Virginia TSA Leadership Academy ‘09

The Leadership Academy is an annual event hosted by the Virginia Association of the Technology Student Association. The Virginia TSA Leadership Academy is the only student run academy in the state that allows young leaders to learn and develop leadership skills. Students who attend the academy end up leaving with an extended understanding of how to apply themselves as leaders in their community and school chapter.

On November 21st 2009, the Virginia Executive Council hosted the 3rd Annual Leadership Academy. The two-day event consisted of a general session, on the first day, in which a key speaker from Focus Training planned multiple activities to increase communication and charisma, which are two major leadership skills. On the second day, Virginia TSA Executive Council officers lead the activities. Participants through multiple breakout sessions, gained further insight on communication, fundraising, leadership, and parliamentary procedure.

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Kovacs
Virginia TSA Reporter
Leadership Academy Cont...

Can you find yourself in one of the pictures? If not, make sure you attend the next Leadership Academy!!
The Kings Fork Middle School Technology Student Association in Suffolk, Virginia, recently completed an amazing service project by collecting 271 hats for the Hats Off for Cancer campaign. Ms. Deb Shapiro, TSA advisor said, “my students wanted to complete a philanthropy project that would be in keeping with the American Cancer Society that National TSA supports. They wanted to do something to compliment ACS, but wanted it to hit home with kids.”

“I had seen Tara Lawrence, founder of the Hats Off For Cancer organization, on the Montel Williams show a couple of years ago and thought her Hats off for Cancer program was a wonderful way to get my students involved. When I showed the video of her to my students they jumped on the chance to help out,” Ms. Shapiro said.

According to the Hats Off For Cancer website, Tara Lawrence knew she had to turn a negative and devastating situation into a positive one after losing her grandfather to prostate cancer in 1992. She began volunteering with the American Cancer Society in 1994. Tara was able to meet and talk with children who were battling cancer or who were cancer survivors. One common statement was repeated during each conversation, the children did not like losing their hair due to their cancer treatments. That was the beginning of Hats Off For Cancer.

In 1996, Tara began a national letter writing and telephone campaign asking for donations from local and national companies, public officials, celebrities, schools and civic organizations. Through the next year, newspapers, magazines and television news shows interviewed Tara about her program. Eleven years and more than 690,000 hats later, donations continue to pour in helping hundreds of thousands of deserving children.

TSA Advisor Deb Shapiro felt connected the Hats Off For Cancer program in many ways. She said that her husband had survived childhood cancer and through research, she learned that Hats Off For Cancer founder, Tara Lawrence and she had been in the same college sorority albeit at difference universities. The Kings Fork Middle School TSA chapter is in its third year, and the hat drive had taken nearly that long to complete. “My 10 students completed two hat drives and my son Benjamin, a sixth grader at Kings Fork Middle School, and I delivered 271 hats to the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia August 11th. We were able to visit the floor of the oncology department and peak through the windows to see where the hats would be given to the kids.” Beth Bowling, the Volunteer Coordinator at CHKD, was very grateful for the donation.

The TSA chapter members used posters, announcements during school, and sent emails to teachers to advertise the hat drive. “We got other schools in the district involved and received donations from high school sports teams and various other school clubs. We came up with a ‘Put Your Thinking Cap On Day’ for students and teachers who had donated a hat so that they got to wear their own hat on Friday before semester exams. The students and teachers had a lot of fun with this idea,” Ms. Shapiro said.

Ms. Shapiro said that her chapter wants to continue service project efforts specific to the cancer patients at Children’s Hospital of the Kings Daughters. “Certainly around the holidays it would be great to collect other donation for the kids and to let them know someone is thinking of them.”
Hello Virginia TSA,

This is Jason Dreyzehner, reporting in from Leipzig, Germany, about the Virginia TSA Pilot Exchange. Since mid-August I have been attending Wilhelm Ostwald School, one of TSA’s foreign outpost chapters in Leipzig, Germany, and taking part in chapter meetings and activities. It has been an incredible experience so far, and while I surely can’t fit much into such a short article, I’d like to point out some of the highlights and most interesting tidbits I have seen.

I think it would be appropriate to begin by saying that before I came to Germany, I had little to no formal education on the German language. Nevertheless, my language skills are progressing, and I think I am able to hold meaningful conversations without help from my English dictionary. I hope this will serve to motivate other TSA members who wish to take part in a future TSA foreign exchange program to do so regardless of language barriers.

