



DSL DISPATCH

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



81st annual VSCA convention

March 23-25, Richmond, Va.

The 81st Annual State Convention will be held in Richmond, March 23-25, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Select Koger South Conference Center. Convention packets are available to download from the DSL link at www.vassp.org/dsl.html. Hotel reservations must be made by March 2, 2007. Convention registration may be completed prior to February 14, 2007 to take advantage of early registration prices. Regular and late registration fees are in effect until March 1, 2007.

During the convention, elections of VSCA State Officers and the VSCA Advisory Committee will be held. Elections will be held for the following positions:

- VSCA President School (Student must be a rising senior)
- VSCA Vice-President School (Student must be a rising junior or senior)
- VSCA Secretary School (Student must be a rising sophomore-senior)
- VSCA High School Representative School (9 positions available)
- VSCA Middle Level Representative School (3 positions available)
- VSCA Elementary Level Representative School (3 positions available)

All positions will be filled by member schools. Schools, once elected, will be represented on the VSCA Advisory Committee by a student and the school's SCA adviser, who will be jointly responsible for fulfilling all duties of office. Log onto www.vassp.org/dsl.html to view the VSCA Bylaws and Policies.

Our featured keynote speaker will be Ian Tyson a native of Canada who is well-known as a motivational speaker and comedian. Ian worked with VSCA as a secondary camp director in 2006. He looks forward to working with Virginia's student leaders again during our convention. Additional speakers include Andrea McDaniel, NBC12 News Co-Anchor, Kimberly S. Lettner, Chief of Capitol Police, and Dr. Billy Cannaday, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Leadership Workshop held at Park View High School

Region 4 embodies state theme

Park View High School hosted the Virginia Student Councils Association Region 4 Workshop on November 18, 2006. The VSCA, in its 101st year, has been bringing together Virginia's student councils and strengthening student leadership and participation around the Commonwealth. Park View and other Northern Virginia schools are a part of VSCA's Region 4. Region 4 under the guidance of its elected regional school, Park View, worked tirelessly to unite the region's schools and have a leadership workshop – the first one since 1998. Over 150 students and advisers took part in the festivities at Park View, including an opening session, motivating skill sessions, a Chick-Fil-A lunch, a fun and games portion, and a huge region meeting. Park View welcomed one of its alumni and star of *One Tree Hill*, Hilarie Burton, as the keynote speaker for the event. Her talk was an inspirational message about her road to success and included stories from her days at Park View. The day concluded with a slideshow, made by Mario Vines (Region 4 Representative) and members of the Park View yearbook club, which recapped the day's events. Overall the day was a huge success and provided many schools and students with valuable information and great leadership lessons to continue the great work they do each year at their own schools! It was a great VSCA day!



Region 4 students participate in communications workshop led by Tang Pham

Region 9 Student Contributor John Amann

Hunt Valley Elementary School SCA shares project ideas

This has certainly been a busy year for Hunt Valley Elementary School's SCA. We've sponsored a canned food drive, "Food for Others", in which we raised 988 pounds of canned food. All of the food was donated to a local food bank. We have also collected socks for ECHO, an agency in our area that provides warm clothes for the less fortunate. We are in the planning stages of a children's book in a program we are calling, "Wrap your Heart Around a Book". Students and staff will be asked to donate gently used books. Our school's social worker will distribute the books to students in our school community who would benefit from additional reading materials in their home. Our spirit days at Hunt Valley are favorite days for students. We've had Twin Day and a week of Holiday Happiness. Students were invited to express themselves in holiday clothing and headwear. Our student council recognizes our staff in many ways. In September we gave out lollipops, in October, cookies, in December we gave out mittens with peppermint patties and in January we plan to give out hot chocolate mix. Our Valentine Sales continue to be a fun time for everyone. Plans to sell valentines to the students and staff will last for 4 days this year. We usually sell over 1,000 valentines. Our PTA supports us by donating the candy that we attach to the valentines. It should be a big success. As we get closer to St. Patrick's Day, our SCA will begin planning the Lucky Leprechaun Breakfast for the staff. SCA members serve the staff breakfast and the response from the staff is always positive. Other events will be planned as we move into Spring, but we hope some of our ideas will be ones that your SCA would like to try.



