Scene Readers,

Welcome to the very first installment of the 2016-17 Virginia Scene newsletter! For those of you that have read the issues before, you know what to expect, but for those of you who don’t, here’s a bit of an explanation. In addition to the Virginia TSA Officer Blog, the Scene is our other form of communicating with our members. While the blog is often used for quick, informative articles and features like the Member of the Month, the Scene is a bit more formal. Throughout the year, it will contain news such as regional fair updates, advice on competitive events, fundraiser ideas, and a new Q&A column. The Scene is only published several times a year, so the Executive Council uses it for the full-length articles and reflections on what we have been up to so that you all can see what goes on behind the scenes.

Just like with the blog, we are always encouraging members to get involved with the Scene. At Technosphere, you elected Evan Sooklal as your State Reporter, and publishing the Scene is his (and the Publications committee’s) biggest project of the year. While the officers will submit articles from time to time, member submissions are always welcome! Whether it be pictures, an article, or even just a question for the Q&A column, any contribution from the members of Virginia TSA is a great help to us and to the readers of our newsletter. After all, the whole purpose of having the Scene is that we can connect with our members about issues and events that matter to you. The Executive Council can only do so much when it comes to publishing what the members want to see; who knows better about what the members want than the members themselves?

If you’re taking the time to read this newsletter, then it shows that you are a dedicated member of Virginia TSA. Competing is just one facet of our association; staying informed and being involved in every aspect is a whole new task. The Executive Council and the Publications committee thank you for remaining active with our association through the newsletter, and we encourage you to keep reading and to submit your own additions to The Virginia Scene.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Strait
Virginia TSA President
Hello Virginia TSA, and get ready for my fourth attempt at writing an interesting officer bio. My name is Jessica Strait, and I’m thrilled beyond words to be serving as your 2016-17 Virginia TSA State President! I’m a junior at Abingdon High School, and this will be my fourth year as a part of your Executive Council. I’ve served two years as Southwestern Regional President and one year as State Secretary, and I’m elated to be moving forward with this organization through those incredible experiences. I’ve been in TSA since sixth grade, and my favorite competitions are Chapter Team and Webmaster. TSA has shaped me into the person I am today, in every aspect of my life from my public speaking abilities to my extensive knowledge about Robert’s Rules of Order. Through TSA, I’ve made unique connections with council members past and present, presidents from other states, and each and every one of you; I never would’ve had that opportunity if I hadn’t joined the Virginia TSA Executive Council all those years ago. As state president, it is one of my major goals to further pursue our public relations in every way. We are Virginia TSA, and we are proud to share that with the world! I hope that all of you feel no apprehension about writing up a press release for your chapter, participating in our social media events, and otherwise becoming involved as a proud member of Virginia TSA.

In addition to TSA, I serve as the junior class secretary so my minute-taking skills never get the chance to become lax. I also play the alto saxophone, perform in the colorguard, work as a street team member for the non-profit organization Beneath The Skin, and participate in the school chess club. In my free time, I enjoy creative writing, going to the local library, and I’m a jigsaw puzzle enthusiast. It is because of TSA that I have become active in other activities, stepping up in leadership and not being afraid to speak out. If I could only accomplish one thing as your State President, it would be to do everything in my power to make all of our members feel that kind of growth through their impact in our association. Together, we CAN raise money for Relay For Life, we CAN expand our membership through our actions, and we CAN learn to live in a technical world together.

If you ever want to contact me about TSA, feel free to email me at jesslynne73@gmail.com. I encourage you all to check out the Virginia TSA Instagram, Twitter, and blog to keep in the loop and share with others your incredible TSA experience. Again, I’m honored to be serving as your State President, and I’m looking forward to everything the Executive Council will accomplish this year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Strait
Virginia TSA President
I get it. Bios like these are super awkward and boring, and filled with information that nobody really cares about. Well, I am going to miserably attempt to tell you about myself without seeming egotistical and cocky, because people like that ruin my day. My name is Neha Hudait, and I have the privilege of serving as your 2016-2017 Virginia TSA State Vice President. I am a junior at Blacksburg High School in Blacksburg, Virginia. Shocker right? I live close to Virginia Tech and am basically forced to defend the Hokies till the day I no longer live in Blacksburg. Professional third wheel and food enthusiast are two qualities that I feel best to reflect who I am outside of TSA. In addition, I am President of my Student Council Association, President of Interact Club sponsored by the International Rotary Club, and enjoy being part of my local Speech and Debate team.

