



DSL DISPATCH

A publication for elementary, middle and high school advisers and student leaders

2007-2008 State Theme

“Student Leadership Began Here. VSCA, the Journey Continues”

Introduced at last year’s state convention, the 2007-2008 theme continues to emphasize leadership. This year’s theme is, **“Student Leadership Began Here. VSCA, the Journey Continues.”** Keeping in mind that VSCA is the oldest student council organization, the VSCA advisory committee wanted to highlight the roots in Virginia. The committee also wanted to acknowledge the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown which has been celebrated all year. On one sleeve of the theme tee shirt is the year 1607 while on the other sleeve is the year 2007.

Schools are encouraged to incorporate this year’s VSCA theme in all of their activities. In addition, the achievement award categories focus on leadership and share opportunities for showcasing a school’s leadership endeavors. The achievement award information can be found at www.vassp.org/dsl.html.

In pursuit of the VSCA Achievement Award

Each year at its annual convention, the VSCA recognizes schools that have distinguished themselves by earning the state achievement award. Participating schools work to complete a variety of required projects and several recommended projects to qualify for the achievement award. Last year 34 elementary, middle and high schools were recognized at the awards banquet in Richmond.

Information about the achievement award can be found in the “2007-2008 VSCA Awards Packet” online at www.vassp.org/dsl.html. Schools interested in pursuing an achievement award must fill out an application form and complete projects that promote the state theme, build their own leadership organization and help start a program at another school. In addition, organizing a school-wide service project, holding a student council sponsored assembly, sponsoring an academic project, participating in regional workshops or helping to start another student leadership organization are examples of activities to be completed to earn the distinction of the achievement award.

Project documentation and the application form must be submitted to the VSCA state office with a postmark of February 22, 2008, or earlier. Schools that design a poster presentation of their project activities will be able to display the posters during the convention. This is always an excellent opportunity to share ideas and encourage other schools in their consideration to pursue an achievement award.

From VSCA Director Mike Newman

It is exciting to begin my third year working with VSCA and VAHS. Thank you for your support and continued emphasis on student leadership and service. The opportunity to work with you has allowed me to visit many schools and meet officers, advisers, and student members. A special treat this year was being able to attend the opening SCA assembly at Colonial Trail Elementary School in the Henrico Division. In its very first school year, there were many leaders seeking office and participating in leadership activities. It was exciting to hear them speak. I also was able to visit Hunt Valley Elementary School, a VSCA Region 9 school in the Fairfax Division, when they hosted a regional leadership workshop in October. Students are excited about opportunities for leadership and want to contribute. I encourage you to continue to look for ways to support your schools and communities.

There are many different service projects underway this year, and I hope we can share some of these through the newsletter and at convention. Several schools have participated in events that recognized firefighters and soldiers. Others have devoted attention to literacy or Special Olympics. Whatever you choose to support, give it your best because it will make a difference. If your school is involved in a small or large service project impacting your school and community, write and let us know.

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March 23-25, 2007

81ST ANNUAL VSCA STATE CONVENTION

VSCA Recognized Administrators and Advisers of the Year

And the Award Goes to...

During the state convention each year, VSCA recognizes its outstanding administrators and advisers. Nominations are made by students, advisers or principals from VASSP/DSL member schools. Nominations are reviewed by the VSCA Advisory Committee and approved by the VASSP Board of Directors according to specific criteria for each award.

This year's honorees were:

2006-2007 VSCA High School Administrator of the Year

Dr. W. John Brewer, Dominion High School, Loudoun Division.

2006-2007 VSCA Elementary School Administrator of the Year

Elaine Duke, Dillwyn Elementary School, Buckingham Division.

2006-2007 High School Adviser of the Year

M. Robin Waldron, Liberty High School, Bedford Division.

2006-2007 Elementary School Adviser of the Year

Ernestine Atkinson, Dillwyn Elementary School, Buckingham Division.



