



The Student Leader

The newsletter of the oldest state student leadership organization in the nation.

The 85th VSCA Convention!!

The 85th Annual Virginia Student Councils Association Convention was an unparalleled success! For the first time in the history of the VSCA Convention, members of the Virginia Board of Education attended and participated in many of the events. The Board members even held an open forum where student leaders were able to share their opinions and insights on various topics affecting Virginia schools. We hope this format will become a new tradition with the VSCA Convention.

This edition of the VSCA newsletter highlights many of the events and activities at this year's Convention. We also continue to put the spotlight on great student council activities from around the state, including Great Bridge Middle, Park View High, Stafford High, and Grassfield High School.

We are proud to announce the officer schools for the Virginia Student Councils Association Advisory Committee for 2011–2012, and the new state theme for the next school year:

VSCA: MAGNIFYING LEADERSHIP

President School:	Woodgrove High School Loudoun Division Kelsey Briel, Student Representative Emily Stevens, Adviser
Vice President School:	Loudoun Valley High School Loudoun Division Katie Stevenson, Student Representative Eileen Lowry, Adviser
Secretary School:	Stafford High School Stafford Division Will Janney, Student Representative Margaret Bridges, Adviser

If you didn't have an opportunity to attend Convention this year, I hope that this edition of the Student Leader will persuade you that it is a terrific event that SCA student leader or adviser should miss.

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UPDATE

VSCA State Convention Service Project – Terra-cycling

VSCA: Dedicated to a New Decade

CONNECTING TO A NEW STATE INITIATIVE: THE DREAM MACHINE RECYCLE RALLY!

The service project for the 2011 Virginia Student Councils Association (VSCA) State Convention was Terra-cycling, which is quite similar to the state initiative collaborating with the **Dream Machine Recycle Rally**. Terra-cycling is a term that refers to recycling and re-using items that would otherwise be thrown away and end up in landfills. The Terra-cycling website (www.terracycle.net) allows groups to sign up to collect numerous kinds of items for collection and recycling. The VSCA joined three “brigades” to collect drink pouches, candy product wrappers, and storage Ziploc products. Each school that sent student leaders from their Student Council Association to the VSCA Convention was responsible for collecting as many of these items as possible.

Once each school’s delegation arrived at Convention, we gathered the items together and the VSCA organized their return to the manufacturer to be recycled. A predetermined amount of money per item returned will be contributed to a charity. The charity receiving the funds generated from this project is the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership. This was an exciting activity for each school that participated. This year’s Convention Service project generated funds for charity and helped preserve the environment, thereby supporting the 2010-2011 VSCA theme of VSCA: Dedicated to a New Decade.

The state initiative partners the Commonwealth with the Dream Machine Recycle Rally, encouraging students, teachers, and parents to recycle. This state initiative is designed to generate positive habits of environmental sustainability. The Commonwealth of Virginia encourages anyone with questions to visit www.dreammachinerecyclerrally.com/program-info/index.html. The state project mirrors what the VSCA worked on at the 2011 VSCA Convention. Clearly, the leaders of the Virginia Student Councils Association were setting the trend!

**UPDATE: PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST AT
VSCA STATE CONVENTION:**

TOPIC: *“Dedicated to a New Decade”*
(The 2011 VSCA State Convention Theme)



Winner of the 2011 Oratory Contest:

Briana Williams
Ruffner Academy, Norfolk Division

REPORT: BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE VSCA STATE CONVENTION

The Virginia Student Councils Association was quite fortunate to have the Board of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the VSCA State Convention in Williamsburg. Board of Education President Eleanor Saslaw and Board Member Isis Castro were present for the entire Convention. The VSCA was privileged to hear remarks to open the Convention by Dr. Patricia Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Virginia Department of Education and comments by Mrs. Saslaw at our Second General Session on Friday evening.

The Forum with the Board took place on Saturday, April 2nd. The Forum allowed an opportunity for students to present their ideas and opinions on a wide array of topics. The topics that student leaders were able to comment on included:

- standard grading scales for all public schools in the Commonwealth
- increased opportunities for Advanced Placement courses throughout the state, especially in rural school divisions
- increased opportunities for career and technical education courses
- bullying and school safety
- virtual course offerings
- longer school day and school year
- student physical fitness, obesity, and nutrition
- technology and the use of electronic textbooks and materials
- dual enrollment programs with community colleges and four-year universities, and college and career readiness
- academic and career plans

All in all, the participation of the Board of Education at the VSCA State Convention elevated student leadership in Virginia to a new level!

The 2011 VSCA Advisory Committee

The VSCA Advisory Committee is instrumental in planning and developing leadership activities throughout the state. The following schools have been selected to take leadership positions on the 2011- 2012 Advisory Committee.

