



The Student Leader – November 2013

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

Thanksgiving!

Many advisers are thankful this time of year the Homecoming is over! The activities of Homecoming can really drain even the most energetic advisers. But fear not, there are a number of upcoming opportunities to re-charge your "leadership batteries." We are proud to offer an advisers' workshop for the first time in recent years. The workshop will take place on December 4th in Williamsburg. You can find more information about this on page five of the newsletter. In addition, we have a number of leadership workshops around the state for you and your student council. And, don't forget the VSCA Convention, the highlight of student leadership in Virginia, is scheduled for April 4 - 6 at the Homestead.

Our keynote speaker at this year's convention will be Justin Boudreau. He is a phenomenal speaker; More information on Justin can be found on page three of the newsletter.

Included in this issue are articles on the VSCA Achievement Award and involvement on the state level. I encourage every SCA to apply for the Achievement Award and to consider pursuing leadership opportunities at the state level.

I have encouraged you to take risks with student leadership. I also encourage you to try some of the project ideas in this newsletter. Please let me know if you attempt any of these activities. Also, if you have a great idea that you have tried, please submit the idea to be featured in The Student Leader. 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.

Mike Nelson, VSCA Director

VSCA State Office

Mike Nelson, VSCA Director
804.370.0822 (direct)
mnelson@scaleader.org

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

www.scaleader.org

Inside this edition:

Leadership Workshops	2
VSCA Convention Speaker	3
Achievement Award	4
Advisers Workshop	5
VSCA Elections	6
School Spotlights:	
Acquinton Elementary	7
Park View HS	7
Liberty High School	8
Contact Information	9

Upcoming Events:

Regional Leadership Workshops:

Region 1- Jan. 11 – Prince George H.S
Region 2- January 25 – Oscar Smith H.S..
Region 3 – Nov. 23 – Stafford H.S.
Region 4 – Dec. 7 – Orange Co. H.S
Region 5 + 8 – Nov. 23 – Buckingham HS
Region 7 – Jan. 25 – Patrick Henry HS,
Washington County.

ADVISERS WORKSHOP – DEC. 4

VSCA Convention – April 4 – 6

The Homestead

Here is some general information about VSCA Leadership Workshops:

Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals
Department of Student Leadership

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

We are pleased to offer leadership workshops for VSCA member and non-member schools. These workshops have been designed to assist schools in developing leadership potential in students, to promote leadership learning, and to foster regional and statewide networking opportunities. These workshops will also help to prepare students for leadership roles in the future by teaching essential skills.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Any elementary, middle and high school student leaders and advisers—including SCA, and other Co-Curricular Clubs and Organizations.

WHAT WILL WE LEARN? This workshop will offer leadership training and idea exchange in the following areas: Team Building, Ice Breakers, Goal Setting, Project Planning and Evaluation, Parliamentary Procedure, Roles of Officers, and Motivation (motivating leaders and participants).

HOW MANY STUDENTS MAY ATTEND? There is no limit to the number of students or advisers that may attend. Advisers are encouraged to accompany middle and high school students.

HOW MUCH DOES THE WORKSHOP COST? The workshop fee is \$15 per person for VSCA member schools and \$25 per person for nonmember schools and includes registration, materials, sessions and lunch. Additionally, for every ten (10) students attending from your school, one (1) adviser may attend for free!

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE WORKSHOP BE HELD? Please visit www.scaleader.org.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Registration**

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Opening Session**

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Skill Workshop 1**

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Skill Workshop 2**

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Lunch**

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Skill Workshop 3**

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Skill Workshop 4**

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Closing Session**

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.

Despite being bullied, barely being able to read, and having zero friends until middle school, Justin fulfilled his childhood dream by qualifying to compete in a professional beach volleyball tournament. He humbly states: “as a below average student with incredibly low self-esteem, I finally realized (at 22 years old) that I also played a key role in holding myself back for too long.”

This former high school teacher, coach of the year, world traveler, and author, exudes a realness that students don’t question. On stage, his heart (not his ego) 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 over 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 impacted many students’ lives.

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.

The VSCA Achievement Award: Why You Should Apply!

State Theme: VSCA: Leading the Change

Every Student Council should apply for the VSCA Achievement Award. The Achievement Award is not as daunting as you might originally think. Many student councils do much more than is required by the stipulations of the Achievement Award.