The one thing I love more than anything in the entire world (yes, even more than chocolate) is making people smile. Whether it be through stories, jokes, or a whole lot of bad puns, I love putting a smile on people’s faces. Throughout my time in TSA, I always make an effort to make meetings fun and enjoyable for those who do not enjoy long parliamentary procedures. By making silly motions and voting on “what Neha should eat for dinner tonight,” I am able to engage the members of TSA and help them find something that may seem boring on the surface, a lot more entertaining. I hope to do this all across the state of Virginia.

If you didn’t hear my speech or visit me at my booth at Technosphere, I’ll save you the entire 5-minute long spiel and (attempt to) summarize what I will do for TSA in a sentence. My main goal for TSA is to make individual experiences more memorable by having members interact with each other on the local, regional, and state level. This means increasing the communication between the state officers and the local members. I am no different than you are, and I hope that you can see me not only as your state Vice President but as one of your friends that you can talk to whenever you need anything. I love meeting and talking to all of you, and I hope that we can continue to interact this upcoming year.

This will be my fourth year in TSA, and I am eager to work this year to make individual experiences unforgettable in the long run. I have a lot planned for this year, and I cannot wait to make this the best year you’ve had in TSA. If you ever want to talk to me about anything or hear one of my ever so popular stories or rants, feel free to contact me at my email nehahudait@gmail.com. If you aren’t into the whole email thing, then feel free to follow me on my Twitter and Instagram, @nehahudz and add me on Facebook. I’ll hopefully make you laugh with some of my awkward, but realistic posts!

Respectfully Submitted,

Neha Hudait
Virginia TSA Vice President
Hello Virginia TSA! My name is Tyler Stein and I am honored to have the privilege of serving as your State Secretary. I am a junior at Abingdon High School in the Southwestern Region of Virginia. I play alto saxophone in my school’s concert and marching band. I enjoy board and video games, swimming, and staying awake as long as possible. I have held a chapter office and numerous regional offices, including Regional President, in TSA. I joined TSA back in 2013, my 7th grade year, when Jessica Strait excitedly told me about the amazing time she had and all the great friends she made through the Technology Student Association. Back then, I was afraid to stand out from everyone else, so I was hesitant to join. I decided to join the next year and it has been the best decision I’ve ever made. TSA has given me the courage to stand out, the drive to accomplish goals, and the skills to be a leader.

My main goals for my office are to improve the incorporation of members with the Executive Council, increase press releases to increase membership, and to strengthen the parliamentary knowledge amongst Virginia TSA members. I would love to feature member-written articles on the Virginia TSA Blog, so if anyone reading this has the desire to be published, feel free to email your article to tstein0913@gmail.com. If anyone wants to communicate with me, you can use my email. I look forward to working for you all 2016-17!

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Stein
Virginia TSA Secretary

Hello Virginia TSA! My name is Devan Patel, and I am proud to be serving as your Virginia TSA Treasurer! I would like to start off by saying that TSA is literally the best thing that has ever happened to me since I started middle school! I started TSA in sixth grade and immediately fell in love with the organization. I quickly worked up the office pyramid to state level and learned so much. Honestly, TSA had taught me three major things: Anything is possible with hard work and dedication, friends should drive you to do better, and to let loose in life. Overall, TSA has shaped me into who I am today.

Anyways, outside of TSA and school, you can find me at the karate studio, at the Richmond attractions and parks, or at home binge-watching medical shows and Quantico. At the karate studio, I am currently on my pathway to receiving my second degree black belt. While out at the Richmond attractions and parks, I volunteer, and am currently in the process of creating my own club based around volunteering in the Metro-Richmond area.

I am so excited to be serving on this council. In conclusion, I look forward to meeting and speaking with you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Devan Patel
Virginia TSA Treasurer

Volume I
Hello Virginia TSA, my name is Evan Sooklal, and I am honored to serve as your 2016-17 State Reporter! This upcoming year will be my sixth year in TSA and I’m oh-so excited to be a state officer. I am a rising junior at Abingdon High School, proud to be part of the Southwestern Regional Council! Wow... I never in a million years thought I would be part of the state council. I started TSA in back in 2011 as a shy, unsure sixth grader, marveling at all the confident people up on stage. It was the 2012 Nationals at Nashville that I first experienced any sort of public speaking. Out of six members on my Environmental Focus team, I was one of the two chosen to interview! We practiced all night and I was scared to death, but we did win 2nd that year so I guess I did something right ¯\_(ツ)_/¯. My shyness gradually started to fade away with my introduction to the wonderful specimen that is Chapter Team :D. Interviews, Chapter Team, and running for state office have all given me leadership skills I would have never sought after otherwise! A lesson I’ve learned throughout the years is to take risks! Try out a competition you’ve never done before! Run for office! It’s worth it, trust me!

