STUDENT LEADER

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VSCA Draws Record Crowd to State Convention in Portsmouth

By Reagan Wampler, 2016-2017 VSCA President

VSCA State Officers for 2016-2017 welcome delegates to the 2017 State Convention.

The 92nd annual VSCA convention was held in Portsmouth, Virginia. It was our biggest convention in the last decade. We had over 43 schools in attendance. The convention was filled with many amazing speakers, candidates, resolutions, workshops, and games!

Our first speaker was the Chief State School Educational Officer, Dr. Steven Staples, who addressed us on the new plans for the educational system in Virginia. Our keynote speaker was Kent Julian, who taught us that if we try new things, we might discover we love them. He expressed this by describing a time when he was a swim coach. One of his students hated wawa (water) but after surviving the obstacle of the diving board, he discovered his true love for wawa. Our last speaker was Ryan Thomas, the 2015–2016 VSCAPresident. He gave us insight on what to expect in college and what obstacles we might face.

At the end of each general session, we played games for the REGIONAL RIVALRY! We played Cotton Ball Game, Doughnut Game, Elephant Game, Jello Cup, Cheese Head, Scooter race, and Cookie Face. It was a tight race all three days but Region 2 in the blue won for the second year in a row.

One of the highlights of our Convention was being united with student leaders from around the state. Student council leaders met together and shared new ideas and new ways to enhance the mission of their SCAs. By participating in

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Low Cost Member Recognition Ideas

At the end of the school year it's important to take time to recognize the contributions of your group members in some way, but sometimes the group treasury is a little lean by the end of the year. The thoughtfulness of the recognition is more important than the dollar value behind it, so use some of the following ideas to personalize your member recognition this spring without breaking the budget.

■ **YOU ROCK!** Show your members they really rock by affixing fun accessories like eyeballs, mustaches, and hats (http://bit.ly/yourockcutouts) to personalize a rock (similar to Mr. Potato Head®). Include a note explaining why the member rocks.

■ **BREAKFAST BOX AWARDS.** Have a meeting before school starts one morning and recognize members with breakfast box awards created with small boxes of cereal and a note of thanks: Captain Crunch for a member who

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New State Officers Elected

Derek Shockley

Time is a preconception that everyone believes they can manage. During my time at Woodgrove High School thus far I have been able to manage a variety of responsibilities. For example, I am an active member in clubs like TSA (Technology Student Association), We're All Human, SCA, Class Council, and PEERs. I am also a member of three different honor societies (NHS, Mu Alpha Theta, and German Honor Society) and within two of the societies I hold an officer position. As well as being a member of those clubs, I have proposed to start a Physics Club called Sigma Pi Sigma. Being a member of all these different clubs is an important aspect in my life because they teach life lessons that can't be learned anywhere else. Also, it enables me to learn useful communication and leadership skills that can be beneficial for any and all of my endeavors.

Along with the extracurricular activities that I dabble in, I am also a highly accomplished varsity wrestler; some achievements include being two-time District Champion, 2017 Regional Champion, two-time All-State, and I was also selected for the First Team All County Wrestling. Those are merely just some of the accomplishments I have achieved, and this year I served as Woodgrove's first ever junior team captain. However, I don't wrestle just for the titles or to become an All-American. I wrestle because it is a sport that teaches once again

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Jillian Doerr

Hi everyone! I am Jillian Doerr, the VSCA Vice President for the 2017-2018 school year. I attend Grassfield High School and I am a rising senior. Previous to being elected, I have served as Freshman Class Office Vice President and many other positions throughout my school's SCA. Between the regional workshop meetings, the VSCA convention last year, and the advisory committee meetings this year, I knew I wanted to devote my time and passion towards VSCA.

At Grassfield, I am an avid member of the theatre company, I volunteer to read with elementary school children every week, and I am involved with many other clubs as well. After college, I plan to major in History and Education and teach in an underprivileged school system. Being involved in SCA and VSCA has led to me towards this career path and has opened my eyes towards the need for unity and service. This year, I hope to accomplish a state-wide sense of unity among the represented schools! A way of establishing unity is through service—and it is my main goal to introduce more service projects throughout the state! It is an honor to serve as Vice President and I cannot wait to 'Grow a Generation to Lead the Nation!'

