



The Student Leader

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

Congratulations!!!

You've made it to November. I know that many of you are high school student leaders and advisers who have just succeeded in developing and implementing all of the Homecoming ideas and plans for your school. So, congratulations on the achievement of another great Homecoming! After Homecoming, the question becomes: where do we go from here?

I hope this issue of the newsletter will help to answer that question. We have packed many more activities, suggestions, and ideas in this edition of the newsletter. There are tips for student leaders and advisers for running an effective SCA. I have even included some inspirational quotes that will help if you currently feel a little "burned-out."

The Student Leader still needs your help. Please share any fundraiser, service project, spirit idea, or any other leadership activity that really worked well in your school. Even if this is an idea that you have been involved with for a long time, there is a good chance that another SCA may have never thought of it. By sharing ideas, every student council can improve. Please share your ideas by sending them to the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org. Thanks in advance for your willingness to share your great ideas!

Mike Nelson, VSCA Director

VSCA State Office

Mike Nelson, VSCA Director
904.370.0822 (direct)
mnelson@scaleader.org

4909 Cutshaw Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230
804.355.4263 (phone)
804.355.4262 (fax)

www.scaleader.org

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

January 8 - Region 2
Grassfield H.S.
Chesapeake Division

January 8 - Region 4
Woodgrove H.S.
Loudoun Division

January 15 - Region 8
Buckingham H.S.
Buckingham Division

January 29 - Region 1
Prince George H.S.
Prince George Division

If you want to develop an even more phenomenal and active Student Council, plan on attending the State Convention which you can learn more about in this newsletter!

VSCA STATE CONVENTION

April 1-3, 2011

Williamsburg Marriott

Williamsburg, VA

Begin to make your plans for the VSCA State Convention.

**State Convention will be held at the Williamsburg Marriott
April 1-3, 2011**

Elementary, Middle and High Schools are included.

State Convention features team building activities, opportunities to learn from other students and advisers, motivational speakers, a state service project, workshops on numerous SCA topics, an awards banquet, a dance, opportunities to network with students and advisers from your region and other parts of the state, state officer campaigns and elections, and resolution workshops. This is far from a complete list of all the exciting opportunities at Convention.

Convention really helps to unite student councils and give them a sense of purpose. For many advisers, attending the VSCA State Convention is an indispensable activity for their student leaders.

More information will be posted on our soon to be established Web site at www.scaleader.org.
Meanwhile check out our information posted at <http://www.vassp.org/vsca.html>.

Greetings from the Vice President School

Hey Fellow VSCA Members!

As the representative of Stafford High School, I would like to tell you how excited we are about being your Vice President school. I hope that we can develop a lot of new ideas while having a lot of fun! I want VSCA to continue to grow and bring new leaders into our association.

Stafford High School is right in the middle of the state and we have a student population of about 1,900. We are in Region Three and also hold the Region Three Representative position, with Kathleen Gayle as student leader. I hope that everyone will get to know us by the end of the year; we plan on hosting and attending leadership workshops along with our VSCA meetings. The next State Advisory Committee meeting is at our school, on November 20, 2010. I am really excited about seeing many of you there!

Along with the meetings, there is Convention! The weekend of April 1-3 will be the State Convention at the Marriott in Williamsburg. It should be really fun! Bring your school leaders and start building the excitement now! Our state theme for the year is *VSCA Dedicated to a New Decade* and I hope everyone is as excited as we are to have a great year!

We would also like to encourage you to take a look at the Council of Excellence Award criteria on the NSCA Web site and the information about the Virginia Achievement award on the VASSP Web site. Not only do these awards provide a framework for SCA activities; they can also give your SCA an extra pat on the back.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work. I know that I join with the other officers and advisory committee members in offering to help you if there is anything we can do to make your year better.

Vice President School – Stafford High School
Annie Moncure, Student Representative
Margaret Bridges, Adviser Representative

Dollar Signs \$\$

Dollar Signs \$\$ is a section of the newsletter dedicated to fundraising Activities. For this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mmnelson@scaleader.org.