Also, **Mary Stearrett** was recognized as Virginia's nominee for the **Warren E. Shull NASC High School Adviser of the Year Award**.

Congratulations to all honorees.

April 25-27, 2008

Awards to be presented at 82nd annual VSCA state convention

Each year the Virginia Student Council Association honors member schools who promote leadership and community service through their school's Student Council activities by awarding an Achievement Award. The honorees are selected by the Achievement Award Committee of the VSCA Advisory Committee and the VASSP Board of Directors. The awards will be presented in Richmond at the 2008 Annual Convention April 25-27, 2008.

VSCA recognizes one principal at each level (elementary, middle and high) in the state who has made an impact in their school's Student Council through continued support and participation. The honoree is chosen by the VSCA Advisory Committee and the VASSP Board of Directors based on letters of recommendation from the school's student council adviser, student council officer and division superintendent. These awards are also presented at the state convention.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS — Each year at the VSCA state convention, student leaders present workshops on various topics that provide others with information about successful SCA programs and activities. So many great ideas are shared in the process that it has almost become an all day event on Saturday. If your school has a successful activity or event that you hold each year or if you have ideas about how to involve more students, please share them. We are looking for workshop presentations that will help all participants and their schools to grow stronger. If you have an idea for a workshop, please complete the "Call for Presentations" form located on our Web site and return it to the VSCA state office. Thanks for sharing your great ideas.

VSCA also recognizes three student council advisers (one from elementary, middle and high) based on the impact they have made in their school's student council through continued support and participation. The honorees are chosen by the VSCA Advisory Committee and the VASSP Board of Directors. The Adviser of the Year Award will be presented at the state convention in April.

For all of the above awards, details including nomination forms, procedures, rules, and postmark deadline dates are posted on the VSCA Web site. Please go to www.vassp.org/html.



Mareeha Niaz, Justin Graves, and Cheleah Jackson

Essex High School serves as president school

The VSCA president school for the 2007-2008 school year is Essex High School (Essex Division). Located in Tappahannock, Virginia, Essex High School is the home school of VSCA president Cheleah Jackson and her adviser, Mrs. Dana Sitterson. The first VSCA Advisory Committee meeting of the year was also held at Essex High and Cheleah presided over this meeting. She has also attended each

regional leadership workshop held this year. Cheleah is a senior and hopes to attend the University of Richmond next fall.

Serving as vice president school this year is C. D. Hylton High School (Prince William Division). The vice president shares the lead responsibility for programs and is always visible at meetings helping to energize the group. Mareeha Niaz serves as vice president and her adviser is Mrs. Sue Hunter. Hylton has been in the role of “officer school” previously and enthusiastically takes on the challenges again.

The third elected officer position is secretary, and Stafford High School (Stafford Division) serves in this capacity. Justin Graves has taken on the duties of secretary along with his adviser, Mrs. Margaret Bridges. In several recent leadership workshops, Justin has conducted a session on communication, and Mrs. Bridges has taught parliamentary procedure.

VSCA Bylaws have established the “officer school” concept that governs elections of officers. When delegates at the state convention vote for officers, they are, in fact, electing a student and an adviser to share the responsibilities of office. VSCA is proud of its officer schools and the excellent job they are doing.



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Your VSCA officers are doing a phenomenal job this year. Already they have participated in three regional leadership workshops and do not hesitate to get involved. They are representing you well. Officers for the VAHS will be elected in February. If you may be interested in holding an office for the Virginia Association of Honor Societies, applications will be on line in December at www.vassp.org/dsl.html.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to invite you to attend the state conferences that will be held this year. The annual VAHS conference will be held February 15-16, 2008, in Richmond, and the annual VSCA convention will return to Richmond April 25-27, 2008. Both events will be held at the Holiday Inn Koger South Conference Center. Plan now to attend. Check the web site for details at www.vassp.org/dsl.html.