Gabbi Troia

My name is Gabbi Troia and I am a rising Junior at Woodbridge Senior High School of Region 4. I have been a part of my SCA all three years as an officer, leading my committee in creating time capsule videos and promotional videos for school events, which is something I hope to bring to VSCA to increase participation. I helped to create the VSCA Convention promo video this past year, as well as the Convention kick-off video, and the Convention recap video.

I decided to run for Secretary because my school inspired me to. Our student council has grown exponentially in the past year, and that is due in part to a change in administration, a change in teachers, and a change in the students' motivation. I saw how we improved through being more inclusive and well rounded, and the positive impact it had on people who felt underrepresented. The videos we made and the use of social media contributed largely to our success, and the incredible people I met through the Advisory Committee motivated me to help do the same thing for VSCA. I thoroughly enjoyed helping and meeting new people this past year and am excited to continue building relationships between schools this coming year!

Woodgrove High School, President School

Grassfield High School, Vice President School

Woodbridge Senior High School, Secretary School

NASC Names 17 Virginia Councils as National Councils of Excellence for 2017

Seventeen schools have been named to receive the highly-esteemed 2017 National Council of Excellence Award by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC).

"Receiving an NASC National Council of Excellence Award indicates a dedication on the part of the local school to providing a strong, well-rounded student council program," says Anne Postlewaite, student programs director for the National Association of Secondary School Principals. "NASC applauds the work of the National Councils of Excellence and challenges them to continue their leadership and service to their schools and communities."

To meet the requirements for the NASC National Council of Excellence Award, a student council must prove that it meets a variety of criteria. In addition to such basic requirements as a written constitution, regular meetings, a democratic election process, and membership in NASC, councils demonstrate such things as leadership training for council members, teacher/staff appreciation activities, student recognition programs, school and community service projects, spirit activities, goal setting, financial planning, and active participation in state and national student council associations. The award recognizes the work of each council during a calendar year. Awards are given at both the high school and middle school levels.

Congratulations to the following student councils for continuing to demonstrate exemplary efforts to build student leaders and to improve their schools and communities through the member's service, leadership, and activities:

High School Gold Council of Excellence

Bayside High School
C.D. Hylton Senior High School
Chantilly High School
First Colonial High School
Floyd E. Kellam High School
Frank W. Cox High School
Grassfield High School
Green Run High School
Kempsville High School
McLean High School
Ocean Lakes High School
Osbourn High School
Princess Anne High School
Salem High School
Tallwood High School
Woodgrove High School

High School Council of Excellence

South Lakes High School

For more information on the process used to have your council designated as a Council of Excellence, go to *www.nasc.us/national-councils-of-excellence* for a listing of criteria and the application, which will be due February 15, 2018.

VSCA Awards 21 Schools for Achievement

Each year, VSCA honors member schools that promote leadership and community service through their school's Student Council activities by awarding an Achievement Award. This year, 21 schools were recognized for their achievements.

To be recognized, schools must apply and submit documentation of completing a variety of activities throughout the school year. The required projects must be assembled in a portfolio and reviewed by the school principal to be considered for an award. All member schools that complete the criteria for this award receive the award.

Congratulations to the 2017 recipients for this outstanding achievement:

Battlefield HS
Benton MS
Buckingham County HS
C.D. Hylton HS
Courtland HS
Grassfield HS
Hayfield Elementary
Hickory HS
Liberty HS
Massaponax HS
Mountain View HS
Orange County HS
Osbourn HS
Osbourn Park HS
Oscar Smith MS
Park View HS
Patrick Henry HS
Prince George HS
South Lakes HS
Woodbridge HS
Woodgrove HS

To apply for recognition in 2018, check the VSCA website this fall for information and the application form.

News & Notes

VSCA Delegation Heads to NASC

The VSCA is excited to announce that a delegation of 30 students and advisers will attend the NASC National Conference from June 26–28 at the prestigious Pinkerton Academy in Derry, New Hampshire. SCA members from Buckingham County High, CD Hylton High, Grassfield High, Liberty High, Orange Country High, Oscar Smith High, Woodbridge Senior High, and Woodgrove High will make up the delegation.

The Virginia delegation will leave on Saturday, June 24 and travel by charter bus to the Boston area. We are thrilled to be able to spend this time traveling together and discussing ways we can improve not just our own student councils at our schools but also the larger VSCA organization. Prior to the start of the conference, the delegation will spend an exciting Sunday in Boston exploring and taking in the great history and sites the city has to offer.

