



The Student Leader – December 2012

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

The Holiday Issue

While reading this issue of the Student Leader, I hope that you are looking forward to a restful and joyous holiday season. As many “seasoned” advisers can tell you, however, the season of student leadership never really ends. In fact, student council activity often picks up during this time of year. That is why this issue of The Student Leader is our holiday issue. In the Project Idea Section of this issue, many of our most popular seasonal projects and activities have been included. Many of these activities have been provided by wonderful schools throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia

Of course, an issue of The Student Leader cannot go by without mentioning the VSCA Convention. The VSCA Convention is the highlight of student leadership across Virginia for middle, elementary, and high school youth. Please check out the VSCA website to find out all the wonderful information about Convention. The VSCA Convention, the highlight of student leadership in Virginia, is scheduled for April 12 - 14 in Williamsburg.

Included in this issue is information 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.

Continue to provide the VSCA state office with any feedback possible from Leadership Workshops and other VSCA activities. I would encourage you to try some of the project ideas in this newsletter. Please give me feedback if you attempt one of these activities. Also, if you have a great idea that you have tried, please submit the idea to me. 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: Steering the LEADership Forward.

Mike Nelson, VSCA Director

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Upcoming Events:

Regional Leadership Workshops:

Region 1- Jan. 12 – Prince George H.S.
Region 5 -8- Jan. 12 – Buckingham H.S.

VSCA Convention – April 12 - 14

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 is in need of tremendous assistance to maintain essential services and supports to students throughout the county. The Convention service project that reaches out to a community in need supports the 2012 – 2013 VSCA theme of VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward.

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

- **Sell Spirit Links at your school. The links are just a small piece 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 Steer 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”**

Participants will be judged on physical delivery, vocal delivery and content.

Come Prepared to sign up on-site at the Convention!

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.

UPDATE: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

There are two final Regional Leadership Workshops for the Virginia Student Councils Association for 2012 – 2013. The final leadership workshops are for Regions 1 and 5 – 8. The Region One Leadership Workshop will take place on January 12 at Prince George High School. The Regions 5 – 8 Leadership Workshop will take place on January 12 at Buckingham County High School. Forms for these Leadership Workshop appear in subsequent pages of this newsletter and on the VSCA website. Three Regional Leadership Workshops were already held throughout Virginia. These leadership workshops gave students throughout Virginia the opportunity to enhance their skills for successfully running their student councils. If you missed out on your workshop this year, please make plans to attend these regional workshops when they are offered next year. These events get students ready for the VSCA Convention.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

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

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

We are pleased to offer these leadership workshops for VSCA member and non-member schools throughout Virginia. 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? These workshops 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!

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

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

Region 1
VSCA Leadership Workshop

Presented by

Prince George High School
Saturday, January 12, 2013
Prince George High School
7801 Laurel Springs Road
Prince George, VA 23875
Prince George Division

REGISTRATION FORM

School Name _____
School Address _____

School Phone (____) _____ School Fax (____) _____

Name of Adviser(s) _____ Home Phone (____) _____
_____ Home Phone (____) _____

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

ADVISERS AND ADULT PARTICIPANTS

1. _____ 2. _____

Please attach additional pages if needed

VSCA Member Schools

Non-Member Schools

_____ Students @ \$15 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Advisers @ \$15 ea. = \$ _____

_____ Students @ \$25 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Advisers @ \$25 ea. = \$ _____

(One adviser may register at no cost for every 10 students)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

REGISTRATION MATERIALS MUST BE POSTMARKED January 9, 2013.

Mail completed registration forms and payment to:

VSCA Region 1 Workshop
VASSP
4909 Cutshaw Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230

**Region 5, 6, 7 and 8
VSCA Leadership Workshop**

Presented by
Buckingham County High School

Saturday, January 12, 2013

REGISTRATION FORM

School Name _____

School Address _____

School Phone (____) _____ School Fax (____) _____

Name of Adviser(s) _____ Home Phone (____) _____

_____ Home Phone (____) _____

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

1. _____

6. _____

2. _____

7. _____

3. _____

8. _____

4. _____

9. _____

5. _____

10. _____

ADVISERS AND ADULT PARTICIPANTS

1. _____

2. _____

Please attach additional pages if needed

VSCA Member Schools

Non-Member Schools

_____ Students @ \$15 ea. = \$ _____

_____ Students @ \$25 ea. = \$ _____

_____ Advisers @ \$15 ea. = \$ _____

_____ Advisers @ \$25 ea. = \$ _____

(One adviser may register at no cost for every 10 students)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

REGISTRATION MATERIALS MUST BE POSTMARKED January 9, 2013.

Mail completed registration forms and payment to:

VSCA Region 5 and 8 Workshop

VASSP

4909 Cutshaw Avenue

Richmond, VA 23230

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 as difficult as you might think to get. Many student councils do so 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 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 would 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.

