



# The Student Leader – February 2014

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

## **Digging out of the snow...enough already!**

I am certain that many of you are tired of the snow and ready to get back to school. To help you in your return to "business as usual" we have included more great ideas from some great Student Council Associations in the Commonwealth. The schools featured are Hayfield Elementary School, Louise A. Benton Middle School and King George High School. We are proud to feature great activities from student councils of all levels.

The Student Leader, as always, reminds all of our readers about the VSCA Convention. The VSCA Convention is the highlight of student leadership across Virginia for middle, elementary, and high school youth. Visit the VSCA website to find out all the wonderful information about Convention. The VSCA Convention, the highlight of student leadership in Virginia, is scheduled for April 4 - 6 at The Homestead.

Continue to provide the VSCA state office with as much feedback as possible from Leadership Workshops and other VSCA activities. I encourage you to try the project ideas in this newsletter. Also, if you have a great idea that you have tried, please submit the idea to me. I always LOVE printing the great ideas of student leaders and advisers of Virginia in this newsletter.

**Don't forget this year's theme: VSCA: Lead the Change.**

**Please complete the Convention Service Project and bring your results to Convention (See page 3)!!**

*Mike Nelson, VSCA Director*

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### **Upcoming Events:**

*VSCA Convention – April 4 - 6*

# **VSCA STATE CONVENTION**

**April 4 - 6, 2014**

**The Homestead**

**\*\*Begin to make your plans for the VSCA State Convention.\*\***

**\*\*State Convention will be held at The Homestead  
April 4 - 6, 2014\*\***

**\*\*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, learning labs, 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 is posted at [www.scaleader.org](http://www.scaleader.org).\*\***

# UPDATE



## **VSCA State Convention Service Project – Change for Change** *VSCA: Lead the Change*

The service project for the 2014 Virginia Student Councils Association State Convention is “Change for Change.” The purpose of this service project is to raise money for the VA Hospital and to support research efforts to fight cancer. Student Councils are to donate 75% of all funds raised to the VA Hospital and 25% to the fight against cancer (this would be to the cancer research agency of the school’s SCA’s choosing). The Convention service project that reaches out to these communities in need supports the 2013 – 2014 VSCA theme of VSCA: Lead the Change.

### *What you need to do to participate in the VSCA State Convention service project:*

- **Collect donations through any means in which change can be collected. This is up to each individual SCA to decide.**
- **The schools collect the money. Each school donates the money to the VA Hospital and the research in the fight against cancer. Donations are to be done by the school. The money should NOT be sent to the VSCA Office.**
- **Schools may bring pictures of their collection efforts, but the money should NOT be brought to Convention.**

Good luck in the Change for Change project. With the help of your school’s student council with this project, the VSCA can truly Lead the Change.

If you have questions or need more information, contact VSCA Director Mike Nelson at 804.370.0822 or [mnelson@scaleader.org](mailto:mnelson@scaleader.org).

# **PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST AT VSCA STATE CONVENTION**

**WHEN: Saturday, April 5, 2014  
10:10 – 10:50 a.m.**

**WHERE: VSCA Annual State Convention**

**HOW LONG: 3 to 5 minutes**

**TOPIC: Address the Convention theme – “Lead the Change”**

*Participants will be judged on physical delivery, vocal delivery and content.*

**Come prepared to sign up at Convention!**

# UPDATE: VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION FORUM

The Virginia Student Councils Association is fortunate to have the Virginia Board of Education once again conduct a Forum on matters concerning student leaders at the VSCA State Convention at the Homestead.

At the Regional Meetings on Friday, April 4, student leaders will have the opportunity to discuss and share their opinions on various topics of interest relating to schools and the Board of Education. These regional discussions will help students to focus their ideas and plan out what they would like to say to the board later in the evening on Friday. ***This year, students are encouraged to present to the board and the VSCA a written record of their comments at the forum.***

Members of the Board will listen to the students and their concerns in an open forum format. Board members will also be involved informally in the Convention, allowing for students to have more relaxed conversations with the Board.

**VSCA CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT:**

***JUSTIN BOUDREAU TO BE KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER***

Justin Boudreau known by students as the “Dude Who Changed My Life” is ready to bring awareness to your “community.” His insightful “There YOU Are” vision and his expertise in HUM-ERGY (Humor & Energy) will empower your students to step up and stand out.

This former high school teacher, coach of the year, world traveler and author, exudes a realness that students don’t question. On stage he will inspire your students to worry less about being cool and focus more on their future. Justin’s words will resonate with the entire audience and motivate students to start accepting themselves and understanding others.

In 2007, Justin created and launched “Calling for Gratitude,” a campaign that is based on paying gratitude forward. More than 30,000 people from more than 15 countries called the toll free gratitude hotline or posted a comment directly on the website, eventually attracting the attention of a Producer from “The Ellen Degeneres Show.” As a result, his unique and interactive approach on the topic of Gratitude has saved students from committing suicide.

Justin is the Founder & Executive Director of Gear UP for Excellence, offering high quality, cost effective leadership retreats and summer institutes for non-profit organizations and student associations across the country. Justin is the co-author of the book for teens “Gearing Up: Inside & Out for a Great Life”.