The NASC Conference will offer our student leaders and advisers amazing workshops that cover various leadership topics. Inspiring keynote speakers will address all delegates at general sessions. Delegates also will meet with other students and advisers from around the country and share ideas to improve their SCA organizations. One of the culminating activities will give all delegates the opportunity to reflect on themselves as leaders at the leadership illumination.

The VSCA is very excited for this opportunity and the schools attending are anxious to share so many ideas with the rest of the state!

Share Your Successful Ideas

Does your council do a great fundraiser? Do you sponsor a project that is particularly successful? Are you effective at using social media to get the word out?

Write up a short description and send it with photos to *Avail@scaleader.org* and you could find yourself featured in an upcoming issue of *Student Leader!*

Benton Middle – SCA Update!

Spring is a busy time of year for the Benton SCA. Elections were held for next year's Leadership Team – a total of 10 new officers were chosen. The new president will be Emily Flugrad and new vice-president will be Carley Mayers. In addition, Emma Weaver will be the VSCA Committee Member for next year representing Benton. The new Leadership Team is already meeting to plan next year's events and activities.

This year instead of holding a quick Installation Ceremony during the school day, there will be an SCA Installation Ceremony and Awards Program held on June 7th at 7:00 PM. This is an idea that came from the "Accolades, Awards and Appreciation" learning lab at the VSCA Convention. All of the current representatives will be recognized, and the new representatives will be sworn in. The transfer of power within the Leadership Team takes place with the lighting of candles. Many more parents are expected to attend with this being moved to the evening.

On Saturday, May 20 the Benton SCA will participate in the "Relay for Life" event held at Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas. This is the second consecutive year the SCA has participated in this event. SCA members canvassed the building for a week collecting donations in colorful buckets from teachers and students alike. New "Relay for Life" t-shirts will be worn this year by students participating, as well. Approximately 30 students will be attending this important event.

The SCA will once again plan and host the "8th Grade Semi-Formal Dance," on Friday, June 9. SCA 6th and 7th graders will decorate the gym, roll out the red carpet, and serve refreshments throughout the evening. It is an honor to send off the 8th graders with this gala event each year.

State Convention (cont'd from pg.1)

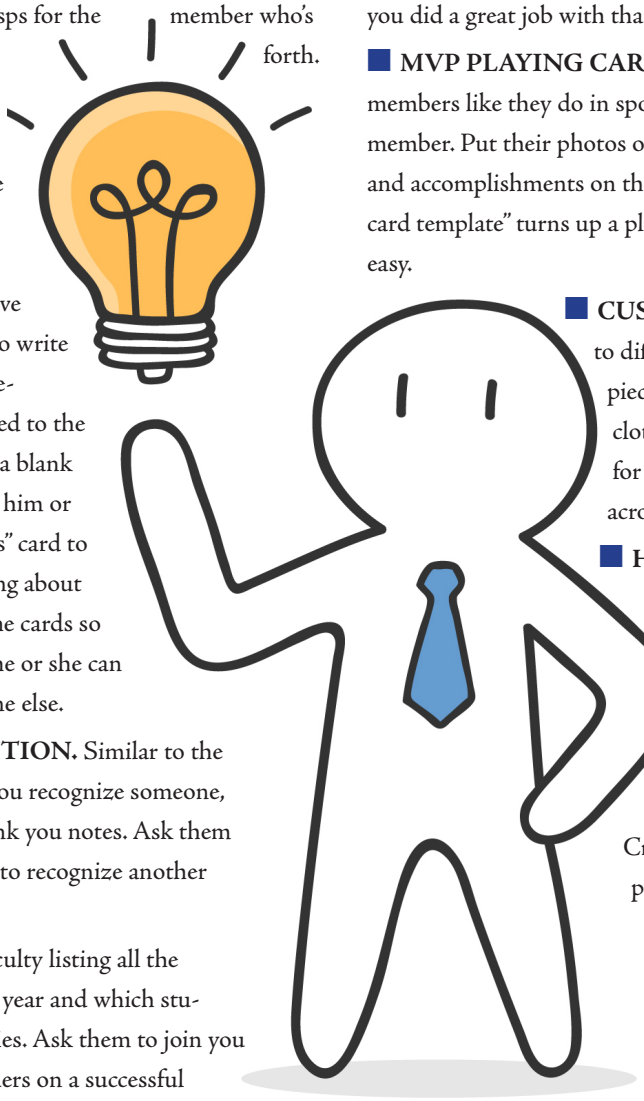
the VSCA Convention, it not only makes their SCAs better, but participants also return with ideas to improve their entire school community.