In order to receive the Achievement Award, an SCA must have at least one activity that reflects the VSCA theme. The VSCA theme for 2013 – 2014 is VSCA: Leading the Change. In addition, the SCA must execute seven additional activities if they are a high school, six for middle schools, and five for elementary level. The application form lists many varied activities that qualify for fulfill this requirement.

To apply for the VSCA Achievement Award go to www.scaleader.org. On the website, find the link to the Achievement Award. It is included in the Convention Awards Packet. All schools that are awarded the Achievement Award are recognized at the VSCA Convention.

December 4, 2013
Student Council Advisers Workshop

Elementary · Middle · High
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Virginia Student Councils Association is offering a workshop for advisers responsible for running their school's student council organization. The lead presenter for this workshop will be Meghan A. Timlin, assistant principal, Independence Middle School, Virginia Beach Public Schools.

Workshop fee includes registration, morning coffee and danish, lunch, instruction and all materials. Here is a sample of topics that will be covered at the workshop:

Icebreakers • School Climate • Networking • Idea Sharing • Self-Awareness • Developing Student Leaders • Elections • Bylaws • Motivating Students • Fundraising • Fostering Student Involvement • SCA Adviser Handbook

The workshop will be held at the Williamsburg Doubletree, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185. For overnight accommodations call the Doubletree at (757) 220-2500. Please say that you are attending the Student Council Advisers Workshop in order to receive the conference rate of \$83.00 + 11% tax. Participants are responsible for their own hotel accommodations.

Workshop fee is \$125 for VSCA member school advisers and \$155 for nonmember school advisers. Fee is \$105 for each additional registration from the same school.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE WORKSHOP IS NOVEMBER 27, 2013.
PLEASE CALL THE VSCA STATE OFFICE AT (804) 355-4263 FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION.**

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

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 get involved on the state level with the Virginia Student Councils Association Advisory Committee.

The VSCA Advisory Committee is made up 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 to these positions, 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.

If you have any interest in running for a state office, follow the link below for more information. Applications and details about these offices will be posted in the Elections Packet on www.scaleader.org.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS:

Acquinton Elementary School

Members of the Student Council Association at Acquinton Elementary took this year's school theme to heart. This year Acquinton Elementary school is asking the students "To be the change you wish to see in the world" a quote from Gandhi. The Student Council Association set out to help change the world by starting right here at home. The President, Brock Kelchner, and Vice President, Addie Johnson, of the Council issued a challenge to all students to collect as many plastic and paper shopping bags as they could. During the months of October and November students collected five giant trash bags full of plastic and paper shopping bags. These bags were then delivered to the Cornerstone Food Bank in their hometown of King William. Instead of the bags being thrown away, or forgotten in someone's pantry, the bags will be put to good use. Cornerstone, a local food bank, will be using the bags to help distribute food to people in need. Acquinton Elementary is changing the world one step at a time.

Park View High School

Each year, Park View's Student Council members hold a canned food drive to benefit those in need of food around Thanksgiving time. On average each year, Park View raises between **300 lbs – 600 lbs** of nonperishable food items which are sent to Loudoun Interfaith Relief Food Pantry, a food pantry in Leesburg.

"CAN the Teacher" is a fun way Park View's SCA encourages the student body to collect cans. Each year the school has six staff members to participate. Each of these six people has a large shopping cart located in the cafeteria with a picture of his or her name taped to the front of the cart. Students are to place cans or other nonperishable food items in the cart of the teacher that they want to see wear a turkey suit. The last day before Thanksgiving, the teacher that "wins" the most canned goods wears the turkey costume for the day!

Liberty High School – Bedford, VA

As the home of the National D-Day Memorial, Liberty High School, Bedford, makes it a point to remember our veterans each year on Veteran's Day. The school staff is surveyed first to determine who is a military veteran. These staff members are recognized during the morning announcements and are thanked for their service to our country. Other activities used include:

1. Post stars or signs on the classroom doors of teachers/veterans with a thank you
2. Distribute goody bags to veterans on staff
3. Display American flags on the front lawn of the school in honor of veterans
4. Students are given gold stars and are asked to write the name of a veteran they know. Stars are then displayed in a prominent area of the school on Veteran's Day
5. Lunch is provided to the veterans on staff. For the very ambitious, invite vets from the community for lunch.

The Liberty SCA provides all staff members with US flag label pins or red, white, and blue ribbons. Students are asked to wear patriotic colors on Veteran's Day as well. Do something....our veterans deserve it!

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, and he 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 posted on the VSCA Website at www.scaleader.org.