



April 25-27, 2008, Richmond, Va.

82nd annual VSCA convention

The 82nd Annual State Convention will be held in Richmond April 25-27, 2008, 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 April 3, 2008. Convention registration may be completed prior to March 21, 2008 to take advantage of early registration prices. Regular and late registration fees are in effect until April 3, 2008.

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 speakers will be Phil Gugliuzza, better known as Mr. Phil, and Sunjay Nath. Please see articles elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on each of these speakers. Additional speakers include Judge S.L. Williams, Henrico Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, and Dr. Patricia Wright, Chief Deputy Superintendent, Virginia Department of Education.

School supplies will be donated to the YMCA

VSCA convention service project to support YMCA program



YMCA volunteers and staff make a big celebration of this annual event. Children meet at the Y and sing songs on the bus ride over to a local department store where they meet their shopping buddy. The volunteer and child share a meal together and then shop for two fall outfits, underwear, socks, shoes and a warm fall coat. At the end of the trip, the child has a picture taken with their new YMCA *Bright Beginnings* friend and then boards the Y bus. The best surprise comes at the end of the trip when the children board the bus and find their very own large and sturdy backpack filled with school supplies.

This year the Virginia Student Councils Association will support the effort to fill the Y backpacks with needed school supplies. As the convention service project, each VSCA school attending the state convention is asked to collect needed supplies.

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YMCA *Bright Beginnings* is a community outreach program that provides thousands of disadvantaged children the fall clothes and school supplies needed to start the new school year with confidence and pride.

Cheleah Jackson shares about VSCA

From the VSCA president

To whom much is given, much is required". I am honored to have the privilege of being president of the VSCA bestowed upon me. I do not take it lightly that I was elected to represent students across Virginia. I am working arduously to perform my duties efficiently and adequately. Vice President Mareeha Niaz and Secretary Justin Graves have become great friends of mine, and we are enjoying working together with you.

Since I was elected in March 2007, I have attended two Advisory Committee meetings and multiple Regional Leadership Workshops. At these events, I am often asked to say a few words pertaining to leadership. As part of my remarks, I like to read a piece from Max Lucado's "On the Anvil" which exemplifies the roles of leaders to encourage others to be the best that they possibly can. As leaders, we have the ability to help others realize their capabilities.

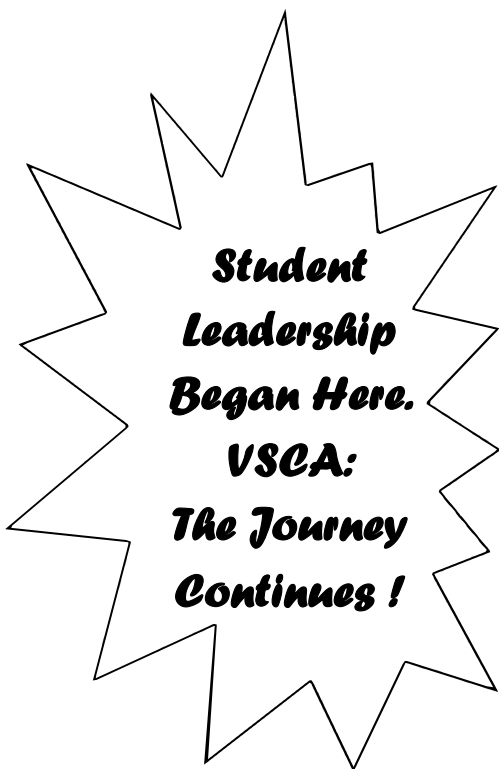
This year's Advisory Committee contains a magnificent group of people who love to plan, organize, and aid in anyway to make sure that the year ahead is excellent. The extent of my duties as president are still perplexing, but with each of our advisors, I know that we are capable of doing remarkable things.

A couple of my goals for this year are to increase the amount of member schools, and to plan, organize, and execute a successful convention. My personal goal is to become a better leader and to become more knowledgeable. I'm excited for the unknown which lies ahead, and I look forward to meeting new people with whom I plan to share this ultimate experience.