- President School: Woodgrove High School
Loudoun Division
Kelsey Briel, Student Representative
Emily Stevens, Adviser
- Vice President School: Loudoun Valley High School
Loudoun Division
Katie Stevenson, Student Representative
Eileen Lowry, Kenyamo McFarlane, Advisers
- Secretary School: Stafford High School
Stafford Division
Will Janney, Student Representative
Margaret Bridges, Adviser
- Middle School Rep: Tuckahoe Middle School
Henrico Division
Rebecca Webb, Student Representative
Christina Hopkins, Adviser
- Region 3 Rep: Stafford High School
Stafford Division
Byung Hyuk Kim, Student Representative
Margaret Bridges, Adviser
- Region 4 Rep: Stone Bridge High School
Loudoun Division
Ashley Baird, Student Representative
Eileen Lowry, Kenyamo McFarlane, Advisers
- Region 5 Rep: Liberty High School
Bedford Division
Peyton Bond, Student Representative
M. Robin Waldron, Adviser
- Region 8 Rep: Buckingham County High School
Buckingham Division
Danielle Walker, Student Representative
Mary Stearrett, Adviser

UPDATE: VSCA Advisory Committee Appointed Members

Student leaders and their schools are encouraged to apply to be appointed members on the Advisory Committee. Additionally, we still have a number of open regional representative positions for high, middle, and elementary schools. Students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to become part of the VSCA Advisory Committee.

The following regional representative positions still remain open:

High School Representatives:

Region 1
Region 2
Region 6
Region 7

Elementary School Representatives:

Regions 1/2/8
Regions 3/4
Regions 5/6/7

Middle School Representatives:

Regions 3/4
Regions 5/6/7

Please contact Mike Nelson at mnelson@scaleader.org to get more information about becoming an appointed member school of the VSCA Advisory Committee.

AWARD WINNERS

VSCA – 2011

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISER OF THE YEAR:

Nicole Hackenberg, Fluvanna Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL ADVISER OF THE YEAR:

Kristina Stearrett, Buckingham Co. High School

OUTSTANDING STUDENT COUNCIL PROJECT:

Loudoun Valley High School

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Buckingham County High School

C.D. Hylton High School

Grassfield High School

Great Bridge Middle School

Hayfield Elementary School

Hickory High School

Liberty High School

Loudoun Valley High School

Montross Middle School

Park View High School

Patrick Henry High School

Pine Spring Elementary School

Stafford High School

Stone Bridge High School

Tuckahoe Middle School

Warwick High School

Woodgrove High School

York High School

School Spotlight #1: Great Bridge Middle School

Student- Staff Basketball Game

At the tail end of the exciting basketball season, Great Bridge Middle School holds a Student-Staff Basketball Game. To prepare for this event, the Student Council puts up signs, flyers to go home, announcements, and scrolling ads for the event. The SCA also presents daily skits with 'intimidating' teacher players on the morning announcements (GBTV). Students sign up ahead of time to reserve their spot in their grade level's period during the game. The teachers wear schools basketball jerseys and the students wear white t-shirts. Staff cheerleaders put on a half-time routine and wore shirts that said "Teachers Rock!" The student cheerleaders cheered for the students. The turn out for this event is amazing. One year, the SCA sold about 500 tickets to parents and students, selling out the gymnasium. There were 25 members from the staff and over 40 students participate each year.

The event raises over \$1,500, which is donated to Relay for Life, a scholarship in the name of a friend/athletic trainer they lost, and some of the money is used to purchase picnic tables for the school. The students are still talking about this entertaining event! The teachers are 4-0 so far, however, This year was the closest it's been, 44-40.

School Spotlight #2: Park View High School

CAN an Administrator

Each year, Park View's Student Council members hold a canned food drive to benefit those in need of food around the time of Thanksgiving. This activity, called "CAN the Administrator" is a fun way to raise funds for a worthy cause. This year Park View had five administrators and one other staff member participate. Each participant has a small shopping cart located in the cafeteria with a picture of his or her face taped to the front of the cart. Students place their cans of food in the cart of the administrator that they want to see wear a turkey suit. The last school day before Thanksgiving, the administrator that "wins" the most canned goods wears a turkey costume for the day! This year Park View collected **573 pounds** of nonperishable food items which were sent to Loudoun Interfaith Relief Food Pantry in Leesburg.

School Spotlight #3: Stafford High School

Jersey Day:

In conjunction with the Super Bowl, the Stafford High School SCA decided to hold a Jersey Day the Friday before the "big day". The SCA pledged ten cents to the "Nothing But Nets" campaign for each person who wore a Jersey, sweatshirt, or tee-shirt of any team (including

school teams).

