STUDENT LEADER

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VSCA is a leadership program of the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals and is located at the VASSP state office in Richmond, Virginia:
4909 Cutshaw Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23230
804-355-4263

VSCA Student Leaders Join Leadership MaNia at NASC

By Noah Burke, VSCA President

The National Student Councils Conference is held annually in a state chosen based on the schools that apply to host the three-day event. This year, the Leadership MaNia was held in Plymouth, Minnesota at Wayzata High School from June 25–27, 2018.

Attending the National Student Council Conference with the Virginia delegation this summer was both memorable and rewarding. It is really hard to describe being in a room filled with hundreds of leaders from around the nation rallying together to learn, grow, and experience workshops, speakers, and fun. Being at Wayzata High School shifted the scope of student council to a national level experience.

Virginia's student leaders generated memories even before the workshops began as some of the Virginia delegation gathered to attend a Minnesota Twins game. We appreciated being able to gather together as leaders of Virginia for relaxation and celebration.

VSCA members traveled to Minnesota in June to attend the annual National Student Councils three-day conference at Wayzata High School, June 25–27.

Once the conference began, we made new friends with other delegations. As with the excitement of our own state convention, the general sessions were amped with music, dancing, and inspirational keynote speakers.

The workshops were filled with ideas and speakers that challenged our ways of thinking. From personality strengths to personal triumphs, presenters shared their stories to enlighten young minds. One memorable talk was with an Olympic athlete whose story

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Behind the Scenes: The Perfect Infrastructure to Any Event

By Sydney Crosby, VCSA Advisory Committee Member

Planning any event can have its ups and downs, however, don't let the infrastsructure be one of them! Creating an idea for an event ignites the spark on the match, however following through on the process of an event requires steady persistence. A key factor in maintaining a steady pace throughout the planning process is establishing an infrastructure that is easy to understand and follow.

For a successful event, break the infrastructure into five committees: Event Coordination, Aesthetics and Design, Hospitality, Supply Logistics, and Public Relations.

The **Event Coordination** committee plans all the logistical aspects of an event. These aspects include timeline, task responsibilities, layouts, activities within the event, and most importantly communicating with the PR/Promotions committee to publicize the event within community.

The **Aesthetics and Design** committee works on all visual

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HoCo Around the Commonwealth

Homecoming is a favorite time of year for students around the Commonwealth for all the spirited activities planned by student councils. The week follows a similar format at many schools, with a class competition in which grade levels compete in various events for a spirit stick, culminating in a pep rally, the Homecoming game with royalty presented at halftime, and a dance. If your school is looking to add a different twist to your plans this year, consider one of these ideas:

- **Club banner competition.** At Courtland HS, each school club creates a school banner that represents their club and the homecoming theme, but most of all their "Cougar Pride." After a parade of the banners during the pep rally, teachers vote for their favorite banner in different categories like most original, most school spirit, and so forth.
- **Spirit stick.** At Buckingham County HS, the School Spirit Coordinator creates a spirit stick that class reps carry around each day of spirit week. While they have the stick students from their grade level sign the stick on their class' section. SCA keeps a point chart for each grade level and the spirit stick is won by the class with the most participation and spirit that week.
- **Dodgeball tournament.** Buckingham County HS also hosts a dodgeball tournament on Wednesday of spirit week during fourth block. Clubs and organizations in the school form teams and play against each other in a bracket system. To attend the tournament students pay $2 and all the money is split between the participating clubs as a fundraiser.
- **Cafeteria decorations.** Prince George HS has a tradition of decorating the walls of the cafeteria to go along with the Homecoming theme. SGA puts on games and obstacle courses every day during spirit week lunch blocks to get students eager to participate in the rally on Friday.
- **Penny wars.** Woodbridge HS adds penny wars to their Homecoming festivities to make fundraising for a charity a part of their class competition. Each class has its own container and for every penny contributed the class gets a point, and for every other kind of coin or paper money the class loses the amount of points that coin was worth. For example, if a quarter was placed into the senior bin by a junior, the seniors would need to put in 25 pennies to get the total back to zero. At the end of penny wars class points are tallied for spirit week and the money is donated to a charity.

VSCA 2018 Service Project

By Karina Reynolds, VCSA Advisory Committee Member

Ever wonder what happens after delegates to the VSCA convention perform the service project at the convention? The follow-up after the convention ensures that the project actually reaches its intended recipients.

Through the hard work and passion of Battlefield High School, along with several other Virginia schools, 500 backpacks were distributed to students in need around the state after last year's convention. Each backpack contained supplies such as pencils, folders, notebooks, pens, and binders.

One group, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, an organization dedicated to the positive path for youth development, was delighted to receive 100 backpacks filled with school supplies, donated by public schools in Northern Virginia. The majority of the backpacks distributed to other areas came from the Tidewater region. A key ingredient of this charitable mission was the impressive amount of school supplies that were generously donated from schools across the state. Action for the cause was initiated and led by Grace Kim, former member of the VSCA advisory committee.

"Throughout this whole process of planning and putting together the project, I was so thankful because of the supportive VSCA family and Battlefield family. It was really amazing to witness a community of students reaching out and helping their fellow classmates," said Kim, commenting on her experience as the leader of this mission.

Delegates and officers of Battlefield's SCA began to discuss ideas for a possible project when Kim brought to the table donations for economically disadvantaged students in Virginia. She realized that the VSCA theme of "Grow a Generation to Lead the Nation," was directed toward students. From here, Battlefield's student council had the honor of putting the initiative into action during the 2017–2018 school year.

