

# Managing Your Facilities

Monthly Newsletter of the National School Plant Management Association

June 2018



John Paul Rome Jr.,  
Incoming NSPMA  
President,  
Chief Physical Plant  
Services and Security  
Officer, St. Charles Parish  
Public Schools, LA

Dear NSPMA Members,

Wow! As we approach the end of another school year, I am reminded of how fast time flies. Now is where the work really starts for all of us in the school facility management world...summer capital project time. Before you know it, the teachers and students will be walking back through the doors for the start of another school year. Just as we will be busy with projects 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 LSFMA & NSPMA Joint Spring Conference and Expo.

In terms of goals, the organization has established a steering committee/task force to begin to design a national certification framework.

This project is in its infancy stage, but will continue to be developed throughout the year with the guidance of the task force. Our membership and vendor committees are working hard to build our bank of members and vendors. We are currently reviewing our membership process and will be proposing changes to the NSPMA Board that will hopefully streamline the membership process and increase membership.

In regards to vendors, we are pleased to announce that we have added two vendor representatives to our board: Brian Wright 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, and conference committees. Last but not least are our ongoing plans for our annual conference.

The NSPMA and the LSFMA have collaborated and created a

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**SAVE THE DATE**

## LSFMA & NSPMA JOINT SPRING CONFERENCE & EXPO FEBRUARY 24-27, 2019

Join us at L'Auberge Casino & Hotel in  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The week preceding the world famous  
Louisiana Mardi Gras Celebration!



JOHN F. ROME JR.  
President, NSPMA 2019;  
Past President & Executive  
Board Member, LSFMA

[WWW.LSFMA.ORG](http://WWW.LSFMA.ORG) | [WWW.NSPMA.ORG](http://WWW.NSPMA.ORG)



**President's letter continued**

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 large and diverse attendee and vendor representation from across the nation. The joint conference & 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. The conference dates were strategically selected as they fall in the week preceding the world famous Louisiana Mardi Gras Celebration.

To date, the conference program has been drafted, speakers are being scheduled, and we are getting close to finalizing our vendor sponsorship and booth package. We anticipate registration for members and vendors to be opened up by late July of 2018. Many more details to come, but for now...Please Save the Date: February 24-27, 2019. Also, please visit our website: [www.nspma.org](http://www.nspma.org) for any updates and information regarding the NSPMA. Have an enjoyable, eventful, and safe summer!

**NSPMA to Expand Certification Program Nationally**

**Dr. John Bailey,  
NSPMA Conference  
Planner**



all school plants administrators have a general knowledge of basic facility maintenance so they can appropriately lead a school division's maintenance department.

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The National School Plant Management Association is moving forward with a plan to create a comprehensive national certification program for school plant managers across the country. Many state associations such as New Jersey, Arkansas, and Florida already have varied required training and certification programs that enhance their state's education and school plant staff. Several states have a range of procedures and training but no compulsory certification program as a prerequisite for employment. The need exists to ensure



*The facilities manager certification is about to go national, according to the NSPMA. One goal is to work with the U.S. Department of Defense.*

**NSPMA National Certification Continued**

There can be much said in support of a comprehensive national certification program that accents the knowledge and skills any school plant manager should need, regardless of where the facility they manage is located. A national and unified certification program should not replace what individual states have in place for their immediate needs for training and endorsements. A national program will offer additional opportunities and add credence to what the states and localities already provide. Once a national certification is attained, school facilities managers will have the opportunity to earn continuing education credits at the NSPMA annual conference. The annual conference will also offer the opportunity to collaborate with other facility managers across the country. Knowledge is power and education is essential to providing the necessary tools to have the most competent administrators handling the operations of school divisions around the country.

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***The NSPMA also plans to reach out to the United States Department of Defense. It is the intent to support military career switchers. Those that have attained the proven training and skills through their military service would be ideal candidates for this type of certification.***

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It is the mission of the National School Plant Management Association to work in collaboration with school divisions across the United States to promote efficient, adequate, and functional school buildings. Kim Keener, 2017-2018 National School Plant Management past president states, "The National School Plant Management Association is committed to delivering a National Certification Program that is valuable to all members and key stakeholders to meet the professional and educational needs of directors, supervisors,

and managers of buildings and grounds for school systems in the United States." The NSPMA is currently forming a steering committee and hopes to release more information about the program at their February 2019 expo and trade show in Baton Rouge, La."