GREAT HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENT COUNCIL: A COMPILATION

1. Adopt A Family/Penny Roll

The Student Council Association of Buckingham County High School held a community service/activity that involved both the students and the teachers. The Penny Roll is designed to raise money for needy families in our community. The students were asked to bring pennies, or any other form of money, to each of their classes. The SCA has designed a schedule whereas on Thursday the students would bring pennies to their first block teacher, and Friday their second block teacher, etc. The SCA holds the Penny Roll for a total of four days. The school has four classes a day. The Penny Roll took place on December 6, 2011 and was scheduled to end on December 9, 2011. The teachers are asked to roll the pennies that the students bring in. The teacher is not supposed to start class until all of the pennies are rolled and brought to the Student Council Adviser. At the end of the day, the Student Council Adviser announces how much money was raised that day. The money that is collected and donated by the students is used to buy the family or families that the SCA adopts gifts for Christmas. The student's incentive for this particular project was a Christmas party for the homerooms that raised \$50 or more that would be held on December 16, 2011. The school had fifteen homerooms to reach this goal. This year the SCA adopted two needy families in the community. On December 12, 2011, a group of students took a shopping trip to buy for both families. The SCA scheduled a wrapping social for December 14, 2011. Students, teachers, parents, and other volunteers came to help with wrapping. The families picked up their gifts on Friday afternoon, December 16. It was amazing that the school was able to get this accomplished. This particular project demonstrated a focus on community for the SCA.

2. 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.

3. Elementary Service Project – Helping the Elderly:

One elementary student council visited a nearby adult daycare. The SCA met before the trip and practiced Christmas carols in English and Spanish. The students also created beautiful hand-made Christmas cards. On the day of the trip, they walked three blocks to get to the daycare. The students first sang the Christmas carols to a group of about 40 senior citizens. They (the senior citizens) were so excited that some of them joined in singing, especially with the songs in Spanish. Some of them even started crying. Then the students broke into groups and joined the senior citizens in playing bingo. They had a wonderful time and created friendships with them. The students also gave out their Christmas cards to their new friends. The Senior Citizens invited the students and the advisor to stay for snacks and punch. Some of them even gave the gift they had won in the bingo to the students. This elementary SCA had a great experience giving back to the community.

4. Parents' Night Out:

Submitted by Broad Run High School. The students in the SCA at Broad Run babysit kids from three years of age to eleven years old at their school. This night of babysitting is called Parents' Night Out. It is held on Saturday nights from 6 pm – 10 pm, six nights a year. The cost is \$10 per child and they generally make \$800 - \$1200 per night. The SCA students, along with volunteers from other clubs, spend time with the children in the gym, watching movies, doing crafts, and coloring. The SCA created and sent out flyers to all the local elementary schools to advertise the event.

5. Angel Tree:

Submitted by Hayfield Elementary School. During the winter holidays, the SCA of Hayfield Elementary places an artificial tree, their angel tree, in the front lobby of our school from the end of November until mid December. The ornaments on the tree are new hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and earmuffs that students have brought in for needy families in the Hayfield community. Under the tree they bring in new unwrapped toys to be given to the Toys for Tots campaign. This has become a tradition of great importance at Hayfield Elementary.

6. Project: Feeding Loudoun: Feeding and Educating Future Generations

Woodgrove High School, as a first year school, relied significantly on the support of the community. Therefore, the SCA decided to participate in a service project that would directly impact the local community. All proceeds from fundraising events went to two local food banks. Along with these donations, the SCA had a rotation of two members per week who would help serve food and tutor children at a local community dinner every Wednesday night.

7. CHRISTMAS FAMILY:

In this activity, the SCA adopts a family in need in their community. Many schools have connections with charitable organizations in their community that can locate families in need. The SCA gets the "wish list" from the charitable organization and buys the presents. Each member of the SCA contributed ten dollars to help pay for the gifts. The SCA that did this activity then had a wrapping party, with pizza, to get everything ready for the family in need. The adviser, in conjunction, with the charitable organization, delivered the presents. This is such a wonderful activity for the holiday season.

8. Project: Adopt-a-Child Service Project

C.D. Hylton High School's Student Council Association in partnership with the C.D. Hylton High School Chapter of Junior Civitans Club was able to help parents throughout Prince William County make the 2010 holiday season memorable for their children. The Senior Volunteers of the Voluntary Action Center, a division of the Virginia Seniors Corps, a non-profit organization that prides itself on combining the talent of elder citizens with younger volunteers, sponsors the annual UnTrim-A-Tree program or more commonly know at Hylton as Adopt-A-Child. In this program, less fortunate parents submit Christmas wish lists for their children. Students and staff of Hylton raised money to support purchasing fifty dollars worth of items for each child. The gifts are then collected and distributed back to the parents, allowing the families to celebrate the holidays.

