



## The Student Leader – March 2013

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

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Virginia Student Councils Association is thrilled that your school is a member, but we also need your help. The VSCA is a complex organization that relies on student leadership; much like your student council association. Please consider running for a state office, and adding your voice to the VSCA Advisory Committee!

This edition of The Student Leader features our Call for Candidates memo. We still need candidates to run for VSCA Secretary and a number of Regional Representative positions. If you have an active SCA, then you would make an excellent candidate school. The requirements for the student representative are not extensive, including having previously attended convention, and two hours of parliamentary procedure training. Please check out the memo in this edition of The Student Leader for more information or contact the VSCA Director.

### CONVENTION DEADLINES ARE FAST APPROACHING!!

The Board of Education will host a Forum at the VSCA Convention in which they will listen to the ideas that the student have about education in the Commonwealth. Your students will have the opportunity to get their voices heard by some of the most influential educational leaders in Virginia. This is truly leadership in action. The VSCA Convention, the highlight of student leadership in Virginia, will take place April 12 - 14 in Williamsburg.

Once again, I would encourage every SCA that is planning to attend Convention to participate in our Regional and Convention Service Projects. The purpose of these projects is to reach out and help the beleaguered Louisa School Division. These projects are Links for Louisa and Supplies for Louisa. Read the articles in this edition to find out how to participate. Our Convention and Regional Service Projects emphasize our theme of:

**VSCA: *Steering the LEADership Forward***

### Important upcoming Dates:

**Mar. 12 – Regular Registration Deadline for VSCA Convention**  
**April 1 – Final Deadline for Convention**

*Mike Nelson, VSCA Director*

### VSCA State Office

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### Upcoming Event:

*VSCA Convention – April 12 - 14*

# **School Spotlight**

In this section, Student Council Associations from across Virginia will be featured. If you would like your school to be featured, just simply send your ideas to [mnelson@scaleader.org](mailto:mnelson@scaleader.org).

## **School Spotlight #1: Courtland High School**

### **Project: Canned Food Drive for Fredericksburg Area Food Bank**

The Student Council Association of Courtland High School organized a canned food drive as a class competition for the school. Each class was challenged to bring the most cans to claim the snow cone prize. Each class got very involved this past year, with the winning class being the Seniors. Each B day, during the SCA class, the officers and executive board gathered cans from around the school until they reached 1,518 pounds of food. The food that was collected made 1,265 meals for families in the area. All food was donated to the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank.

## **School Spotlight #2: Massaponax High School**

### **Project: Walk-a-thon**

Every year, the SCA students have hosted a Walk-a-thon. The event was held at the Massaponax High School track. Money was raised for the local area special games. The special games were hosted at the high school and all of the county schools bus their students to participate in the festivities. Last year was the first year that the SCA opened the walk to all members of the county to promote community for the special needs students. The SCA had a very good turnout and hope to be even more successful next year. The participating party walked two miles and everyone enjoyed themselves. The SCA raised \$1,700 through donations and registrations and all the proceeds went to the special games. People paid \$15 for registration and they received a t-shirt and were allowed to collect donations from their families and bring it to the walk. The SCA plans to host this event for many years to come.

## **School Spotlight #3: Hickory High School**

### **Project: City Wide Service Project**

The President and the Vice President of the Hickory High School SCA joined with the SCA Presidents and Vice President from the six other Chesapeake High Schools in a city-wide service project. The student leaders met at Western Branch High School for a city-wide SCA meeting with the Superintendent in November. During the activity session, the students made cards and wrote letters to the Wounded Warriors in local hospitals. They made the cards out of construction paper using magic markers, glitter, glue, and cutout designs. The students also made Thanksgiving Baskets for some needy families in the Western Branch area. Each of the high schools brought items for the baskets. They decorated the baskets using magic markers, glitter, glue, and cutout designs. This project made the student appreciate what they have and realize the sufferings of the less fortunate. These projects gave the students a better appreciation for the people who serve this country and the sacrifices that they have made. The feeling of being able to give back to the community was rewarding to all of the students involved in the project.

## **School Spotlight #4: Pine Spring Elementary School**

### **Project: Holiday Cards**

A staff member at Pine Spring Elementary regularly volunteered at a local nursing home. The SCA made use of this helpful contact. The students made holiday cards in December to give to the residents at the nursing home. SCA representatives collected cards from their respective classrooms. The staff member who volunteered at the nursing home, stated that the residents were cheered up by the cards and kept them as mementos during the winter holidays. So many cards were made by the students, that the staff member sheared the excess with her brother who could take them to another nursing home.

