



The Student Leader – Oct. 2012

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

Are You Stressed?

October is a tough month for many Student Council Advisors. Homecoming is usually consuming an advisor's every free moment. Planning for Pep Rallies, days of Spirit Week and a Homecoming Dance can cause even the best advisor to run out of steam. The Virginia Student Councils Association recognizes the hard work and dedication of advisers across the Commonwealth, especially during this time of year. Hopefully, this issue of The Student Leader will help to reinvigorate you and your student council.

The VSCA calendar is full of many possibilities for students and advisers to get recharged. Regional Leadership Workshops are a great way to get motivated. The VSCA is excited to offer five Regional Leadership Workshops in 2012 - 2013. The VSCA Convention, the highlight of student leadership in Virginia, is scheduled for April 12 - 14 in Williamsburg. Please look for email updates and mailings which will give more specific information on these events.

Included in this issue is an announcement about our VSCA Convention Keynote speaker. Also, look for articles on the VSCA Achievement Award and involvement on the state level. I would encourage every SCA to apply for the Achievement Award and to consider pursuing leadership opportunities at the state level.

Good luck as you continuously improve your student council and student leadership throughout your school.

Don't forget this year's theme: VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward.

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

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Upcoming Events:

Regional Leadership Workshops:

Region 1- Jan. 12 – Prince George H.S

Region 2- Dec. 15 – Grassfield H.S.

Region 3- Nov. 3 – Courtland H.S.

Region 4 – Dec. 8 – Park View H.S.

Region 5 -8–Nov. 10 – Buckingham

VSCA Convention – April 12 - 14

Here is some general information about VSCA Leadership Workshops:
Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals
Department of Student Leadership

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

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 for times and locations.

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:

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.

The VSCA Achievement Award: Why You Should Apply!

State Theme: VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward

Every Student Council should apply for the VSCA Achievement Award. The Achievement Award is not out of your school's grasp! Many student councils do much more than the requirements of the Achievement Award's application process.

In order to receive the Achievement Award, an SCA must have at least one activity that fits in with the theme. The VSCA theme for 2012 – 2013 is VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward. In addition, the SCA must do seven more additional activities if they are a high school, six if they are a middle school SCA, and five if they are an elementary school. The application form lists many different and varied activities that qualify.

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. Print this out and follow the instructions. All schools that are awarded the Achievement Award are recognized at the VSCA Convention.

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 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, 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, pay attention to www.scaleader.org. Applications and information about these offices will be posted by late November.

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:

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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.