Justin is extremely grateful to be living a purposeful life with his beautiful wife Santana and their 8 year old son, Kai.

# **PARTICIPATION AT THE STATE LEVEL GET INVOLVED!**

## **The VSCA Advisory Committee Needs You**

If you would like to take your leadership to the next level, I encourage you to consider getting involved on the state level with the Virginia Student Councils Association Advisory Committee.

The VSCA Advisory Committee is composed of a President School, Vice President School, Secretary School, eight Regional Representative Schools at the High School level, three middle school representatives, and three elementary school representatives. In addition, there are appointed member schools. The members of the advisory committee are elected at the annual VSCA Convention. While there is an individual student and adviser that serve on the advisory committee for each elected position, they are actually representing their entire student council from their school.

Involvement on the VSCA Advisory Committee allows students to take an active role in guiding student leadership across the state. These student leaders are instrumental in planning the state convention and leadership workshops. Service projects and other ideas are formulated by the student leaders on the VSCA Advisory Committee.

Applications will be available at the State Convention and online at [www.scaleader.org](http://www.scaleader.org)

# School Highlights: Hayfield Elementary School

## Anti-Bullying Project:

The SCA worked with Guidance Counselors to present anti-bullying tactics through the school's student news show. The student leaders performed small skits each day depicting students bullying, and showing the students ideas of how to handle the situations without force. Each day of the weeklong anti-bullying event had a theme (i.e. "be a H.E.R.O.- Help Encourage and Respect Others", wear red, white, or blue, or camouflage, "Black Out Bullying" – wear black, "Take a Stand, Lend a Hand"- helping others throughout the day, "Take a Walk in Someone Else's Shoes"-wear mismatched shoes to show your empathy/caring for those who have been bullied, "Team Up Against Bullying"- wear Hayfield gear to show support for the anti-bullying campaign). Through these innovative methods, the Hayfield Elementary SCA was able to Lead the Change.

## Super Bowl Canned Food Drive:

January 29 was the Hayfield Super Bowl and canned food kick-off event. During this project, the Hayfield students wore the colors of their favorite Super Bowl team. The students voted for who they think will win the Super Bowl. The students were able to vote by placing one non-perishable food item in the box of their favorite team. The box was located in the school main lobby and monitored at all times by office staff. By the end of the day, the SCA announced Hayfield's choice for Super Bowl champion. The canned food drive continues through the month of February. The canned food items that continue to be donated are used to build a pyramid of cans in the alcove of the school for everyone to see how the drive is progressing. A drawing of a thermometer rising on the bulletin board is maintained as the canned goods come in throughout the month. The canned food items are donated to a local food bank.

# School Highlights: Louise A. Benton Middle School

## Leadership Lock-In:

The SCA of Louise A. Benton Middle School held an overnight "Leadership Lock-In" for their seventh and eighth grade representatives on January 31. The "Lock-In" lasted from 7 pm to 7 am. During that time, many different activities were held. Many of the activities were team-building events, where each small group chose a leader that led the group throughout the activity. The students, also, made many posters and banners for upcoming SCA projects. The advisers spoke to the seventh graders about the possibility of running for office. The highlight of the event was having a former SCA officer, who is currently an officer at C.D. Hylton High School, come and speak to the group. This former officer encouraged the eighth graders to stay involved with SCA when they move on to high school in the fall. Overall, this was a very successful leadership event!

## SCA Fundraiser:

The SCA of Louise A. Benton Middle School held a fundraiser from October 14 – 25. They sold "Brax Spirit Cups." The Brax company representative came to help kickoff the campaign by speaking to the students during lunch. The SCA sold NFL, MLB, and major university spirit cups, travel cups and spirit popcorn. All items sold for \$18, and the SCA received a profit of \$7.25 for each item sold. The Brax company offered their

own incentives, and the SCA also added an extra incentive. The SCA incentive was to hold an afterschool, “Moe’s Party” for anyone selling twelve sets or more – and it was very successful. In fact, this was a huge fundraiser for the Louise A. Benton Middle School SCA. The profit was over \$8,000; which is the most that the SCA has ever raised for a single fund-raiser. The products were enjoyed by the students, staff, and parents. The SCA of Louise A. Benton Middle would recommend this fundraising idea to other SCAs seeking to earn a lot of money.

## School Highlight: King George High School

### School Wide Fundraising Project: “We can CHANGE”

In order to raise funds for council activities throughout the year, the King George SCA hosted its first ever Coin War during Homecoming Week. This fundraiser involved collaboration between the Special Education Department and student council. Several special needs classes volunteered to help council officers keep up with the coin tallies by counting newly collected coins each day. This was a huge help, and the students’ teachers reported an increased excitement in their classrooms about learning about math, counting, and money. The winning social class of the coin war was awarded a week’s worth of early release bells to lunch, and the council collected approximately \$350 in donated change to use for upcoming events and activities.

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### And finally...

Please continue to send in great ideas so wonderful activities of great student leaders can be shared with student councils throughout the state. Please submit ideas to Mike Nelson, VSCA Director at [mnelson@scaleader.org](mailto:mnelson@scaleader.org), and he 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.*

*This newsletter was posted on the VSCA Website at [www.scaleader.org](http://www.scaleader.org).*