"It was a humbling experience and I am very glad it was through the VSCA," said Kim. Through extraordinary acts of kindness like this, VSCA will continue to do its part in improving the lives of others.

Homecoming Dress-Up Day Theme Ideas

Looking for some different ideas for your spirit week dress-up days? You will get more participation with easier, lower-risk themes than ones that require a lot of effort and a higher risk that others will laugh at your effort. Try some of the following ideas:

- **'Merica Day**—Everyone has some red, white, and blue in their closet!
- **College Gear Day**—featuring hats, shirts and other college gear
- **Fashion Disaster Day**—dress in deliberately unfashionable clothes
- **Spots and Stripes Day**—wear spotted or striped clothing or a combination of spots and stripes
- **Safari Day**—everything from low-key khakis and animal prints to more creative safari gear with hats, binoculars, etc.
- **Multiplicity Day**—like twin day, but match as many people as you can
- **Surf, Snow, and Sun Day**—covers a lot of different outdoor activities
- **Extreme Weather/Weather Disaster Day**—wear raincoats, boots, etc.
- **People-At-Work/Construction Day**—clothing appropriate for a construction site
- **Profession Day**—dress like what you want to be "when you grow up"
- **Grandparents/Senior Day**—dress like senior citizens
- **Thrift Store Day**—dress in outfits from the thrift store
- **Multi-Color Day**—wear as many different colors as possible
- **Duct Tape Day**—outfits designed out of duct tape
- **Celebrity Day**—dress like your favorite celebrity or celebrity look-alike
- **Salad Dressing Day**—people dress like their favorite salad dressing: Ranch (Cowboy), Caesar (togas and sandals), Thousand Island (Caribbean/Hawaiian), Blue Cheese (Blue), French (berets and fashionable clothes), House Dressing (school colors), etc.

Officer Spotlight

President School

Freedom HS, Loudoun School Division

Noah Burke, Student Representative

Noah Burke has been a member of the Freedom HS SCA since his ninth grade year. He served as vice president for his junior year and was recently elected president for his senior year. Noah has attended VSCA Regional Workshops and State Conventions for the past three years. Last year, he served on the VSCA Advisory Committee and was part of the Convention subcommittee.

Noah is active in the Freedom community as a musician in the orchestra and an athlete for the varsity swimming and cross country teams. He is also a member of the Academic Challenge Team, National Honor Society, Social Science Honor Society, and Music Honor Society. Outside of school, he is a leader in his Boy Scout Troop, as both Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader, and the president of his Young Men's Service League chapter. Noah is eager to put words into action for the betterment of VSCA!

Virginia Delegation Attends National Conference in MN (cont'd from p. 1)

of setback and struggle led to her feeling of accomplishment for "just finishing the race." Another speaker talked about her 10-year battle with cancer and how in spite of being on medication and uncertain of her life expectancy, she is currently one of the top wakeboarders on the national stage. Each speaker attempted to find connections from their own past to give bits of wisdom to us as future leaders. Many of the presenters were just a few years older than us, making their stresses and struggles more relatable.

Upon preparing to leave the conference, there was a "swag swap" like none other. Each school brought all of their state gear to exchange and it provided one last way to make a connection to others. Many made sure to exchange with people they had shared ideas or had conversations with throughout the conference. Everyone walked away feeling connected to each other and ready to return to school enthusiastic and energized with a new purpose.

Every school should consider joining the Virginia delegation in attending the National Conference in June 2019 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania! The connections with other leaders, the camaraderie among student council leaders, and the personal growth opportunities are there for all.

VSCA delegates to the NatStuCo annual conference attended general sessions, participated in breakout sessions, heard motivational speakers, and left the conference energized with new ideas to take back to their Virginia schools.

Perfect Infrastructure (cont'd from p. 1)

aspects of an event including color scheme, decorations, and props. Their efforts will transform spaces into gorgeous scenery done on a budget with Supply Logistics.

The **Hospitality** committee will work in the area of food. They will coordinate menus, layouts of food buffets, serving supplies, and communication with vendors. This committee works to provide complementary meals and/or snacks to staff, volunteers, and other attendees for an event.

The **Supply Logistics** committee procures all supplies needed for an event. They communicate with local stores to receive donations. After all, money saved on an event is money saved.

The **Public Relations** committee works to promote all information about an event to the public.

Although each committee is unique and different from the next, it is important to realize the value in each of them. Communication between all five needs to be consistent to ensure the success of the event. At the end of the event, when all guests are trickling out, and clean up has finished, there is nothing more satisfying than knowing you, your committee, and your team put on an epic event.

Outdoor Movie Night Planned at Franklin HS

Franklin County High School's Student Council Association is offering a back to school outdoor movie night for students for the first time this September. The first Friday in September was chosen because it enables the Student Council to have enough time to publicize and organize the event following the start of school, as well as it being an athletic event-free day.

The hope is that this event will be appealing to the majority of the student body and will be something the whole school can come together and enjoy. Additionally, Student Council members hope the event will be successful to the point where it can serve as a small fundraiser. The movie will be shown on the football field, and the screen is being provided at no additional cost by the local Parks and Recreation Department. Concessions will be offered for purchase as a way to generate profit for the Student Council. There is an upfront cost of $300 to $400 dollars for the purchase of the commercial movie rights. However, the Student Council is looking to charge two dollars a ticket, and with a student body of more than 2,000, they hope to at least break even. Regardless, the event will be a success because it serves as a positive way for students to bond. We hope this will be the start of an annual event.