

The Student Leader

December 2014

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Tis the Season

December has always been one of my favorite months. This year, it started off amazing. I was fortunate enough to head to Scottsdale, Arizona from December 3-7, 2014 to meet with the other SCA State Executive Directors at the National Association of State Student Council Executive Directors (NASSED) Conference. I am so excited about the future of VSCA after meeting with so many experienced directors and discussing what has been successful in their states.

I know that 2015 will be a great year for our organization. The VSCA Advisory Board has been working diligently to make sure that this will be the best state convention ever. There will be a few new things happening this year at convention, but you will have to come to see what we have been busy planning.

I will let you know that the VSCA Advisory Board has been working hard to create ways to ensure that schools that are attending their first convention feel welcome and prepared to enter the excitement. If you or your school have never attended a convention, I encourage you to make this your year. It is going to be awesome.

I hope that each of you enjoy your winter break. Hopefully, it will be filled with family, friends, and lots of new memories.

See you in 2015!

Andrea Vail
VSCA Director

Wrapping Up the Principal's Office

By: Liberty High School

The Liberty SCA "tp"ed the Principal's office on Halloween! For charity, of course. The Bedford Community Christmas Station requested paper products for the needy so Liberty students were asked to bring toilet paper, still in the original packaging, to their homerooms. On Halloween morning, all collected toilet paper was taken to our principal's office while she was out. When Dr. Dills returned she found her desk covered in toilet paper! After many photographs and laughs, a Student Council volunteer delivered the toilet paper to a very grateful Christmas Station.



Region II "Monkeying Around" at their Regional Workshop

By: Domanick Ramos, Hickory High School, Region 2 Representative

The VSCA Region II, monkey themed leadership workshop, commenced on Saturday, November 8. Domanick Ramos, the Region II Representative, started the meeting at 10:30 a.m. We had a variety of breakfast treats with meet and greet to include Oscar Smith, Grassfield, and Hickory. The meeting consisted of many fun energizers and included leadership workshops such as: Leadership Philosophy presented by Reilly Lambert and Abraham Moreno-Riano, and School Spirit presented by Brooke Gerlach and Ariana Spencer. We had an awesome presentation with keynote speaker Jerry Gaines, a renowned teacher, coach, and administrator for Chesapeake Public Schools. We ended the day with lunch together and a mingling of ideas about each school.

Region 4 Rocks the Regional Workshop

By: Woodgrove High School, Region 4 Representative

This November, the Woodgrove High School Student Council hosted the Region 4 Leadership Workshop. The workshop was hosted at Woodgrove since it is home to the Region 4 representative, Ryan Thomas. Over one hundred student leaders from various middle and high schools around the area attended the meeting in order to share ideas, and learn more about leadership and student government to take back to their home schools.

The day started off with an opening general session in the auditorium, where the guest schools were welcomed. The opening meeting kicked off the day to an energetic start; including icebreakers, team competitions, introductory performances from attending schools, and a keynote address from Robert Zoldos II, the Mayor of Lovettsville. After the opening session, students headed to designated workshops; each presented by a Woodgrove Student Council member. These workshops covered a range of topics from the basics of parliamentary procedure to how to organize a successful pep rally. But before departing for the workshop sessions, Mayor Zoldos left the students with some inspiring words to reflect on throughout the day: "Being in the SCA might not change your life, but it could help change others' lives."

Following lunch and the last workshops, the final general session was held. A few closing remarks were made at this session. Kelsey Briel and Mark Bland, former WHS Student Council Co-Presidents, gave addresses on "The Effects of Being a Student Leader." Although Briel was not able to make it to the meeting in person, her address was shown through a video. Both speakers shared the impact student leadership has had on their college careers and life experiences so far. Bland even shared about his experience meeting with the director of the FBI, who Bland with the advice "Lead with humble confidence."