Other than TSA, I participate in numerous activities. I have taken drum lessons for nearly ten years now, and I hope to put that skill to use in my first year in my school’s marching band in the pit! I’ve performed in the orchestra pit for my school’s musical, and have made the All-County and All-District bands a number of times. Being drawn to technology, I am an avid player of video games/watcher of YouTube videos. You can often find me practicing for my school’s Scholastic Bowl Team, playing chess in our chess club, or taking long walks on the street (looking for Pokémon no doubt).

My main duty as Reporter is to put out volumes of these. What you’re reading right now. The lovely Virginia Scene. As our president said earlier, the Scene is a form of communication for the officers. It’s used to get information, whether it be important reminders or tips and tricks, to you, the members. It helps you all keep tabs on all us officers and our doings. If you’re reading through mine and everyone else’s biographies, thank you! They’ve been excited to share a little bit about themselves for you all!

Remember, this is not just the state officer newsletter this is the Virginia TSA newsletter; it involves all of you! If you would like to share any stories, advice, or anything TSA, send it to me at esooklal@comcast.net, and it might be featured in one of these volumes! If writing is not your forte, you can send me some cool TSA-related designs I’ll be able to use! Or if you just want to know something specific, email me a question you’d like to see answered by one of the officers, or send them in via tagged comments on Twitter (@VirginiaTSA) or Instagram (also @VirginiaTSA)!

Respectfully Submitted,

Evan Sooklal
Virginia TSA Reporter

Volume I
Hello Virginia TSA, my name is Jasper Leidig and I am excited to serve as your 2016 - 2017 State Parliamentarian. I joined TSA in sixth grade and this is my fourth year in the association. Since then TSA has undoubtedly become my favorite activity. I am an upcoming sophomore at Abingdon High School, in the Southwestern region. I have served as Chapter Vice President and President, as well as Regional Vice President and Sgt. At Arms. Alongside TSA, I am in our school’s marching band, and I am an enthusiast of all things tech.

This year I want to help familiarize the membership with Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised. I will work with the other officers to help create a guide book on Robert Rules to create a simply outline and understanding for members. This guidebook would be available at Technosphere and at any time online. Along with creating the guide, I will work to make sure any national bylaw amendments that our state wants to make are submitting in due time. I am looking forward to this year serving as your 2016-2017 State Parliamentarian.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jasper Leidig
Virginia TSA Parliamentarian

Hello Virginia TSA delegates! My name is Shreyas Bhalle and I have the honor of being your Virginia TSA State Historian for the 2016-2017 scholastic year. I am a rising senior in the International Baccalaureate Program and I will be the Chapter President. This will be my seventh year in TSA and I am looking forward to being a part of this amazing council. Other than TSA, I am a part of a multitude of clubs and organizations. I am also a part of Mu Alpha Theta, Model United Nations and Beta Club.

As your Virginia TSA State Historian, I will strive to serve this organization with tact, responsibility, and bona fide passion for the association and its members. Some of my favorite challenges are Career Preparation, Biotechnology Design, Webmaster, Chapter Team, and Engineering Design, Debate, and Digital Video Production. At Technosphere, my team and I managed to score first place for Webmaster and second for Chapter Team. Overall, I am very excited for this year, this council, and Virginia TSA.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shreyas Bhalle
Virginia TSA Historian
Hey Virginia TSA members! My name is Ram Karri and I have the honor of being your 2016-2017 Virginia TSA State Sergeant-at-Arms. This year, I will be a junior in the International Baccalaureate (I still don’t know how to pronounce it) program. Next year will be my fourth year in TSA and I cannot wait to do my best as your officer. In TSA, I have placed in multiple top 3 challenges at both the regional and state levels. Besides TSA, I am currently enrolled in Future Health Professionals, Model UN, and Debate. Other than extracurricular activities, I love playing basketball and am on the varsity volleyball team.

As your Virginia TSA Sergeant-at-Arms, I have multiple plans that I promise to try to implement. Firstly, I want to make sure that all state members are comfortable and satisfied. As it is the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms, I plan to serve as the doorkeeper for our organization. Also, I want to make it so that regular TSA members can communicate more efficiently to the various state officers. I want all members to be on the same page. Finally, I want to work with the executive council to give you all the best year possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ram Karri
Virginia TSA Sergeant-at-Arms
Can you solve this math riddle?

13 travelers arrived at a hotel with only 12 rooms and each one wanted his own room. The bellboy solved this problem. He asked the thirteenth guest to wait with the first guest in room number 1; so in the first room were two people. The bellboy took the third guest to room number 2, the fourth to number 3, …, and the twelfth guest to room number 11. Then he returned to room number 1 and took the thirteenth guest to room number 12, still vacant.

