



The Student Leader

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

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue...

Welcome to a new year of student leadership! This inaugural electronic newsletter is for student leaders and advisers who are "brand new", and those who are "veteran" student council participants. Issued monthly, the newsletter will inform students and advisers of upcoming opportunities, workshops, and activities of the Virginia Student Councils Association (VSCA). The newsletter will also give advisers and students the chance to learn from each other. Students and advisers will be able to get new ideas from this newsletter for their SCA and share some of the great activities they are involved in.

The Student Leader 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

October 30 - Region 3
Stafford H.S.
Stafford Division

December 11 - 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
See the end of the newsletter to find out which region your school division is in.

If you want to learn more about the VSCA, look further into this newsletter for the VSCA Overview and Mission.

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 President School

Hello Fellow VSCA Schools!

York High School is incredibly excited about being your President School this year. After the first VSCA Advisory Committee on September 18th, we couldn't be more pleased with the direction VSCA is moving in. With the newly revamped Web site, we know that VSCA can become much more to people than just an awesome convention in the spring. The Web site can be used as a great resource for new ideas and to let other SCAs know what's going on across Virginia. In addition, we are excited that area workshops are being planned to increase leadership development opportunities for students.

Speaking of Convention, we are thrilled that the location has been changed from the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center to the Marriott in Williamsburg, April 1-3, 2011. Though we know everyone always had a good time in Richmond, we wanted to spice Convention up a bit, and the change in location is just the first step! The VSCA Advisory Committee looks forward to planning the convention around our 2010-2011 state theme, *VSCA: Dedicated to a New Decade!*

To make this year great, we need your help. Please make sure to explore the new Web site and keep in touch with us. York High School does not take the job of President School lightly. We want to be the best President School possible, and we welcome any suggestions you may have. It's going to be a great year, and we encourage you to stay involved in the great organization that is VSCA. See you at Convention!

*York High School, President School
Emily Wiggans, Student Representative
Amy Holtschneider and Kris Moore, Advisers*

Spirit Links

Spirit Links is a section of the newsletter dedicated to Spirit Activities. For this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. **PENNY WARS:** In this activity, each grade level is pitted against one another. At the high school level, the Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores and Freshman are against each other. The goal of the competition is to be the class with the most points. Students place pennies in their class' container in the cafeteria during lunch for several weeks. Each penny is worth a point. Nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars deduct points. For example, a quarter placed in a container takes away 25 points. Students place pennies in their class' container, and other types of money in the other classes' containers. Some schools that have done this have also collected canned food and given the cans a value of 50 points. The class with the winning amount of points gets half of all of the money contributed and the other half of the money is donated to charity. This is an easy activity for students to participate in and it can easily build spirit and positive class rivalry. The challenge is to make sure that the money is counted often and point totals are given out every day to keep up the student interest level. Students and advisers that want to conduct this activity need to make sure that their school bookkeeping rules are followed.

2. **SPIRIT LINKS:** This is the activity that this part of our newsletter is named for. Spirit Links is a fun activity for a time such as Spirit Week. Many schools have days during Spirit Week before Homecoming where students dress up or wear crazy costumes. In Spirit Links, every student attired appropriately for the theme checks in at the SCA table in the cafeteria during lunch. Each student dressed up gives that class (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior for example) a Spirit Link. The Spirit Link is a strip of construction paper which is made into a loop. These are then joined and displayed in a public place in the school. The class with the longest chain of Spirit Links is the winner. This is a fun way to build participation in events like Spirit Weeks.

3. **HOMECOMING DECORATING CONTEST:** One school shared the idea that they decorate the walls of their commons/cafeteria as part of their Spirit Week festivities. The SCA comes up with a theme like decades, seasons, entertainment genres, etc... Each class (Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors) then selects a more specific topic within the theme. For example, if the theme was decades, the classes would select the 50s, 60s, 70s, or 80s. The students put up their wall decorations on the Monday of Spirit Week for Homecoming. One of the days of Spirit Week is usually "Match Your Wall Day." The students even create a skit for their wall for when it is judged. This activity gets a lot of students involved and helps to build excitement for SCA.

