



## The Student Leader

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

### The Homestead Awaits...

I am pleased to announce that the 2014 VSCA Convention site and date are official. This year's convention will be taking place at The Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia, April 4 – 6. This is a premier resort with outstanding accommodations. The VSCA Convention is the perennial highlight of student leadership in the Commonwealth, but this year it will be like no other. Not only will we be holding the Convention in a unique resort locale, but we will have moved the Convention to the western part of the state.

The VSCA calendar will soon be full of many opportunities for students and advisers to grow as leaders. Below the green box to the right of this introduction will be a list of preliminary dates for regional leadership workshops and adviser workshops in the next newsletter. The VSCA is excited to offer five Regional Leadership Workshops in the 2013 – 2014 school year.

Please submit any and all ideas for the newsletter. Many student councils can learn from your SCA's successes. We are proud to publicize any leadership learning activities throughout student councils in Virginia. I have reprinted some great ideas from some of the older *The Student Leader* issues that are no longer available online.

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

*Mike Nelson, VSCA Director*

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### Upcoming Events:

#### Regional Leadership Workshops:

Region 1- Jan. 11 – Prince George H.S

Region 2- Nov. 16 – Oscar Smith H.S.

Region 3- Nov. 23 – Stafford H.S.

Region 4 – Dec. 7 – Orange County H.S.

Regions 5 & 8 – Nov. 23 –  
Buckingham H.S.

**VSCA Convention – April 4 - 6**

*Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals  
Department of Student Leadership*

**Regional Leadership Workshops**  
**Presented by VSCA Regional Representatives Across the Commonwealth**  
**Location varies by Date**  
**10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

We are pleased to offer this leadership workshop for VSCA member and non-member schools throughout this Region and surrounding schools. This workshop has been designed to assist schools in developing leadership potential in students, to promote leadership learning, and to foster regional and statewide networking opportunities. This workshop 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. The fee 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 see page one of the newsletter for dates and location and visit [www.scaleader.org](http://www.scaleader.org) for registration forms.

**SAMPLE PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. <b>Registration</b>	12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. <b>Lunch</b>
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. <b>Opening Session</b>	12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. <b>Skill Workshop 3</b>
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. <b>Skill Workshop 1</b>	1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. <b>Skill Workshop 4</b>
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. <b>Skill Workshop 2</b>	2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. <b>Closing Session</b>

## **VSCA STATE CONVENTION**

**April 4 - 6, 2014**

**The Homestead**

**Hot Springs, VA**

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

**\*\*State Convention will be held at The Homestead from 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, 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 is posted at [www.scaleader.org](http://www.scaleader.org).\*\***

**REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE – FOLLOW THIS  
LINK:**

**[www.scaleader.org/View.aspx?page=conferences](http://www.scaleader.org/View.aspx?page=conferences)**

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS FEATURING:

### WOODGROVE HIGH SCHOOL

#### **THE SCA HELPS WELCOME FRESHMEN AND NEW STUDENTS TO THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR**

Woodgrove High School began their school year started on Tuesday, September 3, 2013, but the Thursday before school began the annual Orientation Day took place. At this event all 1,500+ students were invited to come to school, receive their schedules, tour the building, and meet their teachers.

The Student Council Association worked with the Counseling Office to make the orientation run smoothly. Members of the SCA provided guidance to new WHS students and the members of the incoming Freshman Class of 2017, as well as created an inviting and memorable experience.

The freshmen arrived one hour prior to upperclassmen and received special attention. They were greeted with festive streamers and balloons running the length of the entrance set up by the SCA. The main entrance to the school was flanked by our cheerleaders and marching band playing popular pep music and our Fight Song. After meeting their teachers, the newest Wolverines were invited into the cafeteria for some desserts. It was an opportunity to socialize and hopefully meet some new classmates. Orientation ended with the SCA welcoming the incoming freshmen with a mini pep rally - including cheers, games, and a glimpse of the school's three years' worth of traditions.

# ***Reaching Out***

*Reaching out is a section of the newsletter which will feature service projects. Here is a sampling of 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](mailto:mnelson@scaleader.org).*

## **1. Walk Against Drugs and Alcohol**

One Student Council Association became involved with their school system's annual Walk Against Drugs and Alcohol. The walk itself is more of a carnival, with some members of the community participating in a short walk through the community to show their support of an alcohol and drug free lifestyle. The SCA supported this event by running a "free" photo booth. The SCA had previously purchased two digital cameras and two printers. The SCA members brought costumes and other props borrowed from home or the theatre department. Additionally, the theatre department provided a small wooden bridge to use as a setting for the pictures. Participants in the walk against drugs and alcohol could get their pictures taken for free wearing silly costumes and outfits. This was very popular with the young children in attendance. Members of the SCA took pictures, helped with the costumes and props, and looked after the printing of the photos. This event is always a great success.