Ostwald School puts much of it’s focus into the fields of Science, Math, and Information Technology, and I feel truly privileged to be able to attend such a great institution. Over the time that I have been here, I have really been able to develop my knowledge of subjects relating to TSA, and I hope that I will be able to make use of my newfound skills in promoting the growth and development of the Virginia TSA and International TSA Associations.

I think the most noteworthy difference that I have noticed between TSA at my school in America, and TSA here, is the somewhat exclusive status the TSA holds at Ostwald School. While in America, we take for granted how easy it is for our membership to attend conferences and competitions (Southwestern Region’s 8 hour automotive odyssey to Technosphere seems like nothing compared to the over-seas adventure which the German chapters are sure to endure every year), the German chapters can only afford to bring a small number of people to the national conference- even with valiant fund-raising efforts. Unfortunately, this forces the chapter at Ostwald to conduct somewhat of a competitive tryout for new members each year. Going to America for the National TSA Conference is a popular idea among students at Ostwald, but overwhelming costs seem to burden the chapter significantly.

Somewhat of another difference lies in the lack of a solid equivalent to America’s “Technology Education” curriculum. While the majority of schools which take part in TSA have a solid curriculum that TSA’s competitions are meant to supplement- excluding schools like my regular school, Abingdon High School, which sports no Tech Ed curriculm (we’re working on it), Ostwald TSA must have somewhat of a challenge in matching their courses to TSA competitions; nevertheless, they manage, doing most of their work at home and apart from the school.

While other differences are beyond the scope of this article, if you are interested I would love to talk with you about my experiences and possibilities for a future TSA Exchange Program at Technosphere or by Facebook. I hope these activities will help to push TSA past where we have been before, and open our organization up to a globalizing community. To expand on the words of Tom Deaderick, Director of the Southwest Virginia Technology Council and speaker at the Southwestern Regional Fall Rally 2009, technology has leveled the playing field; 50 years ago, no one thought I would be able to sit in Leipzig, Germany, and speak face-to-face with a friend from Abingdon on the other side of the world. But in times of such rapid innovation, it can be difficult to stay on the cutting edge. In order to be successful in today’s global marketplace, we need to, “run faster, run longer, and start now.” By being TSA members, we’ve already begun. I hope that the relationship we are building between Virginia TSA and Ostwald TSA continues to grow and prosper, and who knows, maybe in a few years, Germany won’t be the only other country at the table.

Yours Truly,
Jason Dreyzehner
Virginia TSA Vice President
School Sponsored through the State Community Service Project

The 2009-2010 Virginia TSA State Community Service Project has sponsored its first new chapter. This is a great step toward the goal of having funding available to sponsor at least three chapters per year. The state community service project, named the Virginia TSA Fund, is a philanthropic program that will help schools where an economic need exists. The goal is to raise $3000.00 by Technosphere 2010. Participating in this fundraising, makes you eligible to apply for the Virginia Community Service Award awarded at Technosphere. Most importantly, however, it opens up opportunities for students of middle and high schools, by providing money to pay for membership and giving these students the experience of being part of the Technology Student Association. There is still time to send in contributions, which are due no later than April 2, 2010. For a printable version of a contribution remittance form, please check the Virginia TSA website. Thanks for your support!

Regional Fair Reminders

Don’t forget to have your advisor register you for the Regional Fair. This is your chance to showcase your skills in your chosen contest. The registration portal is now open!!

Blue Ridge Region           Staunton River High School           March 20, 2010
Northern Region             Colonial Forge High School            March 6, 2010
South Central Region        Matoaca High School                   March 6, 2010
Southwestern Region         Lebanon High School                    March 6, 2010
Tidewater Region            Grassfield High School                  March 6, 2010
Valley Region               Wilson Middle School                    March 6, 2010
Southwestern Region Outreach: Southwest Virginia FIRST Lego League

From mid-August to early November, the Abingdon High School TSA Chapter has been working in conjunction with members of the Southwest Virginia Technology Council and the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in promoting, organizing, and supporting teams of the Southwest Virginia FIRST Lego League. Through the AHSTSA Outreach program, now in its second year, members of AHSTSA and EB Stanley Middle School TSA helped to recruit members, mentor, and coordinate a scrimmage competition for the rookie teams of the new Southwestern Region FLL. In this years FIRST Lego League challenge of "Smart Move," elementary and middle school students from ages 9 to 14 built and programmed LEGO MINDSTORMS NXT robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing mat. The kids worked together to discuss tactics, solve problems, and come up with solutions to real world transportation problems in their communities.