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 mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. **ADOPT A SCHOOL:** This idea is especially suited for those students and advisers who have come to realize the advantages of being involved in VSCA. The adopting school must really reach out to help the school that they have adopted see the advantage of participating at the state level.

2. **CHRISTMAS FAMILY:** In this activity, the SCA adopts a family in need in their community. Many schools have connections with charitable organizations in their community that can locate families in need. The SCA gets the "wish list" from the charitable organization and buys the presents. Each

member of the SCA contributed ten dollars to help pay for the gifts. The SCA that did this activity then had a wrapping party, with pizza, to get everything ready for the family in need. The adviser, in conjunction, with the charitable organization, delivered the presents. This is such a wonderful activity for the holiday season.

3. TURKEY FEATHERS: The school that used this activity conducted this in the two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Each fifth period class was given a paper turkey. This school had block scheduling and the fifth period class was the only class that met every day. During lunch, for two weeks, the students purchased paper turkey feathers for one quarter each. The students then attached the turkey feathers to the paper turkey on the door of their fifth period class. The class with the most turkey feathers wins! The winning class receives a pizza party. This activity raises a lot of money that is all donated to charity.

VSCA OVERVIEW AND MISSION

The Virginia Student Councils Association (VSCA) is a leadership learning organization for student leaders from public and private PreK-12 schools throughout the Commonwealth. VSCA provides learning experiences in leadership and opportunities to practice the citizenship skills necessary for effective participation in our democratic society. VSCA encourages the formation, development, and expansion of student councils in all schools (PreK-12) in Virginia.

Mission

The principal goals of the Virginia Student Councils Association are to:

- instill American ideals, including the development of leadership and citizenship, among the youth of today.
- foster student leadership in a democratic environment.
- assist all student councils in becoming more effective organizations.

VSCA State Regions (effective July 1, 2010).

These regions are the same as the VASSP regions and the Virginia Department of Education's study regions.

REGION I

Charles City County
Chesterfield County
Colonial Heights City
Dinwiddie County
Goochland County
Hanover County
Henrico County
Hopewell City
New Kent County
Petersburg City
Powhatan County
Prince George County
Richmond City
Surry County
Sussex County

REGION II

Accomack County
Chesapeake City
Franklin City
Hampton City
Isle of Wight County
Newport News City
Norfolk City
Northampton County
Poquoson City
Portsmouth City
Southampton County
Suffolk City
Virginia Beach City
Williamsburg-James City County
York County

REGION III

Caroline County
Colonial Beach City
Essex County
Fredericksburg City
Gloucester County
King George County
King & Queen County
King William County
Lancaster County
Matthews County
Middlesex County
Northumberland County
Richmond County
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County
West Point Town
Westmoreland County

REGION IV

Alexandria City
Arlington County
Clarke County
Culpepper City
Fairfax City
Fairfax County
Falls Church City
Fauquier County
Frederick County
Loudoun County
Madison County
Manassas City
Manassas Park City
Orange County
Page County
Prince William County

Rappahannock County
Shenandoah County
Warren County
Winchester City

REGION V

Albemarle County
Amherst County
Augusta County
Bath County
Bedford City
Buena Vista City
Campbell County
Charlottesville City
Fluvanna County
Greene County
Harrisonburg City
Highland County
Lexington City
Louisa County
Lynchburg City
Nelson County
Rockbridge County
Rockingham County
Staunton City
Waynesboro City

REGION VI

Alleghany County
Botetourt County
Covington City
Craig County
Danville City
Floyd County
Franklin County
Henry County
Martinsville City
Montgomery County
Patrick County
Pittsylvania County
Roanoke City
Roanoke County
Salem City

REGION VII

Bland County
Bristol City
Buchanan County
Carroll County
Dickenson County
Galax City
Giles County
Grayson County

Lee County
Norton County
Pulaski County
Radford City
Russell County
Scott County
Smyth County
Tazewell County
Washington County
Wise County
Wythe County

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REGION VIII

Amelia County
Appomattox County
Brunswick County
Buckingham County
Charlotte County
Cumberland County
Greensville County
Halifax County
Lunenburg County
Mecklenburg County
Nottoway County
Prince Edward County

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.

This newsletter was distributed by e-mail on October 5, 2010 to all VSCA member schools at the request of VSCA Director Michael Nelson.