STUDENT LEADER

Virginia Student Council Association ■ September/October 2019

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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:
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VSCA Student Leaders Light Forge of Leadership at NSC

The National Student Council Conference is a three-day leadership program where student leaders and advisers from around the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico come together to better their SCA programs and improve their leadership skills. This year NatStuCo was held at South Fayetteville High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from June 24–26.

VSCA members traveled to Pittsburgh in June to attend the annual National Student Councils three-day conference at South Fayette High School, June 24–26.

Virginia was well represented at the conference this year with a large delegation of students and advisers. Virginia's student leaders generated memories even before the workshops began as some of the delegation gathered to attend a Pittsburgh Pirates game while others rode the Duquesne Incline to a vantage point that enabled them to have a great view of the tri-rivers area and the downtown skyline.

Once the conference began, Virginia leaders 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. When we arrived at South Fayetteville High School the energy was already there. All student leaders were ready for a fun time and an amazing learning experience. With the theme "Forging Student Leaders," the conference features speeches from three guests: entrepreneur Javier Sanchez, motivational speaker Keith Hawkins, and Pittsburgh-based doctor Deborah Gilboa.

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Advisory Council Makes Changes to VSCA Achievement Award

At September's VSCA Advisory Council meeting, the Elections and Awards committee made some changes to the application process for the Achievement Award that will go into effect for this school year.

After review of the current listing of projects and activities a school can choose from in the optional activities category, committee members agreed that there are some areas in which many SCAs plan activities that were not listed in the choices available. The committee added eight items to the list, including such things as an activity that contributes to the development of a positive school climate, an activity that fosters positive relations between faculty/staff and students, a campus beautification project, an officer training program, and more. Because councils now have eight more items to choose from, the committee also increased the number of projects a high school must complete to earn the award, but only by one. For elementary and middle schools the number of required projects stayed the same.

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HoCo Court Show

At Woodgrove High School, the Homecoming Court is featured in a variety of ways that help get the student body excited about Homecoming spirit week and Homecoming itself.

Every year Woodgrove's student body votes on their Homecoming court based on their grade level. SCA sets up a Google form for students to nominate other students for court, then each student can vote for their student of choice in their class. Once the court has been voted for, student council starts planning the Homecoming Court "Fashion" Show. The SCA writes a script for the show and comes up with jokes for court members to say.

The "fashion" show is conducted as a fundraiser for the SCA, which usually charges $1 for students to buy a ticket to watch the show. To raise more money, SCA members promote the show heavily on the morning announcements, on social media, and with signs around the school.

Woodgrove also gets the Homecoming court to get dressed up for each Homecoming spirit day to promote school spirit. This is a great way to get the student body excited about Homecoming spirit week and Homecoming itself, which will hopefully increase the number of dance tickets sold.

Involving the Homecoming Court in these activities is a great way to honor the Homecoming court, raise money for SCA, get students to come to Homecoming, and to get students to want to be involved in the Homecoming spirit days.

Woodgrove Homecoming Court members participate in a "fashion" show each year that serves as a fundraiser for SCA and gets students more engaged in spirit week.

Region Spotlight: Lee-Davis HS, Region 1

Lee-Davis HS student council members show off the Region 1 flag after being elected as Region 1 Representative School at last spring's VSCA state convention.

Our Perfect Vision for SCA

By Adair Keener

This year, Lee-Davis SCA wants to accomplish a lot and has taken on some new roles, one being that we are now the Region 1 Representative school. In this new position, our main goal is to promote and gain region participation. At the past 2019 VSCA convention, there were only three schools representing Region 1. We would love to expand that number to at least 10 at this year's VSCA convention. We plan on doing this by reaching out to all of our Region 1 member schools to attend our regional workshop to give them just a little taste of what VSCA can do for their student councils.

Another goal for this school year is to attempt some new additions to our homecoming. At VSCA, we were inspired by the "Hocochella" theme and ideas presented by South Lakes High School. We plan to add a new section to our dance by having some fun outdoor games and snow cones on our senior patio right outside our dance floor. We also want to implement Coachella-themed decorations and music-themed spirit days to hopefully attract our student body and continue to keep up our dance attendance rate and ticket sales.

One last main goal we have for our student council for this school year is to have a member of our council run for state office. Each year our council takes a new step in bettering our involvement in state and national wide participation. We believe that even if not obtaining an office, it will be a good opportunity and educational experience to begin the process of running for office.

Overall, we have a lot of things we want to see like continuing our beloved fundraisers and events. These are our three main goals to help take our student council to the next level.

Painting Senior Parking Spots

By Julianne Crosbie

As Colgan High School is only three years old, we've had to create traditions that will last for years. A new tradition we created last year is allowing seniors to paint their parking spots in the senior parking lot.

It took a lot of convincing but our administration agreed to seniors painting their spots under some circumstances. We began by meeting to create an entire plan to present to our administration. First, we chose the times and dates that would allow enough time for everyone to finish. Also, we chose make-up dates for students who couldn't make the original dates.

We created an outline of the paperwork, which consisted of a paper where you draw and design the spot ahead of time. This allowed our administration to sign off and approve of the designs to avoid any inappropriate text or pictures.

We created guidelines to follow for when it came time to paint. For example, there had to be four inches of unpainted pavement between the parking lines and the start of the painted spot. After approaching the administration, they agreed to the idea as long as an SCA adviser was present.

Along with the parking pass cost, to be able to paint a specific spot the student had to pay an additional cost. It would cost students another twenty-five dollars to be able to pre-assign and paint a spot. Although this might seem too costly, the money raised would go to graduation costs and any other senior-sponsored events throughout the school year. This is an easy way to fundraise and make it enjoyable for the students.