The last item on the agenda for the day was a Region 4 pep rally. At the beginning of the day, each school was broken up and students were placed on three separate teams. Throughout the day, the three teams were faced with strategic competitions to earn points. Competitions included games such as slingshot bowling and filling balloons with shaving cream as quickly as possible. At the pep rally, each team reunited for a final time for the last opportunity to earn points together. The team competition was close, but after the final games and celebrations every student walked away with new friends from different schools, and new ideas to take back and share with their Student Councils.

Adviser Spotlight

Mrs. Laurie Jamerson, Orange County High School

VSCA: What is your favorite part about being an SCA Adviser?

Mrs. Jamerson: Getting to know and work with students who I might not have been able to connect with unless they took my class. I also love getting students involved in school citizenship, spirit and service activities who would not have otherwise done so. Also, teaching students that you can make a difference is important to me.

VSCA: What is the most memorable event that you have been a part of in this role?

Mrs. Jamerson: Wow, that is a tough thing to decide I will never forget any of them. These three have had the biggest impact on me.

Our Community Thanksgiving Dinner that our SCA sponsors every year over the past 11 years has helped us do tremendous things including donating money to organizations like the Salvation Army and our local homeless shelter, helping a student's family start over after a fire, filling bags of food for children to take home during winter break, stocking the shelves of families in our communities who had very little food, buying a handicap accessible van, helping a lung transplant patient, and last year "changing" a house.

In 2009, our student body elected "Lauren" as Homecoming Queen. She was one of our Special Education students. It truly made Homecoming extraordinary, our students came together as one and it proved to me that OCHS is an exceptional place.

This one will be hard to forget also... I got a phone call at school one day in early November 2012. It was from one of my former students who had also been an SCA member at OCHS -he actually helped with our first Thanksgiving Dinner. John was now a teacher in a neighborhood about 1 mile north of Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York. The students and staff at his school were all affected by Hurricane Sandy and many of them lost everything. He asked if I could help them with recovery. With the help of his parents, electronic communication and several local businesses, the OCHS SCA and students were able to collect tractor trailer loads of food, clothing, personal items and many home products and then deliver these items to his high school (PS721 Roy Campanella High School) for distribution to their Brooklyn community. I could not believe the generosity of our students and their families-pallets of food were brought in! One evening when we were at the collection truck, sorting items, the UVA athletic director showed up with a suitcase full of clothing (new UVA stuff and very large shoes and suits) to donate! The most impressive thing is that all of this took place in a matter of days thanks to the students at OCHS!

VSCA: What advice would you give to brand-new advisers?

Mrs. Jamerson: Ask for help: Say "YES" when asked if you need help!

Prioritize with students-Family first, academics second and SCA third

Teach-How can we do this? NOT-We can't do this.

Set Goals-Strive for the "WOW" not the "Oh".

Do you have a question for

Mrs. Jamerson?

Contact her at

(jamerson@ocss-va.org)

VSCA: Why do you think VSCA is important?

Mrs. Jamerson: VSCA does prepare students physically, mentally and morally to express good citizenship, attitudes, and practices, and it promotes the general welfare of the school! It also prepares students for involvement in government and community activities as adults. Tomorrow's Leaders are learning to Lead today!

What VSCA Means to Me

By: Emmet Aylor, VSCA Secretary, Orange County High School

The Virginia Student Councils Association has provided the Commonwealth of Virginia with a very useful tool in developing student leaders. Through our organization, we are able to train the leaders of tomorrow. We are able to provide for our community and state. We are able to make a difference. VSCA has provided a platform for students to come together on the various issues that are facing our state today. We are able to speak up on topics that we may not all agree with. This makes VSCA unique in that we have the opportunity to speak our mind. We offer leadership workshops that enhance leadership education to elementary, middle, and high school students. VSCA is also able to provide a spotlight for school projects, the outstanding schools in the state, and the hard work of the students and advisers.



S A V E T H E D A T E

VSCA State Convention

March 20-22, 2015

Doubletree by Hilton

Williamsburg, VA