

# VIRGINIA SCENE



The Official Newsletter of Virginia TSA - Available Online at [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org)

Volume 27, Number 2

## “11 Days Of Wild Things” Virginia TSA at the State Fair

by Brittany Stansberry, Virginia TSA President

“Eleven Days of Wild Things” was the theme of this year’s Virginia State Fair. For the those who attended the State Fair, this theme meant many different things: domestic and wild animals, wild rides, wild experiences, and wild food.

For eleven days, the Virginia TSA booth exhibited innovation, with a variety of technologically oriented activities. The activities featured biotechnology equipment, the Virginia TSA website (providing on-line information), past National TSA Conference videos, a computerized manufacturing system, life-sized building blocks, a computerized lathe, and balloons



for the kids which read, “Every child should study technology”. Over 22,000

visitors ventured into TSA territory.

Members from TSA chapters all over the state served as ambassadors for Virginia TSA and Technology Education at the booth. The State Officers were also able to exhibit at the booth on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The TSA members served as representatives for the Technology Student Association, and they were able to absorb the sights, sounds, and smells of the Fair.

The State Fair was an excellent opportunity for TSA members to interact directly with the public. Overall, the fair was very successful. I believe we accomplished our purpose and had a “wild” time doing it.

### Inside this issue...

President’s Message	2
Regional Updates	4
What We Do as Regional Officers	6
Fundraising and Budgeting	7
Running for State Office	7
Chapter News	8
Taking a Good Picture	9
Community Service	10
Virginia TSA Constitution	10
technology.corner	11
Enterprising	11
Leadership: Just do It!	12

## Executive Council Members Attend Directions 2002

by Matt Walton, Virginia TSA Vice-President

From October 11-13, five of your state officers attended the National TSA Leadership Workshop called Directions which was held in Reston, Va. The state officers that represented Virginia TSA were: Brittany Stansberry, Matt Walton, Stephen Blue, Marlayna Robinson, and Amanda Ricks. All the officers were in attendance with Ms. Stansbury and their advisors as well.

At the conference, the National TSA Officer Team and approximately 125 other state officers from around the country joined us. One of the themes was “where do you fit in the TSA puzzle”. Everyone at the

conference was given a puzzle piece with his or her name on it and that piece matched up with pieces belonging to other TSA members. The end result was that even though we all had a different piece of the puzzle, together we all made the much larger TSA puzzle.

Together as Virginia TSA officers, we were given the chance to participate in many different workshops. Workshops ranged from how to publicize TSA in your state, to what you need to know before you run for national TSA office. With

*See page 9  
for pictures and the rest of the story...*

## The Virginia Scene

"A Newsletter for students by students"

Published by the  
Virginia Association of the  
Technology Student Association

### The Virginia TSA Executive Council

<b>President:</b>	<i>Brittany Stansberry</i>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<i>Matt Walton</i>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Whitney Hawkins</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Mary Mocsary</i>
<b>Reporter:</b>	<i>Stephen Blue</i>
<b>Sgt. At Arms:</b>	<i>Savannah Neece</i>
<b>Historian:</b>	<i>Carmen Cabrero</i>
<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	<i>Marlayna Robinson</i>

### Regional Presidents

<b>Blue Ridge:</b>	<i>Tyler Martin</i>
<b>Northern:</b>	<i>Kyle Carter</i>
<b>South Central:</b>	<i>Amanda Ricks</i>
<b>Southwestern:</b>	<i>Eddie Neece</i>
<b>Tidewater:</b>	<i>Lily Smith</i>
<b>Valley:</b>	<i>Blaire Hawkins</i>

### Executive Council Advisors

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*Mr. Joe Baldwin*  
*Ms. Carol Blue*  
*Mr. Tom Bourne*  
*Ms. Dori Cavanaugh*  
*Mr. Paul Jacobs*  
*Mr. Chuck Koch*  
*Mr. Bryan Newsome*  
*Mr. Jerry Ridgeway*  
*Ms. Amy Schacht*  
*Mr. Cliff Wampler*  
*Mr. Wes Worley*

### Virginia TSA State Advisor

*Ms. Kathleen F. Stansbury*

### Technology Education Specialist, Virginia Department of Education

*Mr. George R. Willcox*

Special thanks to Stephen Blue,  
Virginia TSA State Reporter, for  
formatting this newsletter.

## A Word From the President...



*Brittany Stansberry*

Greetings Virginia TSA,

Hope you are all doing well! I am pleased to say that Virginia TSA is stronger than ever. We are excited that each region was able to conduct or organize a Fall Leadership Rally. All Rallies had a variety of sessions from leadership to computerized manufacturing, with impressive turnouts and prominent keynote speakers.