"Student Leadership Began Here. VSCA, the Journey Continues!" is the theme for the 2007-2008 state convention. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 82nd annual VSCA State Convention, which will be held April 25-27, 2008, in Richmond. Your attendance will make this event an even bigger success and will prove to be one of the most exciting times of your high school career. I look forward to seeing you there.



Cheleah Jackson



Sunjay Nath has spoken to more than a half million people in North America.

Sunjay Nath addresses convention attendees

A special addition to this year's convention will feature a second internationally known speaker on Sunday morning. A business owner at age 19, an author of several books, a founder of an e-learning company, Mr. Sunjay Nath will add Richmond to his list of cities he has visited when he joins us for our convention. Make plans now to attend this year's convention and enjoy this rare combination of both left and right brain activities that enable him to engage all audience members.

Sunjay Nath travels North America sharing ideas about a principle he calls 10-80-10. This is a concept that helps individuals and teams operate at a dynamic level. Through this program, the best practices result with small wins to help people achieve more, have greater balance and simply live happier. Nath will address attendees at the April convention on Sunday morning, April 27, 2008. Join us. Attend the convention and hear Sunjay Nath.

Mr. Phil will be keynote for the 82nd convention

The unforgettable Mr. Phil



VSCA is pleased to announce that the keynote speaker at its 82nd annual convention will be Phil Gugliuzza, better known to all of us as Mr. Phil.

At least once in your life, you must experience Mr. Phil! Dynamic, creative, and inspiring are all words that effectively describe this well known national and international youth speaker. Mr. Phil has spoken to numerous audiences around the world. You may have heard him speak at the NASC national conference as recently as last summer. If so, you are among thousands and thousands who agree that Mr. Phil is unforgettable.

Mr. Phil is a former Speech, English, English as a Second Language, and Social Studies teacher. He has served as Director of Student Activities at a large suburban high school near New Orleans. He is currently serving as Executive Director for the Louisiana Association of Student Councils, and is Executive Administrator for Key Clubs in Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Tennessee. A recipient of numerous awards, Mr. Phil has been named as the Louisiana Student Council Adviser of the Year, the Southern Association Adviser of the Year, and the national Leadership Workshop Director of the Year. Mr. Phil is one of those teachers and speakers who is dedicated, unique, and highly respected. Join other student leaders in Richmond for the 82nd annual convention and meet Mr. Phil. You won't forget him.

VSCA Achievement Award applications due 2/22

Will your school earn the VSCA Achievement Award?

Each year, 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.

2008 IMPORTANT DATES / DEADLINES *

February 22	Postmark deadline for 2007-2008 Awards and 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
May 3	Virginia Association of Honor Societies Conference, Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Virginia
May 9	Activity Advisors Workshop, Richmond
May 23	NHS/NJHS Advisors Workshop, Richmond
July 7-9	VSCA Elementary School Summer, Leadership Camp, Blacksburg
July 27-30	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.

Continued from **Service Project** from page 1

As the convention service project, each VSCA school attending the state convention is asked to collect items needed from the list below of supplies provided. Through the VSCA regions and individual schools, we intend to collect the supplies needed for each grade level (k-5) involved with the Bright Beginnings program. Each school attending the state convention will bring the school supplies they have collected to the convention where they will be combined and organized by grade level requests. The YMCA will collect the donations the week after convention.

Schools are encouraged to make the collection of school supplies a total school initiative. One idea might be to combine with other clubs at your school and jointly sponsor a school wide service project to collect school supplies. This can be a great local project that culminates with the state convention service project objectives. How many school supplies can your school collect? How many young children will be better prepared for school this fall because of your efforts? Please join us in this effort today!

The YMCA Bright Beginnings school supply list is below. Grade levels that will receive the Y backpack are listed on the right while the region supporting the collection at that grade level is on the left. Schools, for example, in VSCA Region 5 will endeavor to collect supplies for kindergarten students. Those in Region 1 will support the needs for Grade 5 and so on. Let's get started.

YMCA Bright Beginnings School Supply List by Grade

Each region is asked to collect the items for the grade level assigned to the region. The items should be brought to the state convention in April and will be donated to the YMCA for use with its Bright Beginnings program.