1. **Parents' Night Out:** The students in the SCA at Broad Run babysit kids from three years of age to eleven years old at their school. This night of babysitting is called Parents' Night Out. It is held on Saturday nights from 6 pm – 10 pm, six nights a year. The cost is \$10 per child and they generally make \$800 to \$1,200 per night. The SCA students, along with volunteers from other clubs, spend time with the children in the gym watching movies, doing crafts, and coloring. The SCA created and sent out flyers to all the local elementary schools to advertise the event. [Submitted by Broad Run High School.]
2. **Buddy Pictures:** A great fundraiser for an elementary school. Students pay \$5 to have their pictures taken with up to six friends. This can be done during lunch or some other appropriate time during the school day. Advertise for a few days at school and send home a flyer. SCA students can also assist in the picture taking process.
3. **Bottle Collection:** Another great fund raiser for an elementary school. The SCA collects water bottles from offices, classrooms, and the cafeteria. The SCA makes decorative boxes for the bottles to be placed in when students and teachers are finished with them. The money earned from the recycling is used to beautify the school and campus.
4. **Kiss-O-Grams:** The perfect activity for a little money and a lot of fun. Kiss-O-Grams is a great fundraiser to hold during the month of February. Sell cute candy cards that can be exchanged on Valentine's Day, with personal messages written by students and sent to the specified recipient. The message accompanies a bundle of Hershey's kisses tied with festive ribbons.
5. **Mother's Day Flower Sale:** Another great fund raiser for an elementary school. In this activity, flowers are sold for Mother's Day during the first week of May. The school that did this activity used silk flowers. The students also received a card to give with the flower. An artistically gifted SCA could make the cards themselves. The flowers in this activity were sold for \$1 each.

6. **International Food Fair:** This activity is arranged by the SCA, but requires the involvement of all of the active clubs at the school. The International Food Fairs are days in which clubs sell food and drinks to the students during lunch. This gives clubs and the SCA an opportunity to raise money and a chance for the clubs to advertise themselves and their events. The SCA coordinates to make sure that no two clubs sell the same type of food. Another neat idea is to have the clubs or SCA provide music in the area where the clubs are setting up their food. This creates a really fun atmosphere!
7. **Crush for your Crush:** This is a fairly quick and easy fundraiser. Before conducting the activity, the SCA needs to purchase a large quantity of Orange Crush soda cans. Students are asked to pay \$1 to send a can to their anonymous “crushes.” The student who receives the can then has the option of paying \$1 to find out who sent it. This continues for one or two school days. The cans need to be numbered to make it easier to keep track of them.

Reaching Out

Reaching out is a section of the newsletter which will feature service projects. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mmnelson@scaleader.org.

1. **Angel Tree:** During the winter holidays, the SCA of Hayfield Elementary places an artificial tree, their angel tree, in the front lobby of their school from the end of November until mid-December. The ornaments on the tree are new hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and earmuffs that students have brought in for needy families in the Hayfield community. Under the tree they put new unwrapped toys to be given to the Toys for Tots campaign. This has become a tradition of great importance at Hayfield Elementary. [Submitted by Hayfield Elementary School.]
2. **On The Right Tracks Project:** In this project, high school students attempt to motivate and inspire elementary level students through the use of the story, *The Little Engine That Could*. The SCA targets the third graders at their feeder elementary schools. The SCA students travel to the elementary school and read the story *The Little Engine That Could* to each third grade class. After reading the story, each elementary student receives their own personal copy of the book and an inspirational bookmark made for them by the SCA. Funding for this project came from another project called “Make a Difference Monday,” during which SCA students invited friends to bring lunch to school on Mondays and donate the money that they would have spent on lunch to the On The Right Tracks Project. The SCA students even made “I think I can T shirts” to wear to the elementary schools.
3. **Gift Bags of Love:** This project would be great for the elementary, middle, or high school level. The basic premise is to collect personal hygiene items for the needy and homeless. The SCA contacted the nearby homeless shelter to find out their needs. The school running this project advertised for donations of personal hygiene items in the local newspaper. The SCA bagged up the items and tied them with a silver bow. The items were donated to the homeless shelter. This activity was so successful that the students gave the surplus bags to the school’s guidance counselors to donate to students in need.
4. **Halloween Door Decorating Contest:** In this activity, the students decorate the door of their fifth period class for Halloween. The fifth period class is the only one that meets every day on their block schedule. The doors are judged by the SCA and the winning class receives a pizza party provided by the SCA. This simple idea gets a lot of students involved in decorating their school and making their school community a relaxing place.

5. **This is Your Day:** This activity is designed to highlight and recognize those that often do not get the spotlight. Every Friday, after the morning announcements, four students and one teacher are chosen. The goal is to celebrate these individuals. The SCA gathers small gifts such as candy to distribute to the individuals who were selected for recognition. The students and teacher receive the special gifts during the Friday they were selected.
6. **Bus Driver Appreciation:** This project is designed to honor the efforts of bus drivers, who are often underappreciated in the school. First, the SCA gets as many of the drivers together as possible in front of a bus for a group picture. Then the SCA takes the picture to a bakery specializing in making photo cakes. A cake is ordered with "Thank you, bus drivers" written on it. The SCA then hosts a reception for the bus drivers at their school one afternoon before the bus run. At the reception, the cake is presented and other snacks and drinks are provided to the bus drivers. The school that conducted this project observed that the bus drivers were extremely appreciative.