TSA members from around the Commonwealth as well as the majority of the State Officers were able to represent Virginia TSA at the State Fair of Virginia during the "11 Days of Wild Things" in September and October. The Virginia TSA' booth had a variety of activities. These activities featured highlights of past National Conferences, Archives Scrapbooks from past years, life-sized building blocks, a magnetic train, and a computerized lathe, as well as many other interesting things. Our booth was located adjacent to the VCU Health Center booth; we are working with them for our service project this year entitled Project ASK.

Project ASK is supports young children in Virginia who have cancer. I would like to encourage all of you support Project ASK through your local chapter. The Community Service Information Packet can be found at our website [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org) under Member Resources. The donations need not be monetary, see the packet for more information. Please take advantage of this opportunity to make a positive difference in someone's life.

The Executive Council has been quite busy. A number of us were able to attend the National TSA Leadership Conference, Directions '02, in Reston Virginia. Directions is a leadership conference coordinated by National TSA each year and held over a three-day period. We were able to bond as a team, while meeting new people and making new friends from other parts of the country. Virginia TSA participated in valuable leadership building activities, some of which may be implemented at Technosphere.

Now is the time of year when we begin to contemplate which contests we will enter at Regionals. You or your advisor have downloaded the Virginia TSA Addendum to find out which competitions are held at the regional events. The supplies have been purchased for your projects. While you are preparing for your competition(s), I encourage you to consider leadership opportunities available in our organization. Being an officer at the regional or state level is an awesome experience. The application process is fairly straightforward and is a great opportunity for you to show how much TSA means to you. The applications are available on our website at [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org).

Feel free to contact me at any time. Remember, I am here for YOU, to represent YOU and to serve YOU.

Brittany R. Stansberry  
Virginia TSA President

# Pictures from the Regional Rallies



**South Central Region***by Amanda Ricks, President*

Greetings from the South Central Region. I am Amanda E. Ricks, your South Central Regional President. I hope you all are having a great school year, as I am excited and looking forward to the rest of this year in TSA .

The South Central's Regional Rally went great!!! Held November 2, 2002 at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond. In attendance were the South Central Regional Officers, Regional advisory team, and the local TSA chapters. At the opening general session, an overview was given detailing the workshops for the day. Workshops included: "Leadership, Community Service and Fund Raising" presented

**Valley Region***by Blaire Hawkins, President*

I would like to congratulate the Valley Region officer team, as well as all of our Valley Region members, for a very successful and fun 2002 Fall Rally. Though we were expecting about 175 attendees, I am proud to say that 220 people participated in the activities at our Rally this year. This is our largest attendance ever at a Fall Rally, and was almost double the attendance in 2001. Thanks everybody! I hope all of you enjoyed yourselves and will plan to attend next year's rally. I'd like to bring everyone up to date on just a few of the highlights of this year's Rally.

The Rally was held at the Integrated Science And Technology (ISAT) building on the campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg. The meeting kicked off at about 1:35 pm (yes five minutes late, but hey, no one is perfect). All of our officers were present, with the exception of our Vice-President, Kristen Swanson, who was away due to illness in the family. We all missed her, but she will be back with us for the Fair in March. After the opening ceremony and approval of reports, guest

by Alvin Bond the South Central Regional Treasurer, "Competitive Events Update and Problem Solving" presented by Matt Ledford, and "Web Page Design" presented by yours truly... Amanda Ricks. Snack and drinks were provided for all attendees. The closing general session included a fun team building exercise, where prizes were given out. After the closing ceremony, everyone was invited to tour the Science Museum at their own leisure.

If you have any questions or concerns about the region or if you would like to join any committees, please contact me at [tsa\\_sc\\_prez@yahoo.com](mailto:tsa_sc_prez@yahoo.com). Leave your name, message, and phone number and I will contact you as soon as possible.

speaker, Mr. Pablo Cuevas, was introduced. Mr. Cuevas is a member of the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors. He shared his experiences of emigrating from Cuba and trying to find success in his new country. We all appreciated Mr. Cuevas' inspiring story.

The JMU faculty at ISAT graciously provided several workshops including computer manufacturing and a hovercraft. During the hovercraft workshop, which was probably the most popular of this year, JMU actually explained and demonstrated the use of their hovercraft. The Officers also conducted workshops including Problem Solving and Tech Bowl. Other workshops included flight (thanks Mr. Ridgeway!), electronics, Groundwater Infiltration, and Lego League. Matt Walton and Whitney Hawkins ran the Leadership Development workshop, which was well attended.