Not a VSCA Member? Need to renew your membership? Don't miss out on these state leadership opportunities for your students. Visit our Web site at www.vassp.org/dsl.html to download a 2007-2008 membership form.

Is your SCA constitution on file at the state office?

Each member school is expected to file its constitution and bylaws with the state office. If you have not done so, please mail a copy of your constitution and bylaws to the state office. Please address your materials to Mike Newman, Director, VSCA, 4909 Cutshaw Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230.

Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals

Carol Robinson
President, VASSP

Larry Lenz
President-Elect, VASSP

Randy D. Barrack
Executive Director, VASSP

Department of Student Leadership

C. Michael Newman
VASSP Assistant Executive Director for Program Services

VSCA Advisory Committee

President School
ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL
Essex Division

Vice-President School
C.D. HYLTON HIGH SCHOOL
Prince William Division

Secretary School
STAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL
Stafford Division

Representative Schools
PRINCE GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL
Prince George Division

TABB HIGH SCHOOL
York Division

NORTH STAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL
Stafford Division

C.D. HYLTON HIGH SCHOOL
Prince William Division

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL
Bedford Division

FT. CHISWELL HIGH SCHOOL
Wythe Division

BUCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Buckingham Division

BUCKINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL
Buckingham Division

MONTROSS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Westmoreland Division

DILLWYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Buckingham Division

Appointed Committee Schools:
MAURY HIGH SCHOOL
Norfolk Division

BUCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Buckingham Division

STAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL
Stafford Division

DOMINION HIGH SCHOOL
Loudoun Division

NASC National Convention to be held in Justin, Texas



The National Association of Student Councils will hold its annual convention in Justin, Texas, June 25-28, 2008. Located just outside of Ft. Worth, Justin's Northwest High School will serve as host school. The theme this year is "Hats Off to Leadership." Plan now to join the Virginia delegation as we focus on leadership with student leaders from around the country. This year's convention will be one of the best. For more information visit www.nasc.us.

Region 2 Student Representative, Mike Prior, Tabb High School, York Division

Region 2 schools share spirit and service ideas

As the school year begins, Student Councils everywhere begin laying the foundation for the year. With most schools, the first couple months are spent planning the year ahead with the main priority being homecoming. School spirit is at an all time high during this week of festive events. Spirit Week is a major focus at many high schools, including Maury High School. They have planned out their week to include days such as mismatch day, old school day, college day, and of course a day just to represent their school colors, blue and orange. Denbigh High school is working hard to increase the school spirit with the student body to get a high level of excitement. They created a Homecoming Committee to decorate the school and get the word out about homecoming. Different schools have unique ways of celebrating homecoming. Kempsville High School has a homecoming bonfire for the student along with the pep rally. Tabb High decorates walls for each class. Other schools decorate floats. All of these activities bring together the student body as a whole and within their class.

Although homecoming is a big event, it is a small portion of the school year. Community service projects take up a large portion of the year. Tabb High School fed the local fire station with a 6 foot sub on September 11. Maury High school is preparing for a canned food drive to help replenish the food bank in time for Thanksgiving Day. Denbigh is working with the local blood bank to set up a blood drive for later in the year. Community service is a great way to show the people of your area how much you appreciate their support towards the school. Acknowledging the community for their help is a great idea, however do not forget to acknowledge those behind the scenes. A good example is how Kempsville High School dedicated the month of October to recognizing the bus drivers, cafeteria workers, security and police officers as well as their Student Activities Coordinators, for all the hard work that they do. Student Leaders in the VSCA Region 2 have been ready to help their schools since they stepped foot into school on the first day. They have prepared their Student Council Association for the long but exciting year ahead.

Region 3, Stafford High School, Stafford Division

Stafford High School hosts 9-11 remembrance

A 9-11 remembrance program was held at Stafford High School on Tuesday, September 11, 2007. Designated as the official state program, representatives of the Freedom Flag Foundation attended the ceremony and presented the school with a freedom flag which was raised during the ceremony.