## **2. Students helping Teachers**

In this activity, students in the SCA helped teachers to set up their classrooms and collect their textbooks. This activity was challenging since so many students find it difficult to help out at school during the summer. SCA members went to teachers around the school and asked them for help. The adviser made sure to publicize to the staff through email and an announcement at a staff meeting, that SCA students would be there to help. Many students came to help, and the task was completed quickly. The SCA celebrated their hard work with a pizza party at the end of the day. The teachers were appreciative of the help. The students and advisers in this project realized that the more they assisted teachers, the more likely the teachers would be in helping them in future SCA projects.

### **3. Homeroom Guides**

One SCA found that new students to the high school needed help and assistance. The SCA divided up the new student homerooms. Each class was assigned a member of the SCA. The SCA member assigned to the room assisted the homeroom teacher in their tasks on the first and second day of school. Each SCA member had a list of topics to discuss with the class, involving the dress code, activities, and clubs. On the first day of school, the SCA members wore their shirts so they could easily be recognized by new students. To facilitate students asking questions, the SCA gave candy to anyone who asked a question. This event helped to improve the school climate on the first two days of school.

### **4. SCA Service Committee Ideas and Purpose**

A high school SCA decided they wanted to re-focus their service committee. The service committee had not been very active for the last several years. The SCA gave their service committee specific duties and responsibilities. These responsibilities included taking inventory of the SCA cabinets, and closets, setting up meetings, and developing one service project for each semester. With a specific plan in place, the service committee was far more successful.

### **5. Turkey Feathers**

The Turkey Feathers project was a fundraising activity for a local charity led by the SCA. Each fifth period class was given a paper turkey to put on their door. The SCA made paper turkey feathers to sell during lunch blocks. Each turkey feather was sold for a quarter. When the students purchased the turkey feathers, they brought them to their fifth period teacher. The fifth period teacher placed the feathers on the turkey taped to their classroom door. This activity raised nearly \$500 for the local charity. The classroom with the turkey with the most feathers won an ice cream party sponsored by the SCA.

# **Spirit Links**

*Spirit Links will feature school spirit 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](mailto:mnelson@scaleader.org).*

## **1. Black Out the Game!**

A Student Council at a local high school decided that they wanted to build spirit and enthusiasm for the basketball team. The SCA had a tradition of Pep Rallies and Spirit Events for football, but had never really done much to support basketball. The SCA decided to have an SCA night for the first home basketball game. All SCA members were admitted to the game at a reduced price, as long as they were wearing their SCA shirt. The SCA shirts that year happened to be black in color. The SCA members realized that since so many of them would be wearing black, they encouraged all the other students to wear black to the game. This wearing of black showed great solidarity and support for the basketball team. The event raised spirit for the game and the team won!

## **2. Girls vs. Guys Varsity Challenge**

Another SCA attempted to raise school spirit for basketball by having a girls vs. guys varsity challenge at their Winter Sports Pep Rally. In this event, the girls varsity team plays the guys varsity team in a short five minute basketball game. After they finished, a team of girls and boys who are not on the basketball team played a five minute game. The winner of each game played each other to determine the champion. This event helped everyone to become excited for basketball season like never before.

## **3. Door Decorating Contest:**

In this activity, each homeroom decorated their door for Homecoming. Each class was given two weeks to try to make their door the most spirited in the building. The winning class was given candy by the SCA. The SCA adviser and the principal determined the winning decorations on doors around the building, school spirit was enhanced throughout Spirit Week.

## *Dollar Signs*

*Dollar Signs will feature fundraising projects. 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](mailto:mnelson@scaleader.org).*

### **Miss High School**

The Miss High School pageant is popular with many high schools. In this activity, publicity of the event takes place months before. Any student who is interested in participating must attend an interest meeting. Students have to get a sponsor and attend rehearsals.

At the actual event, the contestants are judged on poise and character. There are competition categories, such as evening gowns and a question and answer segment. The winner of the pageant receives the honor of being in the town's Christmas parade. This has become a time honored tradition in this community, and the SCA has raised a significant amount of money from ticket sales for this event.

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### **Quotes to Inspire**

Be known for pleasing others, especially if you govern them...Ruling other has one advantage: you can do more good than anyone else.

**Baltasar Gracián**

The greater a man is in power above others, the more he ought to excel them in virtue. None ought to govern who is not better than the governed.

**Publius Syrus**

It is absurd that a man should rule others, who cannot rule himself.  
(Absurdum est ut alios regat, qui seipsum regere nescit.)

**Latin Proverb**

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.

**Aristotle**

Men's best successes come after their disappointments.

**Henry Ward Beecher**

Nothing contributes so much to tranquilize the mind as a steady purpose--  
a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye.

**Mary Shelley**

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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.

**Contact Information:**

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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).*