Region 2 Student Contributor Grace Denny

Greenbrier Middle School SCA reports on activities

The school year is nearly half over and already, the Greenbrier Middle SCA has accomplished so much in its efforts to raise money for various charities. Among our favorite fundraising events was *Pink Day* for *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. Pink bracelets were sold and we held a *Penny War* that raised over \$1200 to help sponsor 11 faculty members who participated in *Race for the Cure* walk in October. SCA members also contributed to the Angel Tree Network and Toys-for-Tots at Christmas, where clothes and toys were purchased for underprivileged children.

In February, the SCA is hosting Greenbrier's First Student-Teacher Talent Show. This promises to be a great event, with categories that include singing, dancing, comedy, magic acts and more. The money raised from the talent show will help SCA members attend the V.S.C.A. Annual State Convention in Richmond in March. The convention provides members an opportunity to learn leadership skills and interact with other SCAs across the state of Virginia. The Greenbrier SCA continues to support student, school and community activities throughout the school year.

Region 2 Adviser Contributor Sarah Miles

Maury High School SCA recognizes custodial staff

Members of Maury's Student Council Association planned and hosted a luncheon for the school's custodial staff to show the students' appreciation for the hard, and often undervalued, work done by the custodians. The fifteen members of Maury's custodial staff daily clean and maintain the four-story building that holds more than 2,000 students. Custodians feasted on fried chicken, ribs, macaroni and cheese, green beans, cole slaw, and fresh-baked rolls. For dessert, academic departments donated homebaked cookies, pies, and cakes. The luncheon was paid for with profits from Homecoming activities. This was the second year in a row that the SCA hosted the Custodian Appreciation Luncheon; members plan to make this an annual event.

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.

AROUND THE STATE WITH SCA PROJECTS—Several joint meetings of Barron Fundamental Elementary School and Kecoughtan High School (Hampton Division) will be scheduled this spring to share ideas for projects and to learn how they can work together in their community.

Regional service project planned for convention

Each year at the state VSCA convention, regional meetings are held for participants from the nine regions around the state. During these meetings, regional service projects are completed and have ranged from writing cards to soldiers and the elderly to blanket and teddy bear drives.



Again this year, the region meetings will be held at the upcoming state convention to be held March 23-25, 2007. Convention attendees from each region will participate in a service project to collect can food items, make bookmarks and communicate with schools not attending the convention. To prepare for this service project, each school attending the convention is asked to bring 101 can food items to donate to the Central Virginia Food Bank. The CVFB encourages the donations of foods in these top 5 categories: peanut butter; canned fish and meats; canned fruits and vegetables; hot and cold cereals and boxes of pasta and bags of rice or rice products.

In addition to the food drive, schools are asked to bring in supplies for making bookmarks. Each region is hoping to produce 101 bookmarks and to collect 101 food items from each school in the region attending the convention. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Last year the Central Virginia Foodbank distributed over 12.9 million pounds of food through 500+ agencies in their 31-county/5-city service area. Currently they distribute 49,000 pounds of food each day when it is available but could not do this without the help of the community's many schools, businesses, churches and other organizations which donated over 1 million pounds to the Central Virginia Foodbank through community food drives. Additional information about the Central Virginia Food Bank can be found on the Web site at www.cvfb.org.

*continued from **Convention** page 1*

The VSCA Annual Convention will once again highlight outstanding student council projects from across the state. Each project should be presented as a table top exhibit and will be on display in the hotel throughout the Convention. An outstanding project at each level will be chosen to receive one complimentary registration for the appropriate Summer Leadership Camp. These schools will be announced during the Awards Banquet Saturday night, March 24.

Each school attending the VSCA State Convention is invited to select one student to deliver a three (3) minute speech based on the 2005-2006 state theme "VSCA 101: Student Leadership Begins Here." Speeches will be evaluated on content, delivery, poise of presenter, and overall effectiveness of the presentation. This 7th annual contest is open to elementary, middle, and high school students. Winners will be recognized at the Awards Banquet for their outstanding speeches.

All schools attending the 2007 VSCA Convention are asked to bring their student council's best ideas for projects in the following areas: fundraising, community service, school spirit, and campus recognition. Schools are asked to bring 50 copies of each project to share. If your school chooses to participate, bring 50 copies of your ideas to the Convention office to receive an Idea Packet Ticket. During the Convention, the copies will be compiled. On Sunday morning, advisers will pick up their idea packets in the Convention Headquarters. Each participating school will leave with an invaluable bank of new ideas to make their school a better place!

Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals

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Carol Robinson
President-Elect, VASSP

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Executive Director, VASSP

Department of Student Leadership

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York Division

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Prince George Division

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York Division

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PARK VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
Loudoun Division

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL
Bedford Division

FT. CHISWELL HIGH SCHOOL
Wythe Division

BUCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Buckingham Division

WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL
Fairfax Division

BUCKINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL
Buckingham Division

MONTRUSS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Westmoreland Division

DILLWYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Buckingham Division

Appointed Committee Schools:

GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
Chesapeake Division

LEE-DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL
Hanover Division

PROSPECT HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Orange Division

STAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL
Stafford Division

BUCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Buckingham Division

DOMINION HIGH SCHOOL
Loudoun Division

Pine Spring Elementary School (Fairfax Division) will participate in a school wide reading program, "Read Across America," on March 2, 2007. This special day has been set aside to honor "Read Across America" Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday. SCA officers and other representatives will read to students at each grade level supported by the librarian and reading specialist.

Join us at camp this summer !

If you have not made plans for the summer, consider this -- VSCA summer camp will offer the opportunity to meet new friends, learn about leadership, and participate in exciting and fun activities. If you have attended a summer leadership camp, tell everyone about the great experience you had. If you are not sure what you will do this summer, ask about the summer leadership camp opportunity.

The leadership camp for elementary students will be held July 16-18, 2007 at the United Methodist Assembly Center in Blackstone. This is a great location for our camp. In addition to working with other students on developing your leadership skills, you will have time for fun outdoor activities that will help to build team spirit and cooperative skills.

Secondary students will experience college campus life as the leadership camp returns to Lynchburg College. Divided into councils, students will meet new friends and work to strengthen their leadership skills. In addition to great food in the dining hall, students will enjoy opportunities to showcase their skills and talents as we build leadership skills. The secondary leadership camp will be held July 22-26, 2007.

What are you doing this summer? The VSCA leadership camps will be an enjoyable experience you will never forget. Talk to your SCA adviser or contact the VSCA office if you have any questions. Registration forms will be available March 1 at www.vassp.org/dsl.html and at the VSCA convention March 23-25.

Region 8 Student Contributor Wendy Clay

Nottoway Middle School SCA supports community projects

We've had a very busy and successful year so far, and hope that it will continue to be that way. Here are some of the things the SCA has done this year.

In October we participated in Pennies for Patients, a program that gives to the Leukemia Foundation. The fundraiser lasted for three weeks and we raised around \$560. We also ran the school book fair this year so we can attend our first SCA state convention in March. We raised over \$400 running the book fair, and hope to take five SCA members to the convention with that money.

In November, all SCA members participated in the D.A.R.E. program and Red Ribbon Week to promote drug abuse awareness.

Our busiest month so far has been December. First, we participated in the Angel Tree program in Nottoway County. We were able to adopt 25 angels this year. Then, we had a leadership workshop. At the workshop, SCA officers informed 7th graders of their duties as office holders. Finally, we held a movie and a dance for the students who participated in our past activities.

In the next few months we hope to have additional fundraisers to help pay the cost of the SCA convention. This is sure to be a very prosperous year for Nottoway Middle School SCA in every aspect.

Follow the Leadership Road

NASC 2007 National Conference

June 23-27, 2007

Blue Valley Northwest High School
Overland Park, Kansas



The Virginia Student Councils Association will be leading a delegation of students and advisers to the 2007 National Association of Student Councils Conference at Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park, Kansas. The five-day conference is filled with exciting keynote speakers, opportunities for national networking, informative skill sessions, "hot topic" deliberations into current events, national exhibitors, and lots of fun. Students will stay with host families in the Overland Park area, and adults will stay at a hotel designated as the NASC headquarters. Student or adviser registration fees are \$395 for NASC member schools and \$495 for NASC non-member schools which includes a non-refundable \$50 fee for state tee shirts and trading items. Registration must be completed on line at www.nasc.us/nasc2007, printed, signed and then mailed to the state office with one check per group made payable to VSCA. This year NASC has announced that Virginia has been allocated 31 delegates for this conference. The Virginia Delegation will be selected by application based on the order they are received, leadership experience in school, and participation in VASSP/DSL sponsored events. Selections will be made in February.

Student leaders and Step Team members at **Massaponax High School (Spotsylvania Division)** will hold a Step Show for the school and community and will donate \$350 of the profits raised to send a student to the VSCA Summer Leadership Camp!

EXPERIENCE THE VSCA STUDENT LEADERSHIP CAMP!