Advice for Advisers

While doing some research for this newsletter, I discovered some great information on the [Oklahoma Student Councils Association](#) Web site that I thought you might find helpful:

1. **The Role of the Adviser:** "Successful organizations are made possible by willing, patient, and creative advisers. A progressive and innovative activity or group does not just happen, but is determined by the personal qualities of that adviser. Unity of the group and the purpose and goals of a group are all vital to an effective organization, yet the very "key" to that group's success is the adult serving in an adviser's capacity. The way the adviser plays his or her role can be most significant to an organization and to the school that organization serves. What is the unique role of an adviser? While there may be a difference on specific duties in a given school, there is a general agreement on the adviser's role as a planner, consultant, counselor, motivator, evaluator and teacher.
2. **Essential things for advisers to be mindful of:**
 - a. Allow students the freedom to make the decisions or be meaningfully involved somewhere in the process of making decisions.
 - b. Devise means to keep all the members of the Council involved.
 - c. Keep lines of communication open among the Council, faculty, and administration.
 - d. Keep the school community aware of Student Council activities.
 - e. Be familiar with the development and workings of administrative policy in the school.
 - f. Guide the Council through meetings, by involving the officers and members.
 - g. Inspire and motivate members.
 - h. Represent the administration and the faculty.
 - i. Assist with campaign and election of officers and representatives.
 - j. Assist with organization and operation of Student Council by offering suggestions to students and addressing the faculty throughout the school year to encourage support.
 - k. Coordinate all Student Council meetings and their proceedings.
 - l. Maintain a calendar for scheduling Student Council events.
 - m. Attend all after-school Student Council activities and remain until all students have left the activity.
 - n. Approve all special announcements regarding the Student Council.

3. **Ask these questions to evaluate the effectiveness of your SCA. Does our student council:**
- a. Represent student feelings, opinions, and interests?
 - b. Give students a share in decision making?
 - c. Help develop potential leaders through leadership workshops?
 - d. Encourage students to participate in school activities?
 - e. Promote an activity program that is open to all students?
 - f. Promote respect for law and order?
 - g. Emphasize citizenship and democracy?
 - h. Help students understand their role in school government?
 - i. Develop within individuals a sense of responsibility for their own conduct and behavior during school hours?
 - j. Develop an understanding, respect and appreciation for cultural differences and similarities?
 - k. Develop a sensitivity to and awareness of the needs and problems of others?
 - l. Develop desirable sportsmanship attitudes?
 - m. Develop friendship among all students and a general feeling of friendliness in the school?
 - n. Take pride in the condition and appearance of the school building, school grounds and other facilities?
 - o. Promote school loyalty and spirit?
 - p. Create good relationships between faculty and students?
 - q. Involve students in both social and organizational problem solving?
 - r. Encourage good relations with other schools?
 - s. Coordinate school activities?
 - t. Sponsor social and recreational activities?
 - u. Conduct and regulate all school campaigns, elections, and officer installations?
 - v. Perpetuate school customs and traditions?
 - w. Participate in and promote school service projects?
 - x. Develop individual feelings of self-confidence and social maturity?
 - y. Promote scholarship?

Students Leading Other Leaders

For those students leaders reading this newsletter, here are some student tips that I found on the [Oklahoma Student Councils Association](#) Web site:

1. **As a newly elected officer, you must:**
 - a. Remember all the promises you made during the elections
 - b. Fully achieve what you pledged yourself to do
 - c. Keep in mind that leadership is service to your organization
2. **You can succeed by:**
 - a. Honestly recognizing your challenges and parameters – vaccinated with hope, dedication, worth, a sense of value, and total understanding.
 - b. Learning to laugh at yourself and learning from the mistakes you make
 - c. Being conscious of the basic human dignity and the worth of others
 - d. Knowing your role and the role of others in the organization and school

Challenge to Adopt A School: A Project for every VSCA school to consider

Many of you reading this letter already recognize the benefits of membership in the Virginia Student Councils Association. Perhaps you are like me, and as an SCA adviser you have seen your student leaders improve as leaders through their involvement in VSCA activities. Maybe you are a student leader who has made great memories at the annual VSCA Convention. Since you have benefitted from VSCA, I would encourage you to “adopt a school” to join and become active in VSCA. Pick a neighboring school or a feeder school. Encourage them to join VSCA and tell them how it has benefitted your school and your SCA. Your positive outreach and encouragement could get them involved in VSCA and could quite possibly revolutionize the student leaders at their school.

Quotes to Inspire

I hope that some of these quotes may lift you up and provide some encouragement:

“Treat a man as he appears to be and you make him worse. But treat a man as if he already were what he potentially could be, and you make him what he should be.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time.”

John Knox

“Adversity is the first path to truth.”

Lord Byron

“Things turn out the best for people who make the best of the way things turn out.”

John Wooden

“There is no man living who isn’t capable of doing more than he thinks he can do.”

Henry Ford

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.

Contact Information:

VSCA State Office
4909 Cutshaw Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230
VSCA Director (direct line): 804.370.0822
VSCA State Office: 804.355.4263
Fax: 804.355.4262

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