At 4:30, some of us enjoyed pizza, though a miscalculation and extra people left us without enough for everyone. Fortunately, Papa John's delivers and everyone was fed. After pizza, a large number of TSA members walked down

**Northern Region***by Kyle Carter, President*

The Northern Region has less to report this season because of one word: Sniper. It plagued the Northern Virginia, D.C., and Maryland areas. ALL activities in the area were cancelled during the sniper's rampage. In light of the sniper's actions in Prince William County during the week prior to the rally, the Northern Region was forced to cancel its Regional Rally. It was unfortunate, but the safest decision. It was also unfortunate that Virginia TSA in the Northern Region cannot fully carry out its duties because of a crazy homicidal sniper.

Northern Region Sergeant-at-Arms, Andrea Rojas, states, "I really wanted to do my leadership presentation, but now I can't. With the sniper out, everything is getting cancelled." Students were somewhat down for a few days after finding out the rally would be cancelled. One student said, "I really wish they would catch the sniper, so I can resume my school activities. I'm really perturbed that the rally was cancelled, it sounded like it would be a fun time."

Finally, with the sniper caught, life can get back to normal. The fall rally is still cancelled, but that gives even more time to plan a fun filled Spring Fair. The Spring Fair, will be held at Potomac High School on March 22, 2003.

to watch the JMU football team take on Villanova. JMU lost, but the game was still fun.

Again, I hope all of you had a great time. I also welcome suggestions or comments from this year's rally. If you have any ideas or changes, please contact a Valley Region officer or advisor. We're looking forward to seeing all of you again at our next event in March.

**Tidewater Region***by Lily Smith, President*

The Tidewater Fall Leadership Rally was held on Nov. 16, 2002, at Northside Middle School in Norfolk. Students from throughout the region attended the rally to learn more about competitions and leadership. In the opening session, Tidewater Regional President, Lily Smith, along with Tyrone Goodman, welcomed the assembly.

In the morning, there were two 30-minute sessions where regional officers and advisors led workshops on various competitions. In the afternoon, there was one session on regional offices and one session on leadership; these were also led by the regional officer team. The sessions included slide shows, handouts, and tips and advice. The leadership workshop was a highly interactive program; discussion was encouraged, and the session was a "hands-on" learning experience.

The FBLA chapter at Northside Middle School, along with several parent volunteers, sold lunch and breakfast to the TSA members. The regional officers sold tickets throughout the day for the 50/50 raffle. A parent ran a booth selling small pieces of candy; certain pieces were specially marked and cash prizes were given away. All the proceeds from these fundraisers went to Project ASK, which also had a display available for members to view.

One major goal of the Regional Officers was to promote leadership and community service. Packets, applications, and other information was made available to all the members on-site. The Tidewater Region focused efforts at the Fall Rally on community service and leadership. We hope to see the results of this hard work through more participation in the community service projects and more candidates at the regional officer elections this spring. Well done, team and thanks to all who participated.

# Regional Fair Updates

***From the Tidewater Region, by Lily Smith, President***

The Tidewater Regional Conference is scheduled to be held March 1, 2003, at Hickory High School in Chesapeake, Va. The Tidewater regional officers are currently looking for judges and other volunteers to help the conference run smoothly.

In addition to the middle and high school competitions, the Tidewater region also hopes to fundraise for Project ASK. The officers have scheduled several meetings before the conference to begin their thorough planning sessions.

***From the Valley Region, by Kristen Swanson, Vice-President***

After a very successful Fall Rally, the officers of the Valley Region are looking forward to this year's Valley Region Spring Fair. The Spring Fair is an excellent opportunity to compete, meet people from other chapters, and just have a great time. The Fair will take place on March 1, 2003 at the Blue Ridge Community College. Besides our usual competitive events, we are hoping to offer several special interest sessions and activities for our members.

The Virginia Army National Guard will hopefully be joining us again this year. The National Guard will bring soldiers who can provide information about their jobs and technology. Blue Ridge Community College is also planning to hold special interest sessions for students and adults. We hope to include sessions on electronics, computer technology, and such. The Valley Region Council has been working on additional activities for our members during the "after lunch lull" when most competitive events have finish up. This social time will give our members time to relax, meet people from other chapters, and meet the officers. Music and games are planned.

We hope that you have all made plans to attend the Valley Region Spring Fair in March. It is very important that we all support the Valley Region and attend Regionals. It is an opportunity to vote for your regional leadership, test your competitive entries, and have a great time. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

***From the Northern Region, by Eric Stokes, Reporter***

This year's Northern Regional Spring Fair will be held at Potomac High School on Saturday, March 22. Student members will be able to participate in over thirty different competitions. This year four new High School competitions will be introduced. They are Agriculture and Biotechnology Design, Membership Recruitment Challenge, Medical Technology, and CAD Animation. Of the four, CAD Animation will be available at the regional level. For more information on all of the competitions, including which ones you must pre-qualify for to compete in at Technosphere, check the Addendum on our state web page at [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org).

