you did register for the meeting but your schedule no longer allows you to attend, please email [maineasbo@gmail.com](mailto:maineasbo@gmail.com) as there is a waiting list of other members wanting to attend.

## March Lunch N' Learn

Join MDOE's School Safety Team on Wednesday, March 19 to learn more about cost considerations before, during, and after a school emergency (*this LnL was rescheduled from February 13*). Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89404636158?pwd=aDC3U9JWKGWtMChwp9I6Mz0BT6hOaA.1>

## Want to recognize a colleague who goes above and beyond? Dave Holden Award Reminder

At our April meeting, we will present the annual Dave Holden Award. This is a peer award to recognize an outstanding school business official. Please submit nominations to [maineasbo@gmail.com](mailto:maineasbo@gmail.com) **by March 21, 2025**, as follows:

In addition to the name of the nominee, the nomination communication must include a narrative which describes why and how the nominee meets the following criteria:

- i. Consistent attendance at meetings;
- ii. Consistently assuming an active role during the meeting – asking questions, sharing information;
- iii. Demonstrates enthusiastic support of the organization;
- iv. Other relevant contributions to the education community.

Prior award winners are listed under the “Dave Holden Award” tab on our [website](#).

### *Regional Groups*

As a supplement to our regular quarterly meetings and Lunch N' Learns, MeASBO is supporting regional groups in an effort to help ensure that individual region professional development needs are met. Four regional groups are currently collaborating and scheduling meetings, in Penquis, and Western Maine. Kennebec and Hancock do have team leads but region members have not been able to organize this year; hopefully, next year!

The **Penquis Regional Group** has upcoming meetings on March 21, and May 30 at United Technologies Center in Bangor, from 9:00 AM to 12 PM. For more information regarding the Penquis meetings, reach out to [Barbara Grindle](#), RSU 34.

The **Western Maine Regional Group**, is led by [Jennifer Pooler](#), RSU 58. Please reach out to [Jennifer](#) for more information if you would like to participate in this meeting.

If you are unsure to which region your school unit belongs, reach out to [Joanne](#). If you feel there's a need more focused networking and professional development in your area, opportunities for regional coordinators are currently available in Aroostook, Washington, Midcoast, Cumberland, and York regions. If you are interested in coordinating your region or, would like to partner with another region, please reach out to [Joanne](#) for ideas and information.

### *Software User Groups*

Does your school unit utilize “**Infinite Visions**”? Is your team looking for shortcuts, tips, and answers? Reach out to [Jamie Youngblood](#) at Hermon Schools. Jamie and her team have been

using the product since 2021 and have been frequently provided guidance to other school units and would be happy to help you!

A number of schools have migrated or are in the process of migrating to **AptaFund**. A support group for users began last month and is up and running with meetings every two or three weeks - generally on a Wednesday at 10 AM. The group meets via Zoom for about an hour each meeting. If you are interested in joining the group, please email Sherry Moody at: [smoody@mcst8.org](mailto:smoody@mcst8.org)

### *Looking for more professional development?*

For members enrolled in our Certification program or, for members seeking to maintain other professional accreditation/certification, course offerings beyond MeASBO are often necessary. Below are some suggested resources that may assist you in fulfilling requirements:

<https://www.wested.org/event/wested-2025-finance-training-for-seas-and-leas/>

<https://www.gfoa.org/>

<https://asbointl.org/>

### *State Legislative Update*

Legislative Committees are very active with public hearings and work sessions. A list of bills that would be of interest to MeASBO members is posted under the “Recent News” section of our [website](#); this list is updated at least weekly. If you are aware of a bill that you feel would be of interest to MeASBO members but hasn’t been included on this list, please reach out to [Joanne](#). Remember, due to our 501©3 status, MeASBO is unable to advocate on legislation however, if you would like to submit testimony but feel unsure about how to communicate to a legislative committee, reach out to [Joanne](#) for tips and tricks.

### *2025-2026 Membership Update*

As many school unit members are in the process of creating budgets for next fiscal year, MeASBO’s Board of Directors met to discuss next year’s school unit membership dues and has approved an annual membership dues increase of 5% for individual school unit memberships and district memberships. This will equal \$262 and \$525, respectively, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Vendor memberships for next year have not undergone Board review at this time; an update will be provided to vendor members as soon as that review has taken place.