On October 31st, AHSTSA held a “mini-tournament” scrimmage for the new teams to come together and compete. This helped to prepare them for the final Regional Competition on November 14th. At the mini-tournament, 15 TSA members in official attire judged, kept score, gave positive feedback, and ran the program for the day. Through their work and dedication, the AHSTSA Outreach volunteers exposed the younger students to TSA, and motivated many students to continue their interest in robotics and other technology fields. After the conclusion of the league, students were encouraged to join a TSA chapter and participate in TSA’s competitive events. The Outreach event was not only a huge success in promoting both TSA and technology education in Southwest Virginia, but it was also very helpful to the new Lego League’s rookie teams- one of which is the AHSTSA Outreach team, mentored by TSA Outreach Event Coordinator, Adrian Carico. The members of the team, Virtual Storm, were guest exhibitors at the Southwestern Region TSA Fall Rally and placed second of 14 teams in the region. The team will be advancing to the FLL State Tournament in December. Good Luck Virtual Storm!
Northern Region Fall Rally

This year's Northern Region Fall Rally was held at Franklin Middle School on October 17th. With over one hundred members in attendance, this year's Fall Rally was the largest the Northern Region has ever had. We began the rally with guest speaker Dean Westman. Mr. Westman is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He gave a short presentation on the role young men and women, such as those found in TSA, will play in a rapidly growing and developing world.

After the presentation, the Northern Regional Council divided the students into groups and rotated through four activities with the students to promote leadership qualities and cooperation. Some of the activities included ice breaker games to get the students outside their comfort zone and teamwork tasks that helped get the students to work together and share responsibility. After the students had rotated though all four activities, a problem solving competition was held to give the students a taste of what competitive events in TSA would be like. The students were to find a partner and create a device that would transport a marble down a wire. Whoever could transport the marble down the wire the fastest would be the winner. The students were given certain items and could only use those items when creating the device. Although difficult, many of the students rose to the challenge and were able to create imaginative and effective devices.

Once the problem solving competition was over, we proceeded to give out awards to those that did exceptionally well in the competition. The Northern Region also had a pin design contest that was conducted throughout the day. The winner’s design will be used as the regional finalist pin for the Northern Region Fair. The day ended with the students taking buses to the National Air and Space Museum where they were able to see the history of aircrafts and space shuttles. The Northern Regional Rally Fall was a complete success and got students ready for an exciting year in TSA.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nickhil Patel
Northern Region President

Valley Region Fall Rally

The Valley Region Fall Rally was a great success. We nearly doubled the amount of participants we had last year. It was held at James Madison University in the college of integrated Science and Technology, and School of Engineering on Saturday, September 19, 2009. The rally provided it’s participants ways to increase their knowledge and understanding through two workshops of their choice. The subjects of workshops were as listed: New Middle School Competitions, Radio Controlled Competition, Problem Solving, R/C Planes and Helicopters, ISAT Tour-Rapid Prototyping, Rockets, JMU Engineering, Team Building/Leadership. Concluding the Valley Regional Fall Rally, participants attended a JMU football game against VMI. Valley Region TSA would like to thank Dr. Cindy Klevickis, Dr. Ron Kander, Dr. Eric McDonald, Dr. Dwight Dart, and Hi Tec Hobbies for making the 2009 Valley Regional Fall Rally the best it has ever been.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kyle Helmick
Valley Region President
On Wednesday, November 4, 2009, many parents, advisors, adults, and students gathered in the auditorium of Abingdon High School to watch and participate in the annual Southwestern Region Fall Rally. The region’s officer team prepared the stage with lights and panels, and completed the effect with techno music and a slideshow to go along with the night’s program. We had great speakers to come and share their knowledge and experiences in the technical field. From Universal Fibers, our sponsor for the Fall Rally and Leadership Academy, Jeff Renfer spoke about how technology had progressed and should be embraced. He told us that it takes more than just what we learn in school to excel in the technological world; it takes initiative (like challenging ourselves with TSA projects). He then shared with us several surprising facts about our region, one of these being that 95% of airline carpet is designed and produced right here in our area, bringing to us a sense of pride in our community and the realization that we can make a difference in our community and our world.

Our keynote speaker, Tom Deaderick, later took the stage. He is the Southwestern Technology Council President Elect and Director of OnePartner. His speech was very inspiring. It was about young entrepreneurs, an example being Bill Gates, who started at age 13. His overall message was that you have to realize that many people do the routine; it’s those that go above and beyond on their own that are in the race. To get ahead when lots of people are running it means you have to run faster, run longer and start now. He also had the inspiring message that we can make a difference from our corner of Virginia. Again, a sense of pride in the region was brought to us all.

Next, one of AHSTSA’s own, Adrian Carico took the floor and spoke about the outreach project our chapter participated in on October 31st with the First Lego League (FLL). While he spoke, one of the teams that competed in the FLL demonstrated to the audience how the robot they use in the competition works. Two students then explained the System Control Challenge.

State and National Conference winners from our region were also recognized at our fall rally. We are proud of our region’s great success at both levels of competition!

Respectfully submitted,
Breanna Browning
Southwestern Region President
Tidewater Region Fall Rally

Tidewater had a wonderful Fall Rally. There were 6 schools: Nanesmond River High School, Hickory High School, Grassfield High School, Middlesex County High School, St. Clare Walker Middle School, and Maury High School. There were 2 breakout sessions. One to explain the differences in the competitions and answer any questions, and another to promote Virginia TSA. This session also focused on explaining TSA to new teachers and students, available scholarships, the Spring Regional fair, Technosphere, and attending Nationals. Even though the fair was on a Thursday the turnout was greater than expected. Every student that attended signed a card thanking the Hickory High School administration. And every student said that they had a wonderful time.

Respectfully Submitted by
Yvette Pate
Tidewater Region President

Virginia TSA Regional or State Officer Position

Ever thought of running for a Regional Office or State Office position. Well now is your chance. Become an intricate part of Virginia TSA. Travel around the state while meeting new members. Become a leader.

Regional Officer applications can be found at: http://www.virginiatsa.org/home/downloads/regionalapp.pdf
State Officer applications can be found at: http://www.virginiatsa.org/home/downloads/stateapp.pdf

The qualifications of an officer are:

1. Only active members will be eligible for a regional office (Seniors may not run for office.)
2. The candidate must have served or is serving as a chapter officer.
3. The candidate must have a 2.5 scholastic average based on a 4.0 being an "A".
4. A candidate may seek only one office. Each school may nominate only one person for each office.
5. No individual may serve in the same regional office for more than two consecutive years.
6. All candidates should have the ability to express their ideas and to make decisions. They are required to attend all of the general sessions and the officer candidate orientation meeting.
7. Officer candidates will be required to wear the official TSA attire during all meetings.
8. All candidates should have an understanding of their duties and responsibilities. All candidates must receive the written consent of their parents, chapter advisor, school principal, and central office administration in order to run for office.

Original Regional officer candidate applications must be received by the Virginia TSA Office on February 12, 2010. Faxes are not acceptable. Applications will be screened and candidates will be notified by February 19, 2010.

Original State officer candidate applications must be received by the Virginia TSA Office on March 26, 2010. Faxes are not acceptable. Applications will be screened and candidates will be notified by April 9, 2010.
How to Create a Resolution
By Donald Garret

A resolution is a formal way of stating the intended action of the association. It has two parts:
1. The **PREAMBLE** which is used when factual information is necessary to support the RESOLVED section. Each PREAMBLE clause should be written as a separate paragraph, beginning with the word Whereas. The first word should begin with a capital letter. The PREAMBLE, regardless of its length and number of paragraphs, should never contain a period. Each paragraph should close with a semi-colon. The next to the last paragraph should close with a semi-colon, after which a connecting phrase such as Therefore or Therefore Be It or Now Therefore, Be It is added.

2. The **RESOLVED** section indicates what action is proposed. There may be more than one Resolved clauses, each stated separately. The word RESOLVED is italicized and printed in capital letters, followed by a comma and the word THAT. Each resolved clause must be a separate paragraph and may be ended with a period.

**RESOLUTION STRATEGIES**

Here are some hints to help you get your resolution passed:

A. Be brief. If your resolution is too wordy, it will not get the attention it deserves. Try to limit your resolution to five "whereas" clauses: choose the strongest five facts and use the others in discussion and/or debate. Resolutions should not be longer than 2 pages.

B. Be realistic. The resolved statements should include specific actions that are realistic and implementable.

C. Be positive. A positive approach always works better than a negative one. Write positive statements, and address the issue positively when you are speaking to it.

D. Be knowledgeable. Know the facts about all parts of your resolution.

E. Gather support and assistance. Your chapter should not be the only ones involved in getting your resolution passed. Try to involve other chapters and members in supporting your resolution. Share your facts and ask others to speak in favor of your resolution. This will help you get your resolution passed.

F. Use your time on the floor wisely, time is limited. As the author, you will have an opportunity to speak to the resolution first.

G. Be available. Make sure you are available to the Delegates to answer questions. Be on time for all meetings.

**SAMPLE RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, There is currently a lack of communication throughout Virginia TSA;
WHEREAS, An online forum would be a great way of communicating with the different chapters of Virginia TSA; and
WHEREAS, Posting weekly updates on an online forum would provide members of Virginia TSA with adequate information; therefore, be it
**RESOLVED**, That an online forum be established for Virginia TSA.
News You Can Use!!

State Pin Design Contest
Each year when we go to Nationals, the big event is trading lapel pins as mementos from the conference. Students and Advisors really get serious about this activity. How would you like to design the pin that Virginia will have made for the State Conference?

It should be submitted in a 1” x 1” color design (.png format) and should be something that showcases our state as well as TSA. It does not have to say Technosphere, but must include “2010” or “10”. Blank space (alpha value of 0) will not be part of the pin. If your pin is not four sided, you will need to define its physical borders by making all of the extra into blank space.

We would like for you to submit it no later than February 10, 2010 to tsa@vatsa.org. The prize awarded will be free pins for the entire chapter and recognition at the Technosphere awards program.

Food Drive Contest
Virginia TSA is conducting a food drive that we hope will make a major impact on food banks which are experiencing shortages because of the economy. The Executive Council is asking that each chapter donate 5 non perishable items at their perspective Regional Fair.

The region with the most items donated (per capita) will be recognized at the State Conference. Please submit a chapter donation form, signed by your principal, with your donation. This form can be found on the website on the Regional Fairs page.

Virginia TSA Awards
This year, Virginia TSA would like to increase the number of applications submitted for awards that are presented during the Virginia TSA State Conference, “Technosphere”. Some advisors may not know, but there are 7 awards that Virginia TSA bestows to chapters and individuals at Technosphere. They are: Silver Achievement Award, Chapter Excellence, Advisor of the Year, Member of the Year, Community Service Award, Commendation Award, and Century Award. Applications can be found at VirginiaTSA.org under Forms and Applications. The deadline for these applications is March 26, 2010.
Learning to live in a technical world!!

Standard Crossword

Across

1. Smaller in amount
5. Boundary
9. Media
14. Friend
15. Home of China's terracotta army
16. Malicious publication
17. Blood vessel
18. Leave out
19. Monastery
20. Solicit
22. Reported information
24. Court game
26. Violent disorder
31. Used for cruising or racing
33. China clay
34. Emboss
37. Mature
39. Cheap club
40. Swine
41. Wader
42. Precious stone
43. Translucent mineral
45. Pitcher
46. Small monetary unit
48. Rescind
50. The other side of credit
52. Perfidy
54. Choose
57. Stalk
59. Mustelid mammal
61. Scrounge
65. Blocking vote
67. In the vicinity
68. Assumed name
69. Arab ruler
70. Church recess
71. Consecrate
72. Hawser
73. Scallion

Down

1. Molten rock
2. Select by vote
3. Serving
4. Equivalent word
5. Strange
6. Obtuse
7. Profit
8. Go in
9. Serum
10. Cut of meat
11. Flow back
12. Understand
13. Crafty
21. Photo
23. Rouse
25. Termagant
27. Seed case
28. Adjust
29. Presumption
30. Foe
32. Exhausted
34. Brusque
35. Drinker
36. Wide open in awe
38. Cogitates
41. Serf
44. Pasture
46. Heap
47. Perpetual
49. Evaluate
51. Previously
53. Not at all
55. Thin pancake
56. Pester
58. Note
60. Journey
61. Taxi
62. The whole amount
63. Number cubes
64. Fuel
66. Gratuity