The members and officers here at Potomac and the Northern Region are still busy planning for this year's competition. Among the many things being considered is getting a guest speaker to join us for one of our general sessions. The Principal of Potomac High, Mr. Parker, will be speaking to the students during one of our sessions. Project ASK is our community service project that will be a part of the work in our region this year. The purpose of Project ASK is to raise money for children diagnosed with cancer. Collection jars will be placed around the school during the Fair and all donations would be greatly appreciated. One of our goals this year is to recruit new schools and many new members. We look forward to seeing all of you at this year's Fair.

# What We Do as Regional Officers

## ***By the South Central Region Officer Team***

Being a regional officer for TSA may seem like a “slacker position” for some, but there are quite a few important jobs that people rely on us to do. We are responsible for making sure that the region is kept busy with interesting and educational and technology related activities. We also need to plan the annual regional rally and regional fair. We must make sure that the chapters of our region have the proper resources they need to keep up an interesting and diverse program—and thus keep up membership. We are kept busy.

The regional rally is the first major event, we have to plan. We develop activities to get old and new TSA members alike re-interested in TSA and give them a preview of this year’s activities. We provide resources to the chapters for them to plan their own activities throughout the year. We try to get people to attend functions and workshops the region has planned.

The regional fair is the highlight of the year for the regional officers, as well as the entire region. We need to get people in our regions psyched into attending and make sure that they are prepared for their competitions and voting of next year’s leaders. We also have attend and have our parts memorized for the general assemblies. Being a regional officer for TSA is an important responsibility, and while being a difficult burden, it is good for improving our leadership skills.

## ***By Andrea Rojas, Northern Region Sergeant-at-Arms***

The officers of the TSA Northern Region play an important role. We plan, prepare, and execute several activities throughout our term as officers. We organize all Northern Regional activities for the members of TSA. Our goal is to carry out worthy activities and projects that contribute to an improvement of service to the community and provide an easier access to the technical world for others. The activities we organize are the Fall Rally, Spring Fair, and fundraising. During our presence in these activities, including Technosphere, we are to set a good example to the TSA members.

The Regional Fall Rally was planned to provide an opportunity for students to increase their knowledge about leadership and technology. Included in the Rally were three workshops, team activities, and general sessions with a preview of scholarships and awards. The workshops included the Advisor Roundtable, New Contests, Potential Officer Workshop, Tech Bowl, Problem Solving, and Flight Basics. The team building activities were “rope” type which include 2x4 Walk Race, Traversing the Lake of Fire, Hula-Hoop Pass, and Catch the Can. Due to the cancellation of our Rally, we plan to submit these resources to next year’s officer team.

The officers of the Northern Region also organize the Regional Spring Fair. This year the Fair will be held at Potomac High School. It will be an all day event. As officers, we will direct contestants to their competitions, give out awards, and conduct the opening and closing sessions. We will provide information and give help to others and set a good example.

We also assist Virginia TSA in fundraising for the community service project. This year we will be raising money for a program called Project ASK. Project ASK helps kids from all over the Commonwealth with cancer at the Children’s Hospital in Richmond, Virginia. Our plan to raise this money is through donations at the Regional Spring Fair.

## ***By Lee Murphy, Blue Ridge Region Vice-President***

As vice-president of the Blue Ridge Regional Council, I attend all the meetings and assist the President in as many ways as possible. I assist with the preparations for different events for this region such as the Fall Rally and the Spring Fair. I fill in for the President if he is absent, whether it is at a meeting or at an event. Lastly, I try to keep up-to-date reports on the rest of the officers of the council.

## ***By Lauren DeSimone, Tidewater Region Treasurer***

After 5 years of having a great experience in TSA, I decided to further my involvement by running for a regional office. The votes were cast and now I am the Tidewater Regional Treasurer for the 2002-2003 school year. Since 9<sup>th</sup> grade, I’ve been elected as a class officer; the past two years I’ve been the class treasurer. This experience has contributed to my admiration for student government and has fueled my motivation for being a TSA regional officer.

With each regional meeting, I am continually impressed by the decision-making processes and the efficiency by which our council manages. Any issues that have arisen are brought before the council, discussed, and then we as a council decide on the best way of handling the issue. It always amazes me that each decision we make has such colossal affects on the entire Tidewater TSA region. The responsibility that comes with this knowledge is unbelievable and I’ve never felt more “grown up”.

In addition to the legislative aspects of being a regional officer, it is an equally awesome experience uniting with other dedicated TSA members from across the region to manage and maintain our region’s chapters. The current regional council is comprised of high school students that live and work miles from each other. TSA allows the opportunity for aspiring students to work together for a common purpose. Lasting relationships are made and the spirit of TSA is strengthened, making TSA an unforgettable experience.

## Fundraising Tips

By *Mary Mocsary, Virginia TSA Treasurer*

1. Start early and establish a fundraising goal.
2. Decide whom you will solicit for sponsorship: your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, business contacts, local retailers, etc.
3. Write a personal letter explaining why you are working for this cause. People love to hear personal stories, if you are willing to share. If you are writing a letter, include a self-addressed return envelope.
4. Keep a record of your sponsors so that you can send each one a personal note of thanks. A letter of thanks makes everyone feel good about supporting you, especially if you plan to solicit them again the following year.
5. Hang posters and put out brochures in local stores for publicity and exposure.

Get personal with your fundraising. Allow people to know why your fundraiser is important to you. By providing your supporters with the personal aspect of the fundraiser, you will appeal to their generosity more than a simple poster ever could. Also, the more information that people have about your organization or cause, the more apt they are to spend more to help you out.

*-excerpt from "Fundraising Tips for Ride 2002" from The Brain Tumor Society, <http://www.tbts.org/ride/fundraising.htm>*

## Running for Office

By *Savannah Neece, Virginia TSA Sergeant-at-Arms*

What does it take to be a TSA officer? Basically, you have to accept the responsibilities that are yours. You have to be able to commit your time, energy, and talents to help guide your association into the future. Being a state or regional officer is a challenging and rewarding experience that will help you throughout your life. You have to be willing to help others and yourself. You will be meeting new people and having new exciting experiences so you have to be prepared for it.

Applying to be a TSA officer is simple. Download the officer application from [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org). Fill out an officer candidate form, explain why you would like to be a Virginia TSA officer, and get signatures of your advisor, parent, principal, and superintendent. Mail your application to:

Virginia TSA  
P.O. Box 9045  
VSU  
Petersburg, VA 23806

**Don't forget to mail your application prior to January 15!**

## Budgeting: Why & How?

By *Mary Mocsary, Virginia TSA Treasurer*

Budgeting is essential in keeping your chapter in line and on task. Without proper budgeting, your chapter, school, or organization would be chaos. One major problem in poor budgeting would include being in debt.

Budgeting helps out a lot in your chapter. It will organize your thoughts and goals. By budgeting your money, there is a greater possibility of doing more activities than before. By doing this, I am not guaranteeing that you will not fall behind at one point or another, but it will help you stay finally secure in the long run.

So you might say, "Well how do I budget?" Here are some easy steps on budgeting:

1. Record what goals you would like to accomplish and how much money that you would need approximately, whether it is getting enough money to go to Nationals or buying supplies.
2. Make a chart that included all of the areas that would require money. For example, you may include national funds, fall rally, and state funds.
3. Keep track of all funds being received or spent by your chapter. Include in your chart, an area for received money and a total. Beside the received money section, put approximated amount received and actual amount received. Next to the areas of need, you should put two columns, which include approximated amount spent and actual amount spent.
4. Keep your chapter up to date on its goals and the current budget status. This helps to motivate and recognize accomplishments.

This isn't the only way to budget, there are more forms of spreadsheets etc, that you can use to budget your money. You are not limited to just a spreadsheet, you can also use graphs, charts, etc. You may need to experiment to find the best method for you. By budgeting, you are doing you and your chapter an immense favor.

### Blue Ridge Region Update

by *Tyler Martin, Blue Ridge Region President*

The Blue Ridge Region is doing quite well. We have a full region council. We have set dates for all of our region activities. At our next region meeting, we will be working on a budget, program of work, things for the Fall Rally, and the Spring Fair. The Blue Ridge Region will have a successful year.

# Surry County TSA is Back!

by Whitney Bailey, Surry HS TSA Reporter

Welcome TSA members. It's 2002 and this year is going to be better than ever. It's that time of year again and Surry County TSA members are ready to rumble! As you know in the year 2000 Surry County TSA only had a middle school chapter. We advanced in numerous categories at state and national TSA competitions. We came in 1<sup>st</sup> in six categories and 4<sup>th</sup> overall at State competition in Richmond, Virginia. We went to Nationals but we were not as successful there as we were at State. At State competition in 2000, our sponsor Mr. Larry "Coach Bear" Jones, became ill and was hospitalized during the entire State Leadership Conference, but we still managed to do well. Due to Coach "Bear's" extended illness, Surry County High was unable to have a TSA chapter in 2001, but Surry County chapter members, who were so successful at the Middle School in 2000, are now students attending Surry County High School. So get ready for Surry County High TSA to be as competitive as ever, at regional, state, and nationals. Be prepared because **SURRY COUNTY TSA IS BACK!!!!**



## **Surry TSA Members:**

**First row:** President—Stephanie Washington, Treasurer—Tiffany Johnson, Assistant Secretary—Byanka Jones, Parliamentarian—Christina Thomas, Reporter—Whitney Bailey, and Vice-President—Kelley Gaines.

**Second row:** Ronald Howell, Sergeant-at-Arms—Breyon Pierce, Theodore Bailey, and Historian—Rob Pearson. **Not Pictured:** Secretary—Chana Brown, Welton Blount, and TaMisha Evans.

# Potomac TSA

by Eric Steward, Potomac HS TSA Reporter

This year is proving to be quite the year for Potomac Senior High School. We have added at least 20 new members to our 40 member Potomac TSA chapter. For some, it will be their first year and for others it will be their last. Currently, there are no middle school members but we look forward to the possibility.

This year, we plan on participating in a lot of fundraisers. We are looking forward to meeting our \$5,000 goal. \$2,000 of the money raised will be put towards state finals and the other \$3,000 of the fund will go towards the National Conference. Already, this year, we have planned two car washes. While one of them was postponed due to school activities being cancelled because of the sniper, we were successful during the first car wash raising \$350 in 4 hours. We also participated in candy sales raising \$1,600.

This year, Potomac Senior High School is hosting the Northern Regional Fair. At regionals, there will be over 30 events. Four of which are new TSA events; Agriculture and Biotechnology design, CAD Animation, Medical Technology, and High School Membership Recruitment Challenge. Northern Regionals will be held on March 22, 2003.

This year, the National Conference are held in Orlando, Florida in June. To get to Nationals, Potomac TSA anticipates flying down to Florida using the \$3,000 we have raised through fundraisers such as car washes and candy sales. Last year at

Nationals, we were a force to wreckin' with! We were finalists in Architectural Drawing and we won Chapter Excellence.

Even with seemingly difficult goals, Potomac TSA is more than ready for the road that lies ahead and with our 35 new members Potomac is hungry for gold in the competitions to come!

Want your chapter featured in the Virginia Scene?  
Send articles and pictures of  
your latest events to: [tsa@vatsa.org](mailto:tsa@vatsa.org).

# Turner Ashby TSA Tailgates

By Mark Miller, Turner Ashby HS TSA Treasurer

On Friday, October 18, the Turner Ashby High School TSA chapter held a tailgate party prior to the TA football game against the Harrisonburg Blue Streaks. The chapter provided hot dogs and drinks while the chapter members provided chips and cookies. Twenty-five TA TSA members actively participated in this fun event that brought our members closer together. As a chapter, we would like to thank our advisors, Jerry Ridgeway and Scott Drugo, for helping us put on this activity. We would also like to thank the Turner Ashby TSA members who came out for the tailgate party.

# Taking a Good Picture

By Carmen Cabrero, Virginia TSA Historian

There are many ways to take a good picture. Below are a few good tips, I've learned throughout the years.

**Tip #1** Most importantly, keep your camera with you at all times. Spontaneous moments make the best pictures.

**Tip #2** Get close to your subject. This will eliminate distractions, unnecessary backgrounds, and shows the subject more clearly.

**Tip #3** To give a more relaxed and natural look to your photographs, be sure to keep people busy. Try to avoid the image of stiffness and static poses.

**Tip #4** Be sure to use a simple background. This will bring out your subject and direct the attention to it as

well. An uncluttered background will make stronger, more clear pictures.

**Tip #5** Many photographers place the subject in the center of the photo, but there is nothing wrong with making the subject off-center. This may even be interesting and more dynamic to the eye.

**Tip #6** Always keep your camera steady. The slightest camera movements can take all the sharpness out of your photo. Use a post, your knee, or a wall to steady your camera.

**Tip #7** Finally, lighting is a big issue in taking photographs. Good lighting will make your picture more interesting and flattering. Be sure to try different lighting styles, instead of sunlight, try taking pictures on over-cast days, or even at night. Try to keep the light in front of your subject.

## Directions 2002

*continued from page 1*

the knowledge that my fellow state officers and I received at these workshops, we will be able to more effectively lead Virginia TSA.

The National TSA Officer Team had planned several team building exercises. These exercises included a nine-legged race, a dice rolling game, a human giraffe relay, and finally a TSA Creed building pyramid. These exercises brought the Virginia State Officers and State Advisor closer together in proximity and as a team.

Directions also gave many of Virginia TSA Officers a great time to meet other state officers from across the country. I became friends with many different people from states such as: Washington, Tennessee, Colorado, Florida, and Texas. Being able to talk with other state officers gave me a chance to

exchange ideas with them and to learn what activities other states do and possibly implement them into Virginia TSA.

The weekend concluded on Sunday with the "TSA 101 The Game Show." People had to win their way on to the show from winning a TSA trivia contest in a workshop. I was able to win in one of the workshops, so I got to face off against three other state officers in a Hollywood Squares type game show. I won the wild card, so I advanced to the final round, where I faced a state officer from Colorado. In the end, it came down to one square for me to win, and that square was Doug O'Reagan, former Virginia TSA President and current National Vice-President. When all was said and done, I won the square and the game. I was so excited to win the game and represent Virginia TSA well.

Looking back on the weekend, the Virginia TSA Officers who attended Directions have gained valuable knowledge that we will bring back to Virginia TSA in the near future.



*Virginia TSA Leaders at Directions '02*

# Project ASK: Virginia TSA Community Service Project

*By Lily Smith, Tidewater Region President*

Every year Virginia TSA adopts a service project; this year, we have decided to support Project ASK, the Association for the Support of Children with Cancer. ASK, a private, nonprofit organization, provides unique social, emotional, spiritual, and financial support for children in Virginia with cancer and their families. ASK also supports clinical and laboratory research at the Medical College of Virginia to aid in finding the causes and cures of childhood cancer.

Begun in 1975 by parents of children with cancer in Virginia who wanted to fight back against the disease, ASK has raised over a million dollars in pursuit of its goals. ASK now pays the salary of the chaplain, the child-life therapist, the nurse practitioner, and the art therapist, all of whom came together to provide physical, emotional, and medical support for the children of Virginia with cancer. In addition, ASK provides funding to the division of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology for research and equipment.

In addition to financial support, ASK also sponsors many outings, parties, and other special events for children who are currently in treatment and those who have finished their treatments at MCV. ASK also continues to support families of children who have lost their battle with cancer.

An important reason why we chose Project ASK as the state-wide fundraiser was not only because it is a regional charity, but also because donations do not have to be monetary in form. Visits to the children, holiday gifts, and entertainment events are all valuable ways to donate to Project ASK.

There is a comprehensive packet on Project ASK, available online at [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org) and from your regional officer teams, that details how to collect money and where to send it, more information about ASK, ideas on how to help, and a copy of the new community service award application. Be sure to pick up one of these packets for your chapter, and get fundraising!

At Technosphere 2003, Virginia TSA will be holding a canned food drive to support food banks in the Hampton Area. Bring canned goods and non-perishables to Technosphere, and we'll make sure they get to the hungry families in the area.

By supporting Project ASK and holding a food drive, we are helping people in Virginia. Project ASK helps child cancer victims in Virginia. Also, by donating to a food drive in Virginia, you may be helping to feed someone you know or someone you see at school. Virginia TSA is truly helping Virginia this year, which makes it more important for all of our members to contribute what they can. Please help Virginia TSA in these very worthy causes this year! Thanks!

## The Virginia TSA Constitution and How it Effects our Organization

*By Marlayna Robinson, Virginia TSA Parliamentarian*

The Constitution is a system of fundamental laws of the United States of America. It was drawn up by 55 delegates from different states during the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. During the summer of 1787. The U.S. Constitution defines distinct powers for the Congress of the United States, the President, and the federal courts. It also establishes and limits the authority of the federal government over the states and spells out rights of all U.S. citizens.

In much the same way, the Constitution created by the Virginia Association of the Technology Student Association (Virginia TSA) was drawn up in 1978. It defines the powers of each member of state and regional offices, the members of individual chapters, and the Executive Council. The Constitution establishes and limits the authority of the Executive Council over the regional assembly and spells out the rights of all TSA members in each Virginia TSA region.

The Virginia TSA Constitution is used frequently in Executive Council meetings to settle matters related to membership, quorums, motions, and amendments. It also includes vital information such as the name, purpose, and creed of our organization.

In closing, I would have to say that our Constitution is the very rock on which this organization was founded. It goes unwavering in its proposition no matter what the tide may bring its way. For the a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, please visit [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org) click under "Organization and Leadership".

# technology.corner and Cool Toys

*a series by Amanda Ricks, South Central Region President*

Everyday we see so many different gadgets & “do dads”. Sometimes it can be hard to choose the right ones for you. Well, I am here to narrow down the gadget spectrum and to give you my opinion of the best in quality and in price.

First off, let's discuss a laptop. With people always on the move, a laptop is very helpful. If you are looking for the Mac format you can purchase an Apple iBook G3 for about \$1,200. In this 5lb machine, you have Mac OS X, a 800MHz, G3 processor, 30GB HD, CD/DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive, 56K modem and Air Port card for wireless connection, and an AV plug so you can present all of your school presentations, plus, much more.

Now if you prefer the Windows format, the Toshiba Satellite Notebook 1405-S151 is a great notebook for school work. This 6 pound notebook has an Intel Celeron processor with Windows XP Home Edition, 1.2GHz, 30GB HD, DVD-ROM/CD-RW Combo Drive, 10/100 Ethernet LAN slot for wireless connection and the list just goes on and on.

## Food Drive at Technosphere

*By Blaire Hawkins, Valley Region President*

The Virginia TSA Executive Council has made community service a top priority this year. We would like to encourage all of our chapters to participate in the service projects offered through Virginia TSA. As you may already know, this year's state community service projects are Project ASK and a food drive to support food banks in the Hampton area. The food drive will be simple for chapters to participate in, and will truly make a difference for the hungry in the Hampton area. Chapters are asked to collect food beforehand, and bring it to Hampton at Technosphere. We will have a drop off location set up in the hotel (the precise location is to be determined) where chapters can leave their canned goods and non-perishables. We will keep a tally of the number of items brought by each chapter. The chapter with the most items will win a special prize and will be recognized during one of the general sessions at Technosphere. We hope all of the chapters in Virginia TSA will participate in this worthy cause.

In addition to the state service projects, the Executive Council always supports chapters who choose to help out in their own communities. Chapters who are active in their own communities create a positive image for TSA and help to brighten someone's day. Activities as simple as picking up trash or visiting a nursing home can truly make a difference, so please get involved!

Tired of taking notes by hand or photocopying a whole page just for 1 paragraph? Well, the C-Pen 800 lets you read, write, translate, e-mail, fax, store, transfer and display all sorts of information. This five ounce pen is the perfect tool for gathering information anywhere, at anytime. Simply move the C-Pen over printed text in any kind of book, it's like highlighting. The information is then scanned through a digital camera. The scanned images are then transformed into text by an Optical Character Recognition system which stores the information as a text file in the C-Pen.

Lastly, let's discuss a camera. Remember your school year not just with a school Yearbook, but with your own Memory CD. The best way to do that is to buy a digital camera with a smart media card or compact flash card and an LCD screen. With these tools, you can keep or delete which pictures you want. The Hewlett-Packard Photo Smart 1.0-Megapixel Digital Camera is a great “kick around” camera. For \$129, this camera is a good deal. It has a LCD Screen, 2x digital zoom, USB connection for PC and Mac, self-timer, and other cool little features.

## Enterprising Update

*By Whitney Hawkins, Virginia TSA Secretary*

The enterprising committee has been working harder than ever in the months after Technosphere! After a short break, the council reconvened at the New Officer's workshop to begin work again. Part of our responsibility at the workshop was to commit to goals and plans for the year ahead. The committee met several times throughout the New Officer's Workshop to discuss goals and plans for the year.

First of all, the committee will have new t-shirt and pin designs for Technosphere. Having the same design year after year gets dull and boring, so we will try to change it up frequently. Also, Virginia TSA tries to create its own image and be unpredictable. Also for Technosphere, the Archives record book will be sold on CD. This is a change from previous years, and we hope that it will help to do two things: 1) Make the record book viewed more and the hard work of the Historian recognized, and 2) make it available whenever you would want it, for a small fee. Also, proceeds from the sales will be used to benefit Virginia TSA.

These are some of the ideas our committee has for this year. If you have ideas on how we can make money this year, please feel free to contact me or a member of my committee. Also, if you would like to join my committee, let me know as soon as possible. New members are always welcome!

# Leadership: Just Do It!!!

*By Lily Smith, Tidewater Region President*

One of the most important aspects of TSA is its leadership. Each of the six regions in Virginia elects a slate of officers, and the statewide membership elects a state officer team. The offices consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Parliamentarian, Historian, and Sergeant-at-Arms. The specific duties of each officer are listed in the TSA officer handbook.

There are several necessary qualifications in order to run for a regional or state office. Only active TSA members serving or who have served as a chapter officer and who maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average may run; more qualifications are listed on the application.

Applications for regional and state officer candidates are located on the website for easy access. They are due to the state no later than January 15, 2003.

Once an application is filled out and submitted to the state, it will be reviewed and approved or disapproved. Upon approval, candidates must prepare their campaign. Each candidate will have four minutes to deliver a campaign speech, and their manager may deliver a one-minute introductory speech. Candidates are encouraged to have tabletop displays, along with handouts, buttons, candy, and other materials during the conference.

## New Virginia Scene Available Online

Make sure to visit [www.vatsa.org](http://www.vatsa.org) and check out the latest online Virginia Scene!

### Get noticed online!

Send in your regional and state pictures to be posted on the Virginia TSA Web Site!  
[tva@vatsa.org](mailto:tva@vatsa.org)

## Have You Seen It? The Re-Structured Virginia TSA Web Site

In August Virginia TSA released a completely re-structured and re-organized [vatsa.org](http://vatsa.org) web site! With new features and updated for the new year, its better than ever!

## KEEP THE STATE INFORMED ABOUT YOUR CHAPTER!

Submit your CHAPTER ARTICLE for the Virginia Scene to [tva@vatsa.org](mailto:tva@vatsa.org)



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