Members will be able to download their renewal invoice from our [website](#) in July; instructions will be provided via the newsletter and list serve communications regarding that process.

To ensure that invoices are accurate when generated by our system, please reach out to [Joanne](#) by May 30 if you wish to change your membership type (individual vs district) or, if you or someone on your membership is retiring and you wish to have a new team member added as a replacement.

## **News and Upcoming Events from Our Partners**

*ASBO International*

**School Business Insider**

[Building Better Budgets: Insights for School Business Leaders – School Business Insider podcast](#)

*Maine Department of Education*

Federal Fiscal Programs Updates to Federal Fiscal Office Hours:

To ensure office hours remain purposeful and meaningful; the team is transitioning to quarterly office hours. The 2025 dates are: May 1, 2025; July 24, 2025; October 23, 2025 - All begin at 10:00 AM Previous registrations for any of these dates remain valid so there is no need to re-register. If you haven't registered, you may do so [here](#).

School Facilities

The Governor's Commission on School Construction began meeting in November, 2024. Please see this [website](#) to review discussions to date, view the meeting schedule, submit a comment for consideration by the Commission, and much more information. MeASBO's representative on the Commission is Hollis Cobb, Business Manager for the Gorham School Department. Reach out to [Hollis](#) if you would like more specific information that is not readily available on the website.

School Finance

Upcoming School Finance office hours are scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 and Tuesday, April 15 at 10:00 AM. You may access the session via the [MDOE Calendar](#).

*Maine Loves Public Schools*

The Maine Loves Public Schools Initiative celebrates school communities by sharing stories to promote positive public engagement with Maine's public schools. These great stories are shared across a variety of platforms; please give them a look and if you have a story you wish to share, go to the "Get Involved" link at <https://www.mainelovespublicschools.org/>



### **MeASBO News:**

In addition to this month's news clippings, I wanted to share with all of you that I will be leaving my position with MeASBO when my annual contract expires at the end of June. I am not leaving because I don't enjoy this work – since my MDOE days, I have always enjoyed working with everyone in school business management because of your dedication, knowledge, and passion for your work. Without all of you and your skill set, schools simply could not operate and students would be adversely impacted. Always remember how important you are to the mission of education.

The MeASO Board will be posting the position soon and I'd encourage you to think about someone you know who would be perfect in this role and encourage that person to apply or, maybe you would like a career change. This really is a wonderful opportunity to support this organization while having some flexibility to pursue additional interests and hobbies.

Thank you all for welcoming me into your organization two years ago and for being the best group of members any Executive Director could want! Who knows, I may turn up at a future meeting or at a Tri State conference, as school business will always be of interest to me.

### **News Clippings:**

*News clippings are a little light this month, attributable to the rapidly changing landscape at the Federal level, with many Executive Orders impacting education impacted by judicially imposed restraining orders. When/if there are relevant, credible updates, they will be sent via the MeASBO list serve.*

[SCOTUS decision safeguards schools' E-rate discounts](#) – K-12 Dive

[PowerSchool faces more scrutiny following widespread data breach](#) – K-12 Dive

[HVAC improvements shown to improve student outcomes](#) – K-12 Dive





*The Tri State Committee has two vacancies!*

Would you like to help organize and execute this annual event? Maine needs to add two members to the Tri State Committee. This is a great opportunity to network with peers from not only your home state but New Hampshire and Vermont as well. If you'd like more information, reach out to [Joanne](#) and she will connect you with a current committee member for more details.

*MeASBO Forum vs MeASBO List Serve*

The MeASBO software system offers two formats for member communication. Some members feel more comfortable utilizing one type over the other and that is perfectly fine, it's just important to understand on which format the question is posed so that you may respond appropriately.

If you receive a message in your inbox with the subject line: "A message has been posted for\_\_\_\_\_", this message is posted to the Member Center > Forums section of the MeASBO [website](#) and you will need to go there to respond to the message. Just replying to the email will not share your response with the individual who posed the question or the rest of our membership. The advantage of posting in the forum is that past conversations are easily searchable to see if your question has already been addressed.

If you receive a message from [measbolistserve@measbo.memberclicks.net](mailto:measbolistserve@measbo.memberclicks.net), that is a list serve message and you can reply directly to that. This format is not easily searchable for past conversations. For context, this newsletter was sent via the list serve.