Teachers became very excited about the project and began making their own pledges. For example, teachers would pledge an extra amount per student for those who wore a shirt of a particular team. Several teachers made blanket pledges for everyone who wore a particular team's shirt. The school's Wisconsin-born principal pledged \$25 in honor of those who wore Green Bay Packers shirts. All together, \$600 was raised.

The SCA was extremely pleased with the outcome of the event and Jersey Day will become a permanent fundraiser for a charity chosen each year by the SCA General Assembly.

School Spotlight #4: Stafford High School

Laps For Lymphoma:

This year the Grassfield High School SCA is holding their second annual Laps for Lymphoma fundraiser. Laps For Lymphoma is a 5k walk-a-thon held at Grassfield in order to raise money for the Lymphoma Society. Last year the walk was extremely successful, raising almost \$10,000. With that success students are still dedicated to making the event even greater. The SCA decided this year to add a spirit week to help promote the walk. The theme is "Grizzlies Giving Back." Each day of the spirit week will be dedicated to a different cause: breast cancer awareness, the Boys and Girls Club, Soles for Soles, the U.S. troops, and finally, the Lymphoma Society. Helping to kick off the service week the SCA will be holding a pep rally to advertise the events of the week leading up to the Lymphoma Walk.

Many generous local businesses and companies have helped make this a community-wide event. Lymphoma has Affected not only Grassfield High School, but their entire community, so they try to make participation in the walk open to everyone. The goal is not only to help conquer Lymphoma, but also to keep the school and community working together.

ICE BREAKERS!!

Ice Breakers!! is a section of the newsletter which features ways to get to know students working in a group. Here is a sampling of projects from the web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Line Up:

The leader issues a command and group members line up in single file as quickly as possible. A good command to start with is "Line up in alphabetical order." Other possible line up commands include lining up according to birthday, height, or favorite color...Be creative!

2. Sears Catalog Game:

Sit in a circle. The first person starts by saying their name along with an object from the Sears catalog (or any catalog for that matter) that starts with the same letter as their name. The next person in the circle repeats what the person before said and adds their name and object. The next person repeats what both people before said and adds their name with an object. Repeat the process until reaching the last person, who must say all names with the objects and then add their name with an object.

3. Famous Pairs

Prepare half as many index cards as there are participants. On each card, write the halves of a famous pair such as peanut butter and jelly, salt and pepper, etc. Cut cards in half and distribute one half to each person. Each person has to find their other half, interview each other, and be prepared to introduce their partner to the group.

4. Name that Tune:

Each person is handed an index card on which is written the title of a well-known song. Participants walk around the room singing their song, looking for another person singing the same song. Once a group is fully formed, members sing one big chorus of their song. The first group to finish wins.

5. Musical Circle

Have partners form two circles, one inside with a partner facing out and the other outside with the other partner facing in. When the music starts, the inside circle moves clockwise. The outside circle moves counter clockwise. When the music stops, the partners must find one another, hold hands, and sit down. The last pair to find their partner is out.

6. Lap Game

Place a chair for each participant in a circle. The caller gives a direction to the people who fit a description such as, "Everyone wearing yellow socks must move one seat to the right." The people who don't have yellow socks on stay where they are. The result of the various calls often has more than one person sitting on someone's lap.

7. Twelve Squares

Provide each person with a sheet of notebook-size paper. Instruct them to fold the paper so that they end up with 12 squares of approximately the same size. They are to write questions

in the squares, which they will ask others, leaving room for answers and names. Following this, each member of the group is asked to stand in turn, and as s/he stands, other members relate the question asked and the reply of the standing member.

7. Balloon Frantic

Each participant blows up a balloon. Participants try to keep their balloons in the air as long as they can. Time is kept and stops when five balloons hit the ground. Repeat for improved time. Challenge participants to help each other so they can be most successful.

8. Clumps

This game can be used for as many as one thousand participants. People crowd to the center with their arms at their sides. They are instructed to keep moving and crowding toward the center. They must keep their arms at their sides. The leader blows a whistle to stop all movement and immediately shouts a number. If the number is four, for instance, everyone must get into groups of four, lock arms and sit down. Referees then eliminate all those not in groups of four. This is repeated with varying numbers until all have been eliminated.

Quotes to Inspire

Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.

Publius Syrus

A leader is a dealer in hope.

Napoleon Bonaparte

No man can stand on top because he is put there.

H. H. Vreeland

A ruler should be slow to punish and swift to reward.

Ovid

It is impossible to imagine anything which better becomes a ruler than mercy.

Seneca

Let him who would be moved to convince others, be first moved to convince himself.

Thomas Carlyle

A good general not only sees the way to victory; he also knows when victory is impossible.

Polybius

And finally...

Please continue to send in your great ideas so we can share all the wonderful activities of great student leaders with student councils throughout the state. Please submit ideas to Mike Nelson, VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org, and I will try to get as many ideas as possible in our monthly newsletters.

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VSCA is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals.