



The Student Leader

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

The NASC Convention Issue

Many of you are familiar with the activities of the Virginia Student Councils Association, but have less knowledge of what goes on at the national level. That is why this issue, while still containing many great ideas about the VSCA, is primarily dedicated to the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) Convention.

In June, I had the privilege of attending the NASC Convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It was an awesome experience for student leaders from across the country. In addition, NASC provided worthwhile experiences for advisers. After you have the opportunity to read about the NASC experiences in this newsletter, you might consider attending in 2013.

But don't forget, the VSCA calendar will soon be full of many opportunities for students and advisers to grow as leaders. Below the green box to the right of this introduction will be a list of preliminary dates for regional leadership workshops and adviser workshops in the next newsletter. The VSCA is excited to offer five Regional Leadership Workshops in 2012 - 2013. The VSCA Convention, the highlight of student leadership in Virginia, is scheduled for April 12 - 14 in Williamsburg. Please look for email updates and mailings which will give more specific information on these events. Good luck as you get ready for an exciting year of student leadership.

Don't forget this year's theme: VSCA: Steering the LEADership Forward.

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Upcoming Events:

Regional Leadership Workshops:

Region 1- Jan. 12 – Prince George H.S

Region 2- Dec. 15 – Grassfield H.S.

Region 3- Nov. 3 – Courtland H.S.

Region 4 – Dec. 8 – Park View H.S.

Regions 5 -8 – Nov. 10 – Liberty H.S.

VSCA Convention – April 12 - 14

NASC – WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Here is a sampling of some of the activities that take place at the National Association of Student Councils Leadership Conference. If you have never been, and are looking to take your student leadership to the next level, I would encourage you to consider making attending NASC a priority!

General Sessions

At NASC, the general sessions are powerful events that help to inspire the entire conference. In each general session there is a keynote speaker and a significant message given to the adviser and the students. These sessions remind student leaders of how much they have done and how much that they have still to learn and do. But each general session is quite varied. For instance, the opening general session includes an introduction of each state present at the conference. The student president of each state walks out with the state flag as facts are given about each state. Nearly every state is represented at the conference. Additionally, the speakers are a mixture of serious and comedic. In fact, the presentation of the “Evolution of Dance” at the past two NASC conferences has been a real treat.

Speaker Showcase

The speaker showcase allows students and advisers to get a sampling of motivational speakers from around the country. In just a few hours, students and advisers get to hear at least four leadership experts present their program. These programs, presented by the motivational speakers, inspire and encourage student leaders. The topics presented range from leadership building to reaching out to all students in the school. Many advisers and students are heavily involved in the planning of leadership workshops and state conventions. These presentations help the planners to connect with speakers who would be interested in coming to their state convention or workshop.

State Meetings

When each group of student leaders arrive at NASC, they are brought together with other leaders from their state. This gives students a chance to meet, plan, and network with others from their state. Some states, with small delegations, are combined together. This meeting area gives the students a home base to operate from during the convention. Additionally, the state meeting room helps the delegations to plan out what they will do during each part of the Convention.

Advisers Roundtables

There are many activities for students at NASC, but advisers benefit as well. There is a dedicated advisers Roundtables session at NASC. In this session, advisers from schools across the country present activities and topics that are successful for them. There are so many wonderful ideas to present, that there are nearly 40 tables for advisers to pick from. Unfortunately, since the time is limited, most advisers only get to sit in on six of the tables to get ideas from. Many advisers get great ideas from this that they will put into practice. Additionally, this allows for advisers to network with other individuals that work with student councils from around the nation.

Reaching Out

Reaching out is a section of the newsletter which will feature service projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Movie Food Drive:

In this idea, the school plans to show two movies in the evening. One of the movies is a Christmas movie and the other is a regular “G” movie. The SCA charges a can of food/bag of rice/box of cereal as an entrance fee. The SCA members box the food collected, and with the adviser, deliver the boxes to the local food bank. The entire school is encouraged to be a part of this project.

2. Student/Teacher of the Month:

This project is designed to recognize outstanding spirit. A student and a teacher are selected that has shown outstanding spirit or has done something very admirable for that month. The SCA raises money to give the winner of the award a gift certificate. Also, the teacher and student’s name are announced on the morning announcements.

3. Café Worker Appreciation Breakfast:

No one really appreciates the lunch workers in the school, but they do so much for everyone. Once a year one school’s SCA sets up a breakfast for the cafeteria workers for them to come in and enjoy. This event really shows that the workers are appreciated for everything they do because most of the time they are treated quite rudely by the students that they serve. The best plan is to assign different SCA members to bring in food and drinks, and solicit community businesses to donate items for the breakfast.

Spirit Links

Spirit Links is a section of the newsletter which will feature school spirit projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the Web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Basketball Tournament:

For this activity to work, it is critical that current players on the school basketball team are

not allowed to be players in the tournament. During lunches, and over several days, the SCA gets students to sign up that would like to participate. From the list of students (and possibly teachers for a teachers team) a drawing takes place and students are randomly selected. There is a team for each class (juniors, seniors, sophomores, freshman, and teachers). The games are held at night and tickets are sold. To boost the excitement and fun, a pep rally could be held for the day of the tournament. Students who play on the school's team could participate as cheerleaders!

2. Swine Smooch:

Before beginning this project, make sure that you explain to the teachers what this is actually about. Also, make sure that the teachers that participate are willing to participate. Place jars for each teacher who want to be involved on a table in the cafeteria during lunches. A responsible adult should monitor the jars at all times. Students are allowed to put as much money as they would like into each jar. The teacher that has the most money in their jar is the "winner." At a Pep Rally or other event, the "winning" teacher has to kiss a pig.

Dollar Signs

Dollar Signs is a section of the newsletter which will feature fundraising projects. Here is a sampling of projects from the Web. In order for this section to be successful, students and advisers need to share their ideas with the VSCA Director at mnelson@scaleader.org.

1. Lunch Room Jail:

In order to carry out this project, the student council needs to make a "jail cell" from PVC pipe. The principal should be appointed as "sheriff" and arrest people during lunch. The people that are arrested are pre-determined. The way that they are pre-determined is that students or teachers pay a certain amount of money to have them "arrested" during lunch. The "criminals" have to get others to donate to make their "bail." This fun activity should raise funds for a student council.

2. Election Day Bake Sale:

Bake sales usually do not raise much money, but this idea puts a spin on the idea of a bake sale and should help to make a better profit. Student council members should bring in baked food items to sell at the polls on election day. The keys to success on this are

contacting the local registrar to make sure that this is allowed and setting up early in the morning before the polls open. Since many schools serve as polling places, this should be a good project for many SCAs.

3. 50s Diner Day:

In this project, the SCA gets permission to use an outside space such as the parking lot of a large church or local mall. The SCA runs a 50s style drive-in in the parking lot. Parents come in to run the grill and cook hot dogs, hamburgers, and provide coolers with ice for sodas. An enterprising SCA may be able to find local businesses that would donate the food and sodas. The SCA dresses up in poodle skirts and uses roller skates to complete the image of the 50s style drive-in. This can be fun and profitable.

4. Lost and Found Fashion Show:

The adviser should make sure that he or she gets permission from the school administration before charging into this project. This fund raiser can help to eliminate the problem of lost and found items. A fashion show is held with SCA members wearing lost clothes. At the end of the fashion show, an auction is held so that students can get their clothes back. Another way to raise money for this, is to charge admission to the fashion show.

Quotes to Inspire

“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.” Warren G. Bennis

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” – John F. Kennedy

“Example is leadership.” – Albert Schweitzer

“He that would be a leader must also be a bridge.” – Welsh Proverb

“It is absurd that a man should rule others, who cannot rule himself.”
(Absurdum est ut alios regat, qui seipsum regere nescit) – Latin Proverb

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.

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