Leadership Opportunities Summer 2007

**2007 Elementary School
Summer Leadership Camp
July 16-18
Virginia United Methodist
Assembly Center
Blackstone, VA**

Who should attend?
Elementary school students and advisers may attend. Students must have an adult in attendance at the workshop who will be responsible for them.

**2007 Middle School
Summer Leadership Camp
July 22-26
Lynchburg College
Lynchburg, VA**

Who should attend?
All student leaders who will be in grades 6-8 during the 2007-2008 school year.

**2007 High School
Summer Leadership Camp
July 22-26
Lynchburg College
Lynchburg, VA**

Who should attend?
All student leaders who will be in grades 9-12 during the 2007-2008 school year.

An exciting curriculum is being planned for the 2007 VSCA Elementary, Middle, and High School Summer Leadership Camps that will feature exciting hands-on lessons to teach participants the principles of effective leadership and provide practical experience in applying those principles. Students will work on committees and in councils organized to develop leadership and interpersonal skills. Students will exchange ideas with individuals from other schools as well as with the adult and junior counselor staff.

In addition to participating in activities designed to develop leadership potential and encourage students to examine their own leadership strengths and weaknesses, students will learn:

Teambuilding	Goal Setting	Effective Meeting Management
Time Management	Communication	Parliamentary Procedure
Working with Staff/Administration	Officer Training	Project Planning/Evaluation
Group Dynamics	Effective Public Relations	

Please watch your mailbox for more information on these workshops. **Registration forms for each workshop will be available at the VSCA Annual State Convention and will be mailed to member schools in April 2007.**

Region 1 Student Contributor Christen Fortmuller

Prince George High School SCA thinks of others

This past holiday season was a time when people were bustling around, trying to buy gifts for relatives and food for holiday dinners. Rarely do people stop to think about those less fortunate, those who do not have enough money to pay for holiday dinner *and* gifts for family. But the Student Council at Prince George High School decided to recognize those less fortunate through a can food drive that corresponded with the annual Powder Puff Game.

The game was held the week of Thanksgiving before students got out for break. For the two weeks prior, can foods plus one dollar were collected as payment for a ticket to the game. Tickets were sold at the high school, junior high school, and at the door. The food and money collected went to the local food bank to give to families for the holiday season so that they could have a special dinner.

The game in itself was eventful. The two teams that played consisted of thirty girls from the junior class and thirty girls from the senior class. Also participating were male cheerleaders- nine from each grade. The game started off rough, as it was raining and cold, but the weather soon cleared up enough to play. Both teams were determined to win and fought hard to succeed. In the end, juniors won by a three point margin of eighteen to fifteen. The entire project was a complete success as hundreds of cans were collected, as were hundreds of dollars. Now it's your turn. Please help those in your community who are in need.

Patrick Henry School SCA (Hanover Division) assists with hosting a "Freshmen and New Student Orientation" each year along with school administrators and counselors. SCA officers speak about various aspects of school life, but particularly, keeping up grades and getting involved in activities. School leaders also give tours of the campus and answer questions.



ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

Call for Candidate School Applications for the 2007-2008 VSCA Advisory Committee.

As required by VSCA Policies, Section 1:f The Association is still accepting applications for candidate schools in the following positions. All positions are one year terms for the 2007-2008 school year. Officer and representative schools, once elected, will be represented on the Advisory Committee by one student and his or her SCA Adviser. The 2007-2008 Advisory Committee will meet four times during the year to advise the DSL staff on programs, themes, and objectives for the 2007-2008 school year and beyond. Committee service is an honor for schools, students and advisers. Members make a difference while developing their own leadership potential. Elections will be held at the 2007 VSCA Convention at the Holiday Inn-Select Koger South, Richmond, March 23–March 25, 2007.

VSCA Officer Schools - Open to VSCA Member High Schools - Three positions open:
Secretary School

VSCA Regional Representative Schools - Open to VSCA Member High Schools - Five positions open:

Region 1 Region 2 Region 3 Region 4 Region 5
Region 6 Region 7 Region 8 Region 9

VSCA Middle Level Representative School - Open to VSCA Member Middle Schools - Two positions open:
Regions 1, 2, 8 Regions 3, 4, 9 Regions 5, 6, 7

VSCA Elementary Level Representative School - Open to VSCA Member Elementary Schools - Three positions open:
Regions 1, 2, 8 Regions 3, 4, 9 Regions 5, 6, 7

Interested schools should submit a completed VSCA Candidate School Application, Student Representative Form, and Candidate School Resume by
Tuesday, March 20, 2007.