Region 1—1st Grade

(DO NOT purchase Trapper Keeper Binders)
Package- No. 2 pencils
Box of Crayons (8)
Markers (8-washable)
Large boxes of tissues
Writing pads
Spiral notebooks (70-100 sheets)
Composition books (black/white)
Pocket folders
Pair of scissors (blunt tip)
Zippered pencil pouch
Elmer's glue - 4oz

Regions 4 & 9 – 4th Grade

(DO NOT purchase Trapper Keeper Binders)
Scissors (Fiskars)
3-ring binder
Packs –200 sheet loose-leaf paper (standard rule)
Pocket folders – three prong
Composition books (black/white)
Glue sticks
Packs- No. 2 pencils (no mechanical)
Pack- red pens
Packs- blue or black pens
Box of Crayons (16)
Ruler (12 inch/metric)
Pack erasers
Pack colored pencils (8)
Zippered pencil pouch
Packs 3x5 index cards
Large box of tissues

Region 2—2nd Grade

(DO NOT purchase Trapper Keeper Binders)
Pack- No. 2 pencils
Box of Crayons (16)
Set of markers (8-washable)
Set colored pencils (8)
Large boxes of tissues
Pocket folders
3-ring binder
Composition books (black/white)
Pack-200 sheet loose-leaf paper
Scissors (blunt tip)
Zippered pencil pouch
Elmer's glue – 4oz.

Region 5 - Kindergarten

Primary Pencils
Writing Pads (Grades 1-2)
Large bottle of Elmer's Glue
Box of Primary Crayons (8)
Large box of tissues



Regions 3 & 7—3rd Grade

(DO NOT purchase Trapper Keeper Binders)
Packages- No. 2 pencils
Box of crayons (16)
Box of Markers (8-washable)
Set of colored pencils (8)
Red pens
Pocket folders
Composition books (black/white)
packs-200 sheet loose-leaf paper
3-ring binder
Scissors (blunt)
Ruler (12 inch/metric)
Elmer's glue- 4 oz.
Pack – 3x5 index cards
Zippered pencil pouch
Large box of tissues
Dictionary (for home use)

Regions 6 & 8 – 5th Grade

(DO NOT purchase Trapper Keeper Binders)
Box of Crayons (24)
Pack colored pencils (8)
Pack- No. 2 pencils (no mechanical)
Hand pencil sharpener
Pack of erasers
Glue sticks
High lighter
Scissors (Fiskars)
Packs – blue or black pens (erasable)
Pack – red pens

Elementary camp dates and location are set

Elementary leadership campers head to Blackstone

What are you doing this summer? If you are an elementary student leader, SCA officer, or elementary student interested in building your leadership skills, you should plan to attend the VSCA elementary leadership camp. Blackstone, Virginia, will be the site of this summer's elementary leadership camp at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center. Mark your calendar for July 7-9, 2008, and join us in Blackstone.

Summer leadership camp is all about growing as a leader. Utilizing the skills you already have, camp participants are given opportunities to build those skills. New ideas and strategies for success as a leader are shared each day. How can you build a better team, set more effective goals, or improve participation at your school? The answer may be found at the elementary summer leadership camp. When you find the answer, you'll also have found many new friends.

Registration forms for the VSCA 2008 Elementary School Summer Leadership Camp can be found online at www.vassp.org/dsl.html. Forms are due to the VSCA office by June 1, 2008. Questions about the elementary leadership camp can be directed to Mike Newman at cmnewman@vassp.org or by calling 804-355-4263.

VSCA Advisory Committee recognized

VSCA Advisory Committee members are elected at the state convention each year with the chief responsibilities of representing their regions and assisting in the planning of the next convention. Representative schools include the student and the adviser and both serve the committee. The work of the VSCA Advisory Committee would not be accomplished each year without the tremendous participation and support of committee members.

In addition to elected advisory committee members, several schools are appointed to the committee each year. Appointed committee members share ideas, serve on committees, and support the initiatives of the advisory committee. The advisory committee is enhanced immensely by those members appointed to the committee.