## VSCA “Call for Candidates”

### *VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward*

Student leaders and their schools are encouraged to apply to be candidates for the following Regional Representative and State Office positions on the VSCA Advisory Committee for the 2013 – 2014 school year, for which the VSCA state office has not received any qualified applicants:

VSCA Secretary School

High School Representatives:

Region 2

Region 5

Region 6

Region 7

Elementary School Representatives:

Regions 1/2/8

Regions 3/4

Regions 5/6/7

Middle School Representatives:

Regions 1/2/8

Regions 3/4

Regions 5/6/7

Please download and complete the regional representative forms from the website at [www.scaleader.org](http://www.scaleader.org). Candidate information must be completed fully and turned into the VSCA State Office by **March 22**. Please consider running as a candidate to represent your region of Virginia at the state level. With your help and leadership, the Virginia Student Councils Advisory Committee can continue to provide leadership opportunities throughout the state.

Mike Nelson

VSCA Director



**VSCA State Convention Regional Service Project –  
School Supplies for Louisa**  
*VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward*

The Regional service project for the 2013 Virginia Student Councils Association State Convention is “School Supplies for Louisa.” The community of Louisa was dealt a devastating blow by the earthquake of 2011. The school system continues to need significant assistance to maintain essential services and support to students throughout the county. The Convention service project that reaches out to a community in need supports the 2012 – 2013 State Councils’ theme.

***What you need to do to participate in the VSCA State Convention Regional Service project:***

- **Collect School supplies prior to Convention. You should collect items based on your VSCA Region:**

**Region 1 – Glue Sticks and Three Ring Binders**

**Region 2 – Lysol or Clorox wipes and Dry Erase Markers**

**Region 3 – Construction Paper**

**Region 4 – Composition Notebooks**

**Regions 5 – 8 – Hand Sanitizer and Loose Leaf Paper**

- **Bring as many of these items as you can collect to Convention. At a minimum, each school should bring one item each for each student in attendance at Convention.**
- **The items will be boxed and organized during the Regional Meetings on April 12 at the VSCA Convention.**

Good luck in the Reaching out to Louisa project. With the help of your school’s student council with this project, the VSCA can truly continue *Steering the LEADership Forward*.

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).

**VSCA STATE CONVENTION**  
**April 12-14, 2013**  
**Williamsburg Hotel and Conference Center**  
**Williamsburg, VA**

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

**\*\*State Convention will be held at the Williamsburg Hotel and Conference Center  
April 12-14, 2013.\*\***

**\*\*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).\*\*\***

# UPDATE



## **VSCA State Convention Service Project – Links for Louisa**

*VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward*

The service project for the 2013 Virginia Student Councils Association State Convention is “Links for Louisa.” The community of Louisa was dealt a devastating blow by the earthquake of 2011. The school system continues to need significant assistance in maintaining essential services and support to students throughout the county. The Convention service project that reaches out to a community in need supports the 2012 – 2013 State Councils’ theme.

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

- **Sell Spirit Links at your school. The links are small pieces of construction paper. Each link should be sold for twenty-five cents.**
- **The schools collect the money. Each school donates the money to Louisa County Public Schools.**
- **Connect the Spirit Links sold in your school and bring the entire chain to Convention (if possible).**

Good luck in the Reaching out to Louisa project. With the help of your school’s student council with this project, the VSCA can truly continue *Steering the LEADership Forward*.

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).

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

**WHEN: Saturday, April 13, 2013  
10:10 – 10:50 a.m.**

**WHERE: VSCA Annual State Convention**

**HOW LONG: 3 to 5 minutes**

**TOPIC: Address the Convention theme –  
*Steering the LEADership Forward***

**Come prepared to sign up on-site at the Convention!**  
*Participants will be judged on physical delivery, vocal delivery and content.*

# **UPDATE: BOARD OF EDUCATION TO BE A PART OF THE VSCA STATE CONVENTION**

The Virginia Student Councils Association is fortunate that the Board of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia will once again be conducting a Forum on matters concerning student leaders at the VSCA State Convention in Williamsburg.

At the Regional Meetings on Friday, April 12, 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 on Saturday, April 13. ***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.

All in all, the presence of the Board of Education at the VSCA State Convention will elevate student leadership in Virginia to a new level!

## **VSCA CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### ***MR PHIL TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER***

One of the most influential and active voices for student leadership for the past thirty years is Mr. Phil and the Virginia Student Councils Association is pleased to announce that he will be our keynote speaker for the 2013 Convention.

Mr. Phil has spoken across the country to numerous student leadership organizations. He conducted many seminars and workshops at state leadership conventions. Mr. Phil has often been featured at the National Association of Student Councils Conference.

Mr. Phil has an engaging speaking style. He challenges student leaders to go above and beyond and reach out to others. Mr. Phil encourages and promotes student leadership that embraces all students. The message that Mr. Phil brings even engages advisers. Mr. Phil is that rare speaker who can communicate a meaningful message to students and adults. The Virginia Student Councils Association is honored to have such an accomplished talent coming to our Convention in 2013.

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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).*