Chip Harris of the Freedom Flag Foundation spoke briefly on the importance of remembering the 9-11 events and Richard Melito, who designed the freedom flag, presented the flag to Stafford school leaders. The school was also honored to host Delegate William Howell, Speaker of the House of Delegates, who addressed the students and faculty and guests in attendance.



The choral department of Stafford performed a selection that underscored all the thoughts of the morning. Following the presentation, the freedom flag was raised assisted by the speakers and a Boy Scout representative. Student body president John Sharp presided over the assembly and a special tree planting ceremony that followed.



Bailey, Sarah, and Justin

Region 1, Colonial Trail Elementary School, Henrico Division

First SCA officers elected

The newest elementary school in Henrico County opened in September. Colonial Trail Elementary School, located on the western edge of this school division north of Richmond, has already established a tradition. A student leadership assembly was held on October 15 for grades 2-5 to hear the speeches of the candidates for office for the school's SCA.

Colonial Trail Elementary School SCA advisers, Jennifer Hench and Kent Dohrman, have been planning for this event since learning they would be a part of the new school's faculty. In July they met with VSCA director Mike Newman to discuss the organization of VSCA. Soon afterwards, Colonial Trail was a member of the state association.

During the school's first elections assembly, Newman congratulated the students and staff on their opening and presented the school their first membership certificate for the Virginia Student Councils Association. He challenged them to set traditions that encourage student involvement and leadership opportunities. CTES principal, Philip Cantone, also expressed thanks to the students and staff for their support and contribution to a great school year start. Following their remarks, each candidate for an SCA office gave their speeches and all did an excellent job.

Congratulations to Colonial Trail Elementary School on their opening this year. Congratulations to each of the newly elected SCA officers.

Region 5 Student Representative, Amanda Thompson, Buckingham High School, Buckingham Division

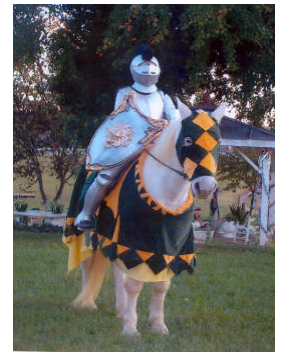
BCHS jump starts 2007-2008

Buckingham County High School, Virginia Student Councils Association 2007 – 2008 Region 8 Representative School, has many new and exciting events planned for the upcoming school year. Buckingham County has a long and dedicated history of involvement in the VSCA through attending the annual VSCA convention in Richmond and attending the annual NASC conference in Overland Park, Kansas, members of Buckingham County's student council eagerly jump started the current school year.

Buckingham County High School's SCA assisted the administration with Freshmen Orientation on August 27, 2007. Members passed out schedules, gave tours of the building, and helped in answering questions from the upcoming freshmen and their parents. The following morning, the BCCHS executive board, accompanied by several others, prepared breakfast for the teachers and faculty. As an act of community service, Buckingham County High School's SCA joined forces with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and held a car wash. The fundraiser was held on September 22, 2007, at Advanced Auto Parts in Dillwyn, Virginia. Donations were accepted in any monetary amount. The car wash lasted from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and proved to be very successful. Presenting all of the day's profit to JDRF, the SCA donated approximately \$232 to the worthy cause.

Homecoming is always a big deal at Buckingham County High School. This year homecoming was the week of October 8-12, 2007. Many events went into planning for this occasion. The entire week was celebrated with spirit days to enhance school spirit and morale. Teachers, students, and faculty came together for this annual event. Prior to the game, the SCA hosted a pep-rally for the entire student body. All fall sports athletes were introduced; with special emphasis on the football players. To pump up the crowd, the cheerleaders performed several cheers and a dance and students were selected to play a few games. BCCHS introduced students to the idea "Pie a Teacher/Faculty Member." Money was collected per teacher/faculty member and the one who earned the most was pied in the face by a student.