Candidate applications for these VSCA positions are available on-line at: www.vapincipal.org/dsl.html. If you need a new application, please contact the VSCA Office at (804)355-4263.

Please mail completed applications to the VSCA Office as soon as possible.

The final deadline for applications is Tuesday, March 20, 2007.

All applications must be received postmarked by this date.

No faxes will be accepted!

Sandusky Middle School SCA participates in Freedom Flag ceremony

On the morning of December 8th key members of the Sandusky Middle School Student Council Association gathered in frigid sunshine at Lynchburg City Stadium to present a Freedom Flag to New York Governor George Pataki. The presentation was part of the dedication of the first steel columns for the Freedom Tower to be built at ground zero in New York City.

Fifteen Sandusky students joined more than 100 steelworkers from Lynchburg's Banker Steel Company, firefighters, police officers, rescue personnel and local and state dignitaries as the columns were "presented" to Governor Pataki by Banker Steel CEO, Donald W. Banker.

Governor Pataki stated, "On September 11, 2001 people put aside their own concerns and rushed to the burning Twin Towers in order to help others in an outpouring of love and support. It is the way we responded to this tragedy. The heroes of our country put their lives on the line. Today we take a step forward in the aftermath of 9-11. We are resilient." Mr. Banker added, "The beams are symbols of American strength enabling us to rise above those who would destroy us."

Governor Pataki, serving in the last of his twelve years as Governor of New York State, accepted a framed commemorative Freedom Flag from Sandusky Student Council President Sarah Stephens. The Freedom Flag was created in Richmond by Richard Melito as one citizen's way of ensuring that we never forget the events - both tragic and heroic - of 9-11-01. The extraordinary emergence of the Freedom Flag as Virginia's official symbol of remembrance of 9-11 is confirmation of the power of the Flag's message of enduring freedom even in the face of adversity.

President Stephens presented the Freedom Flag to the Governor as a symbolic link between the citizens of Virginia (who also suffered an attack that day in Arlington, the site of the Pentagon) and the people of New York City. The blue background on the Flag represents all Americans united in freedom. The white star stands for all who have lived and died for freedom. The five white bars arranged as a pentagon on the blue background stand for the organized effort to protect out freedom. On the body of the flag, the top red band stands for the victims of flight 77 who died at the Pentagon, while the bottom red stripe represents those who perished in flight 93 in Shanksville, PA. Two wide red bands represent the victims of the attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The three wide white stripes denote the rescue workers, firefighters, Port Authority workers, policemen and ordinary citizens, many of whom perished in the attacks as they rushed to help other innocent victims of the attack.

Following the presentation, SCA members were among the very first Americans to sign the Freedom Tower columns with messages of gratitude and remembrance. Elected officials present joined the students and steelworkers in writing on the columns which were painted white to allow the messages to show. The general public was allowed to sign the columns the following day before they were driven to NYC.

Student Council members were able to meet and speak with Governor Pataki, Virginia Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling, Virginia Delegate Shannon Valentine and other local officials. Delegate Valentine, recently elected to replace Preston Bryant representing Lynchburg in Virginia's General Assembly, generously met with students for more than 30 minutes discussing various Student Council projects and initiatives.

The students appreciated the invitation to participate in a historic moment honoring the true heroes of our country by presenting the Freedom Flag. Many officials spoke individually to members of the SCA expressing their pride and hope that these young leaders will help guide the nation toward renewed dedication to the preservation and celebration of our freedom.



Sandusky Middle School SCA members participate in the presentation of the Freedom Flag to New York Governor George Pataki



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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.

CALENDAR	
February 14	Early registration for 81st Annual VSCA State Convention
February 28	Registration deadline for 81st Annual VSCA State Convention
March 2	Hotel registration deadline for VSCA State Convention
March 3	Register to display Outstanding Student Council Project Exhibit at State Convention
March 23-25	81st Annual VSCA State Convention, Richmond
July 16-18	VSCA Elementary School Summer Leadership Camp, Blackstone
July 22-26	VSCA Middle and High School Summer Leadership Camp, Lynchburg

DSL DISPATCH

DSL Dispatch is a regular publication written and published by the VASSP Department of Student Leadership, the sponsoring organization of the Virginia Student Councils Association, the Virginia Association of Honor Societies, and the Virginia Association of Student Activity Advisers. Address all correspondence to VASSP/DSL, 4909 Cutshaw Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230. Telephone 804-355-4263.