A set of measurable standards is being formulated and will be presented to the United States Department of Education for guidance and support. The NSPMA also plans to reach out to the United States Department of Defense. It is the intent to support military career switchers. Those that have attained the proven training and skills through their military service would be ideal candidates for this type of certification. Military service personnel could apply that experience to help them complete the certification if choosing to seek a second career in facility management in a school division. Some of the mechanical and work experiences will easily transition into a K-12 school facilities environment. Once the military service personnel achieve a national certification, it will make them more viable and prepared to work in a school setting.

An added level of support, training, and service will promote years of future leadership in the school facilities realm. Mike Mertens, the assistant executive director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators states, "While a number of states have quality certification programs for school plant managers, a national training program developed by the NSPMA would build on those individual state efforts by enhancing professional development activities specifically designed for the maintenance and care of school buildings and grounds." There is no better investment than our children and the environments in which they learn and play in.

*This article originally appeared in the [April 2018](#) issue of *School Planning & Management*.*

## New Jersey School Safety Specialist Law

New Jersey Law P.L.2017, CHAPTER 162



**Kimberly Keener,**  
NSPMA Past  
President,  
NJSBGA Vice  
President

### **There have been 23 school shootings in 2018 as reported by CNN on 5/25/18.**

New Jersey has passed several laws over the past few years in response to the increasing needs to plan, protect, deter, and respond to school safety. New Jersey Law P.L. 2017, Chapter 162 establishes the New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy in the New Jersey Department of Education. The Academy will implement a School Safety Specialist Certification Program. The Superintendent of each school district shall designate a certified school administrator as a School Safety Specialist for the district. Training begins June 25, 2018 statewide.

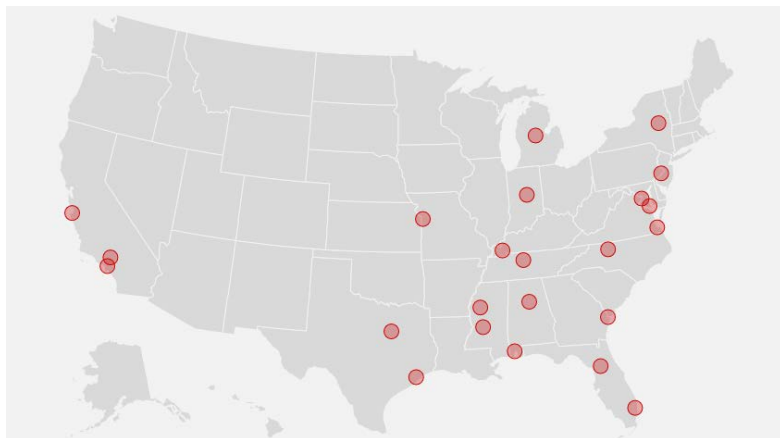
The School Safety Specialist Academy will be a holistic approach to school safety with training in the areas of bullying, hazing, truancy, internet safety, emergency planning, emergency drills, drugs, weapons, gangs,

and school policing, and other areas deemed necessary. The School Safety Specialist shall be responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies and procedures in the school district, ensure that these policies and procedures are in compliance with NJ state law and regulations, and provide the necessary training and resources to school district staff in matters relating to school safety and security.

The New Jersey School Buildings & Grounds Association works very closely with the New Jersey Department of Education and the Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning. Each year our conference & expo includes CEU training sessions on current events and best practices.

Please visit our websites for valuable resources:

- [www.njsbga.org](http://www.njsbga.org)
- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/schools/security/>



**CNN 5/25/18-  
Locations of  
School  
Shootings in  
2018**

# 2018-2019 Upcoming Events

**TN School Plant  
Management Assn.  
Conf. ([link](#))**

June 18-20, 2018  
Pigeon Forge, TN

**FL School Plant Management  
Assn. Conf. ([link](#))**

September 23-28, 2018  
Orlando, FL

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

October 1-3, 2018  
Hot Springs, AR

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

November 2018  
Hartford, CT

**MS School Plant  
Management Assn.  
Conf. ([link](#))**

July 30-31, 2018  
Pearl, MS

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

September 30 - October 2 2018  
Branson, MO

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

October 14-17, 2018  
Midlothian-Richmond, VA

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

February 24-27, 2019  
Baton Rouge, LA

**OK School Plant  
Management Assn. Conf.  
([link](#))**

September 19-21, 2018  
Sequoyah State Park, OK

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

September 30-October 3  
Saratoga Springs, NY

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

October 18-19, 2018  
Lexington, KY

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*Facility Masters Achieving Excellence*