In early December, members of the Hylton SCA began advertising and raising awareness for this worthy cause. Hylton's display case, located in the front of the school, was filled with toys as a constant reminder of the children the money would be helping. The toys were brought and the display case was set up by SCA

officers. The TV department taped short advertisements with SCA members that were shown each morning during the announcements. At the winter quarterly Homeroom Congress meeting, representatives from each of Hylton's seventy-five homerooms were informed of Hylton's goal of making the holidays more enjoyable for those who are less fortunate. Each representative was asked to return to his or her homeroom and explain the community service project. The homerooms voted on how many children they wished to adopt.

The students submitted the number of children along with any funds in a collection envelope to the SCA advisors' classrooms. Collections were taken in first period classes from November 29th through December 10th. After school, the money was counted by SCA and Junior Civitans officers. To ensure that all collections were accounted for and to keep track of each homeroom's donations, the money was entered into a database on the computer. The envelopes were then returned to the homerooms in order for the class representatives to continue to collect donations. To encourage generosity, Adopt-A-Child was run as a competition between homerooms. The winning class was given a free breakfast, courtesy of Hylton's SCA.

On December 15, 2010 the homeroom representatives whose classes met its commitment, active SCA members and officers, and Junior Civitans members met in the Hylton enclosed cafeteria to wait for the buses. After the children's wish lists were distributed, the students boarded busses to Mnassas Mall, where Target had agreed to allow the students to shop. They reserved four registers for Hylton's students use only. Over the next two hours, the students shopped for their children. The gifts ranged from clothing and shoes to toys and electronics. Hylton also purchases holiday wrapping paper, bows, and tape to each family so that they could wrap their children's gifts.

Upon return to the school, the gifts were brought to Hylton's enclosed cafeteria to be sorted. SCA executive board officers and Junior Civitan members assisted in assuring that the correct gifts were given to the children. Gifts for families with multiple children were placed together. Each family's gifts were then placed in bags and given numeric code. The gifts were deposited at the local armory. Adopt-A-Child "thank you" letters were then given to all the homerooms that contributed. Mr. Sampedro's winning homeroom class raised \$503.85 and enjoyed their complimentary breakfast of juice, bagels, donuts, fruit, and muffins. Hylton High School raised over \$5,100, which placed smiles on 100 children's faces.

9. Project: Salvation Army Angel Tree and Adopt a Family

Each year the Park View SCA "adopts" five children for the holidays. The children are selected from the local Salvation Army Angel Tree. Each one of the committees (consisting of SCA Representatives) is assigned a child. Each committee is given \$30 to shop for gifts for its respective "Angel" and we collect these at our December meeting, SCA brings the gifts back to the Salvation Army Angel Tree to be given to the children for the holidays.

The SCA Executive Council also adopts an entire family in need from the community. This year, the family consisted of a mother, father, and a middle school aged boy. The father injured himself and was unable to work for quite some time. The SCA spent \$250 shopping for the family and purchased gift cards, clothing, games, and food. Through this activity, the SCA is able to give the entire family the things they wish for the holidays and make the holidays just a bit more cheerful.

Advice for Student Leaders

While doing some research for this newsletter, I discovered some great information on the Oklahoma Student Councils Website for advisers that I shared in the last three newsletters. I then discovered great advice for student leaders, too,, so I thought that I would share:

Challenges of a Student Leader (after being elected!)

As a newly elected officer, you must:

- Remember all the promises that you made during elections
- Fully achieve what you pledged yourself to do
- Keep in mind that leadership is service to your organization

You are expected to:

- Be knowledgeable about most subjects, projects and available resources.
- Spend your time planning, organizing and implementing
- Be involved with most aspects of the organization
- Work with the organization's officers, advisers and members

You will be:

- Revered, admired, cheered, loved, maligned mimicked, ridiculed-but you are expected to lead within this context
- Walking the tight wire between right-wrong; best-worst; greatness-pettiness; humility-pride; laughter-tears; achievement-mistakes
- Continuously expected to serve as a role model, in and out of school

You can succeed by:

- Honestly recognizing your challenges and parameters – vaccinated with hope, dedication, worth, a sense of value, and total understanding
- Learning to laugh at yourself and learning from the mistakes you make
- Being conscious of the basic human dignity and the worth of others
- Knowing your role and the role of others in the organization and school

Challenge to Adopt A School: A Project for every VSCA school to consider

I put this in the last newsletter, but I am including it again because it is SO important: *Many of you reading this letter already recognize the benefits of membership in the Virginia Student Councils Association. Perhaps, you are like me, and as an SCA advisor you have seen your student leaders improve as leaders through their involvement in VSCA activities. Maybe you are a student leader who has made great memories at the annual VSCA Convention. Since you have benefitted from VSCA, I would encourage you to “adopt a school” to join and become active in VSCA. Pick a neighboring school or a feeder school. Encourage them to join VSCA and tell them how it has benefitted your school and your SCA. Your positive outreach and encouragement could get them involved in VSCA and could quite possibly revolutionize the student leaders at their school.*

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

This newsletter was posted on the VSCA Website at www.scaleader.org.