Buckingham County High School has many new and innovative ideas in store. Their student council has expressed a desire to create school identification cards for all of the students. This is one of BCCHS' major projects for the current school year. The principal, Mr. Claude Morris, has already expressed an interest in the project and is eager to assist with making this happen. The dedication of Buckingham's SCA, along with the support of the administration, shows great promise for the current school year.



Activity advisers' workshop held

Ideas, activities, and experiences were shared among the thirty student activity advisers who met in Richmond on November 9 for the annual workshop. Each teacher contributed to the discussion and participated in numerous activities that can be shared with students as energizers, service projects, and procedures such as running effective meetings. The day long workshop focused on methods for building student leadership capacity and group dynamics.

David Rhodes, coordinator of student activities for Virginia Beach City Public Schools, conducted the workshop. Within minutes after his introduction, David had teachers sharing ideas and introducing themselves to one another based on the alphabet, seasons of the year, and a few other strategies that effectively get a group motivated. In the afternoon, Daniel Keever, assistant principal at Tallwood High School in Virginia Beach, joined the group and shared a variety of ideas with participants.

Throughout the day, advisers were challenged to participate in activities from leadership games to organizing meetings to group dynamics, and they did so with much enthusiasm. Student leaders back at home can expect a lot of new ideas to be shared that will positively and enthusiastically support their activities. Just ask any attendee what they learned.

Honor society advisers attend workshop

Honor society advisers met in Richmond in October at a workshop to discuss the NHS organization and management of local chapters. Elancia Felder of the National Honor Society office in Reston was the workshop leader. Topics discussed included selection procedures, discipline and dismissal, and service projects. A part of the afternoon was spent discussing the legal concerns for advisers that was presented by Dr. Roger Jones. Dr. Jones is a VASSP staff member and assistant professor at Lynchburg College. Later in the day, advisers shared "best practice" ideas and left with many new ideas to build the national honor program at their own school.

Elementary student leaders meet at Hunt Valley

A leadership workshop for elementary students was held on Saturday, October 6, at Hunt Valley Elementary School (Fairfax Division). The VSCA Region 9 leadership workshop hosted 65 elementary students whose leadership skills were enhanced through their participation in workshop sessions focused on communication, spirit, parliamentary procedure, and goal setting. All students received training in parliamentary procedure and selected three other sessions to attend.

VSCA president Cheleah Jackson was joined by secretary Justin Graves, and past vice-president Rachel Rodney to welcome students to the workshop. Each officer also taught skill building sessions. In addition, VSCA Advisory Committee members Brielle DeMateo – Buckingham High School (Buckingham Division) and Mrs. Margaret Bridges – Stafford High School (Stafford Division) rounded out the list of presenters.

We extend special thanks to Hunt Valley Elementary School for hosting this leadership workshop.

2008 IMPORTANT DATES / DEADLINES *

February 22	Postmark deadline for: 2007-2008 Achievement Award 2007-2008 Administrator of the Year Award 2007-2008 Adviser of the Year Award 2007-2008 VSCA Student Scholarship Award 2008-2009 Advisory Committee Elections Forms
March 21	Early registration for 82nd Annual VSCA State Convention
April 3	Registration deadline for 82nd Annual VSCA State Convention
April 3	Hotel registration deadline for VSCA State Convention
April 3	Register to display Outstanding Student Council Project Exhibit at State Convention
April 25-27	82nd Annual VSCA State Convention
July 7-9	VSCA Elementary School Summer Leadership Camp, Blacksburg
TBA	VSCA Middle and High School Summer Leadership Camp

* Registration Forms are only available on our Web site. Visit www.vassp.org/dsl.html to download your information packets. For more information, contact DSL/VSCA by calling 804-355-4263.



Region 9 elementary officers pose for pictures.