Special thanks to the representative and appointed advisory committee members: Haygen Walker, Mike Nelson, Prince George High; Michael Prior, Lynn Pitchford, Tabb High; Allie Starbuck, Leigh Swift, North Stafford High; Jeson Souvannarath, Sue Hunter, C.D. Hylton High; Ian Hutson, Robin Waldron, Liberty High (Bedford Division); Amanda Thompson, Mary Stearrett, Buckingham High; Elynn Lee, Leneta Lawing-Jones, Buckingham Middle; Jane Martens, Hazel Hickman, Montross Middle; and Caitlyn Ragland, Ernestine Atkinson, Dillwyn Elementary. Appointed committee members include: James Marino, Sarah Featherer, Maury High; Matt Allen, Marci Christian, Brielle DeMatteo, Buckingham High; Ashley Bautista, Margaret Bridges, Stafford High; and Rahath Alam, Jessica Knight, Dominion High.

NASC 2008 Conference

Student leaders head to Texas



The National Association of Student Councils (NASC) National Conference will convene at Northwest High School just outside of the Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas area June 25-28, 2008. The theme for this year's conference is "Hats off to Leadership" and will be presented in a big way, as only Texas can do. This conference is an opportunity to meet and network with other leaders from across the United States and around the world and to gain new ideas from enlightening speakers and workshops.

As a participant you will come away with renewed enthusiasm for student council involvement at your school and in new projects and ideas to implement them. In addition, both student and adviser delegates from the United States and other countries will share diverse ideas and lifestyles thereby developing stronger leadership skills and friendships. Why not join the Virginia delegation and take your hat off to leadership in Texas in June?

Are you interested in attending the NASC conference? Information is online at www.nasc.us or contact the state office via e-mail at cmnewman@vassp.org or call Mike Newman at 804-355-4263. Registration *through the state office* must be completed by March 25, 2008.





Become a NASC certified student leader.

What is the NASC Certified Student Leader?

The Certified Student Leader program is a challenging national skill and knowledge-based recognition program created by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) to identify outstanding individual student council leaders in high schools. Students earning the Certified Student Leader designation will have demonstrated their personal leadership abilities and met the skills

and criteria established by NASC. The program is founded on the principles of NASC and provides broad recognition for the most worthy student leaders. Unlike scholarships or recognitions that have limited numbers of winners, all student council leaders in NASC member schools who successfully meet the criteria may be recognized as Certified Student Leaders.

NASC created the Certified Student Leader program with five core goals in mind. We want to give schools a tool that will not only enhance and improve their efforts to develop student leaders, but one that will challenge students to work for recognition that is based on their abilities and knowledge in the area of leadership. The Certified Student Leader program does this by providing authentic assessment and national recognition. It supports the standards and goals of the National Council of Excellence Awards and has the potential as an added value to student college applications. Certified Student Leaders will not only experience the personal satisfaction of having achieved national recognition, but they will also have demonstrated to others their ability to perform as a leader. For the school and student council, having one or more students become Certified Student Leaders is a testament to the strength and success of the student council program in developing and training student leaders.

Students become Certified Student Leaders through a structured application process. After downloading an application packet, students work independently to create a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their having met or achieved the required number of indicators in each of the core areas outlined. They will also secure letters of recommendation from their adviser and you the principal, along with all signatures verifying their having completed the application process. Finally, they write an essay on a pre-determined leadership topic and include it with their portfolio and application materials. Final assessment of each applicant's submissions will take place at NASC. Those found to have met the criteria will be named NASC Certified Student Leaders.

What will it mean for a student to be a Certified Student Leader? During the 2007-2008 school year, these students will become a part of NASC as they become members of the very first class of Certified Student Leaders. As they prepare for their post-secondary schooling, they can include their Certified Student Leader status among their other accomplishments on college applications.

Advisers play a key role in this undertaking for every student. Details about the role of the adviser and other expectations, procedures, and application process can be found online at www.nasc.us. Check it out online or plan to attend a special seminar at the VSCA state convention on this topic.

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