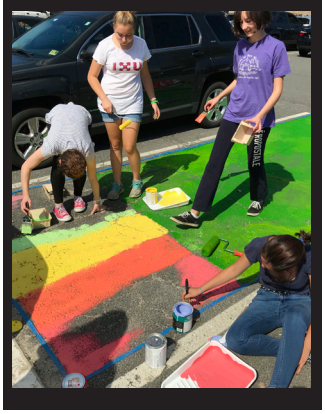
Although everyone is excited about painting their spot, no one is excited about being out in the heat all day. To make it an even more fun event, students brought speakers to listen to music as they painted and we had water stations and tents where students could cool down. Something we added this year was a Kona Ice truck where students could have shaved ice to cool down and hang out with friends.

This event brought students together and helped raise money for the senior class. It was a huge success both years and we hope to continue this tradition for years to come.

Colgan seniors participate in painting their parking spaces in a new tradition.

Painted Parking Spots at South Lakes High School

In a process similar to the one used at Colgan HS, the SCA at South Lakes was able to have painted parking spaces approved for seniors last year. Here are a few examples of student artisty.



Trunk or Treat at Buckingham County HS

By Olivia Trimble

BCHS's SCA puts on an annual Trunk or Treat at the High School each year collaboratively with the other clubs in the school. The tentative date is set for Friday, October 31st.

We use the bus loop each year to park each clubs' cars or trucks to decorate and hand out candy. Every club participates including SCA, FFA, Skills USA, HOSA, Ecology, JROTC, etc. Our student council directs the cars to their spots, advertises, makes signs for enter and exit lanes, and we decorate the bus loop. The event lasts a couple hours. It is a friendly safe environment for the kids of Buckingham County.

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

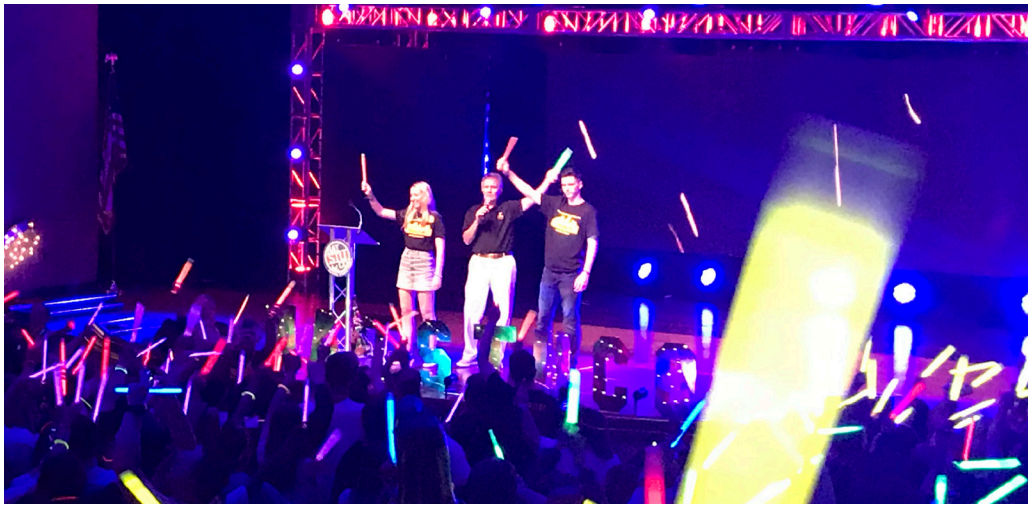
Participants also worked with Four Diamonds—a non-profit that assists children with cancer—in a service project to make fleece blankets, which will be donated to Penn State Children's Hospital.

In addition to the general sessions, participants went to many breakout sessions throughout the week learning about how to expand their leadership skills, what it takes to be a leader, and how to improve their SCA programs. What better opportunity to meet kids just like you who have the same goals and mindset as you? Some of the topics that inspired us were "finding our why," "What type of leader we are," "How to chase our worth," and so much more.

"I really enjoyed 'Resilience is Everything.' Mr. Dee Hankins made me laugh and cry during his speech. I got to make so many new friends from Florida, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. I even got to get closer to some kids from Virginia!" said Hylton student leader Jacqueline Mitchell.

Every school should consider joining the Virginia delegation to attend the National Conference in June 2020 at Eagle Crest High School in Centennial, Colorado! The connections with other student council leaders, the camaraderie, and the personal growth opportunities are there for all. "I had an extraordinary time at NatStuCo! I cannot wait to attend next year's conference. I hope more people can come next year and learn more about SCA," said Siana Koulefianou, Hylton HS student leader.

VSCA delegates to the NatStuCo annual conference attended general sessions to hear motivational speakers and recognize outstanding leaders, (above), did sightseeing around Pittsburgh (left), participated in breakout sessions, heard motivational speakers, and were inspired by the illumination session (below) led by emcees Rachel Dorfner and Dan Pollack with PASC veteran adviser Andy Costanzo. Everyone left the conference energized with new ideas to take back to their Virginia schools.



Changes to VSCA Achievement Award (cont'd from p. 1)

Another major change to the Achievement Award application is its due date. In the past, the application was due in January and could include activities the school was planning to do in the remaining months of the school year. The application will now be due on December 20 and will include activities from the calendar year instead of the school year. This will bring the application in line with what is required for the national Council of Excellence Award and will reflect activities the council actually has done, not what it has planned. For this first year of the change, schools may submit activities that were included in last year's application that occurred in the months from January onward.

Committee members hope these changes will encourage more schools to apply for the award. Look for applications to be available in mid-October with conference registration materials.