Our primary focus in the closing session was the 2017–2018 State theme, "Grow a Generation to Lead the Nation." We chose this as our state theme because we believe that it is our duty to pass on what we have learned as leaders and share that with the younger generations. We also wanted to embrace the heritage of more than 250 years of historical leaders; from George Washington to Walter Reed to Woodrow Wilson, we are the budding leaders of a much larger family.

The 2017 VSCA convention was full of adventure and learning about our own rhythm of leadership. If you would like to help plan next year's convention, please apply for the VSCA advisory council. They meet three times a year at Tomahawk Creek Middle School. We hope to see soon at one of the regional meetings next fall or at our next convention in 2018!

Low Cost Member Recognition (cont'd from pg. 1)

comes through in a crunch. Lucky Charms for the member you feel lucky to have in your council. Cheerios for the member who is consistently cheerful. Golden Crisps for the member who's worth her weight in gold, and so forth.



■ **ENCOURAGING WORDS.** Start an "encouraging words" chain in which you use a computer to design and print out special cards. Begin the chain by sending the first five cards to five deserving members, taking time to write individual notes recognizing something each member has contributed to the organization. Give each recipient a blank "encouraging words" card and ask him or her to send an "encouraging words" card to another member, noting something about that member. Stock a supply of the cards so that as a member receives a card he or she can get a blank one to send to someone else.

■ **DOUBLE THE RECOGNITION.** Similar to the encouraging words chain, when you recognize someone, give them two treats and two thank you notes. Ask them to keep one set and use the other to recognize another member.

■ **SEND A LETTER** to the faculty listing all the things your group sponsored this year and which students chaired the different activities. Ask them to join you in congratulating the student leaders on a successful year. Students will appreciate hearing from their teachers comments like "I didn't realize you were in charge of the talent show; you did a great job with that!"

■ **MVP PLAYING CARDS.** Recognize your most valuable members like they do in sports with MVP style cards for each member. Put their photos on the front and list positive comments and accomplishments on the back. An online search for "baseball card template" turns up a plethora of free tools to make the task easy.

■ **CUSTOM PENNANTS.** Write kudos to different members on triangular shaped pieces of paper, pennant style. Then, using clothespins, attach those papers to a string for an instant recognition pennant to hang across the classroom or a banquet space.

■ **HIGH FIVES.** Cut out handprints on colored card stock to create a paper high five. Write something specific on it about why you're recognizing the person and present it to them. Encourage them to pass it on.

■ **BRIGHTEST BULB AWARD.** Create a "Brightest Bulb" trophy by using permanent markers to (carefully!) decorate a light bulb. Use it to recognize a member for creativity and innovation.

Article by Lyn Fiscus, SGA adviser at South Lakes HS, from material presented at 2017 VSCA State Convention.

President's Message from Derek Shockley (cont'd from pg. 2)

valuable life lessons. Through wrestling I have learned strict discipline, to work in camaraderie with others, and to lead in times that others are not willing to lead.

Furthermore, one of the most important organizations I participate in is Student Council. Although I have not been a part of the organization for very long, I have enriched myself with the values and traditions the organization exemplifies. This past year I served on the executive board as the Community Service Director, where I helped plan and organized different school events such as the Homecoming Fashion Show, American Education Week, a school wide dodgeball tournament and other small events. During my time as Community Service Director I also coordinated St. Jude to be the charity that Woodgrove fundraised in the name of. However, this position wasn't quite enough. I really wanted to challenge my abilities, lose sight of the shore line, and step outside of my comfort zone. Thus, the motivation for running for the VSCA President. Once the goal of VSCA President was achieved, I decided to challenge myself even more by running for President of Woodgrove High School, and recently achieved my goal. Through all that I do I look forward to growing as a leader and I look forward to the journey that we are about to take together.

"Forever onward"—Bob McMillen