



The Student Leader – February 2013

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

SHARE YOUR GREAT IDEAS!

We are excited to have a return of our School Spotlight section in this month's issue. In the coming months, The Student Leader will highlight some of the inspiring activities taking place at SCAs across the Commonwealth of Virginia. If you would like to have your SCA activities in The Student Leader, just simply share those ideas with the VSCA Director. Submit your great ideas to www.scaleader.org and they will likely end up in the next edition!

And of course, we continue to get excited and ready for Convention. 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.

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:

Feb. 28 – Deadline for the Call for Presentations for Convention

Mar. 12 – Regular Registration Deadline for VSCA Convention

April 1 – Final Deadline for Convention

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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 www.scaleader.org.

School Spotlight #1: C.D. Hylton Senior High School

Project: Homecoming Parade

On October 12, 2012, the Hylton Homecoming parade was held at 5 pm. The parade takes place a few hours before the Homecoming Game, and corresponded with the "Under The Big Top" theme of homecoming. The parade route started at Dale City Christian Church and ended at the school. Each class level of the SCA made a float and participated in the parade. The band, clubs, organizations of the school also participated including: the JROTC, Cheerleaders, and Latin Club. The Homecoming Court, school administration, and several invited dignitaries rode in convertibles secured by the SCA Executive Board. During the parade each float is judged for the most spirit and best float. The Executive Board ran the parade set-up, check-in, and staging. Members of the community, students, and families line the streets as the parade goes by each year and enjoy watching it. Everyone involved in the parade, whether through participation or viewing, found it to be enjoyable and it really helped to increase school spirit for the Homecoming Game that evening.

School Spotlight #2: Orange County High School

Project: Thanksgiving Dinner

Every year, for close to a decade, the Orange County High School SCA has held a Thanksgiving dinner at the high school. This dinner, however, is nowhere close to average. Free to all senior citizens in the community, this inexpensive but delicious dinner is held in the beautifully transformed cafeteria one week before Thanksgiving. This year, the Orange County High School SCA included a silent auction with donations from the community, students, and staff. With a heavy community turnout, the dinner allowed the money that was raised this year to be used to buy a wheelchair accessible van. The wheelchair accessible van went to a kind and well-known family in the community with sons (former graduates) suffering from Duchenne muscular dystrophy. All SCA members helped in decorating, hosting, cooking, and serving for a very successful night.

School Spotlight #3: Liberty High School

Project: Christmas Toiletries Drive

The Student Council Association of Liberty High School organized a toiletries drive in December, 2012 for the local Bedford Christmas store. Students and staff were asked to bring in soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, etc. The items were placed in collection bags that SCA volunteers distributed to each homeroom. Announcements were made to the entire school reminding them that some children just wanted these items for Christmas, instead of toys. When the collection period ended, SCA volunteers were amazed at the amount of items collected. Six very large boxes of items were delivered by delegates of the SCA to the Bedford Christmas store.

School Spotlight #4: Flint Hill Elementary School

Project: Holiday Craft Fair

The Holiday Fair was the main fundraiser for the Student Council Association of Flint Hill Elementary School. The SCA Students, with the help of parents, planned and organized this large endeavor. Two workshops were held in November, after school, during which the SCA made small gifts to be sold at the Secret Santa Shop. This shop enabled the students to buy inexpensive gifts for family and friends. Other Fair activities included the participation of forty-three professional crafters who paid a table fee to the SCA and then sold their wares in the gym, a Food Café, Pictures with Santa, Kids Craft Corner, Poinsettia Sale, Book Fair, and free gift wrap. On the day of the fair, SCA students helped to man all of these activities along with adult supervision. One of our teachers was from Connecticut, not far from where Sandy Hook Elementary School was located. This staff member conveyed a request to the SCA for the purchase of IPADS for their new school. The SCA voted unanimously to purchase two IPADS and cases with their profits from the Fair to be donated to Sandy Hook.



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.

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*****

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.

**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.

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.

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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.