How can everybody have his own room?

Devan has lost our 2016-2017 State funds! Only you can guide Devan to our lost funds!
A member of WT Woodson’s class of 2017, I am a dedicated leader of Northern Virginia TSA and have been contributing to the organization since my freshman year. I am also involved in multiple volunteering activities focused on academic enrichment and hope to pursue a career as a professor in a field yet undetermined. I like to think that I’m friendly and outgoing, but I tend to be extremely competitive and hard-working, so don’t let me catch anyone on my team slacking off! My values are “work hard and play hard”-esque, so don’t worry, I’m not THAT bad! Feel free to approach me for TSA advice or even to grab a cup of coffee in your downtime! I’m always open for a light chat!

I do lot of clubs and activities, but nothing can replace the place that Virginia TSA has in my heart, as this community of open-minded intellectuals has helped me meet life long friends and inspiring mentors. I discovered my love for film and movie mechanics through TSA’s On Demand Video competition and have won multiple awards for my efforts. But TSA is more than trophies and events. TSA is all-nighters with teammates you learn to love and karaoke challenges even though no one can sing. TSA is about trying your best even though you may not be the best and understanding that there’s so much more to your phone than a couple apps and Instagram. The long bus rides weren’t always comfortable, but TSA has played a huge part in molding me into the confident and successful technology student that I am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eunice Cho
Northern Region President

Hello, Virginia TSA! I am Valerie Young, and I will be serving as your 2016-2017 South Central Regional President. Next year, I will be a senior at Henrico High School’s International Baccalaureate Program and I will be my chapter’s Vice President. Although TSA is my number one passion, I am also the Vice President of Mu Alpha Theta at my school and a founder of HELP Club, a service club for our community. In addition, I participate in other clubs, such as Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, BETA Club, and Model United Nations.

This is my fourth year of TSA, and I have gained so many skills from this organization in the fields of leadership and technology! Before TSA, I had no interest in the technical world, but now I am completely immersed. Some of my favorite challenges are Webmaster, Chapter Team, Digital Video Productions, and Music Production. At Technosphere this year, my team managed to score first place for Webmaster and second for Chapter Team, and I cannot wait to see what happens next year. I’m excited to work with everyone on the state council this year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Young
South Central Region President
G’day Virginia TSA! My name is Gavin Lester and I am a rising Sophomore at Abingdon High School. I have been in TSA for 3 years now, and it has been one of the greatest times of my life. I have held office on both chapter and regional levels, but this will be my first year on executive council. I can’t wait to find out what this new opportunity brings and learn many new things, but that is enough rhyme it’s time to talk about my life outside of TSA. I have played soccer since preschool and I currently play JV soccer at my high school. I also play in the AHS marching band and I am the president of my class. I enjoy cooking and I love to eat food too (maybe a little too much). I can’t wait to serve you all on the executive council, and do all I can to make your year in TSA better.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gavin Lester
Southwestern Region President

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Hi Virginia TSA! My name is Chloe Hodges. I am currently serving as your 2016-2017 Tidewater Region President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chloe Hodges
Tidewater Region President
Hey Virginia TSA! My name is Unmesha Vullikanti – paid procrastinator, avid Netflix fan, and your 2016-2017 Blue Ridge Region President. This will be my fourth year in TSA, my third year on Blue Ridge Regional Council, and my first year on the State Executive Council. I am a sophomore at Blacksburg High School, where I am a student council rep, sophomore class president, and 6th seed on the Varsity Girl’s tennis team at Blacksburg High School. I also play the violin, viola, tuba, cello, and piano in a chamber group, as a soloist, and in a symphony orchestra. If I’m not at school, on the tennis courts, or knee-deep in a Bach Concerto, I can be found holed up in my room binge-watching Grey’s Anatomy or dreaming about being a future Harvard alum and a pediatric surgeon. TSA has been my life for the past 4 years – it has helped me build my future and understand what I like to do and do well at. I’m more than thrilled to be working with such an amazing council to make TSA better than what it’s ever been. I know this year will be fantastic!

Respectfully Submitted,

Unmesha Vullikanti
Blue Ridge Region President

Greetings, Virginia TSA! My name is Jenna Benzing and I look forward to serving as your 2016-2017 Virginia TSA Valley Regional President. I am a rising junior at Wilson Memorial High School and at the Shenandoah Valley Governor’s School. TSA has been one of my major commitments for 5 years, starting in the sixth grade, and I couldn’t enjoy it more! Other than my work with TSA, my school’s varsity tennis team plays a large role in my life. In my rare free time, I am part of the WMHS Latin Club and love working with my hands – whether it be sewing or drawing. My main goals this year, both within my region and on the state level, include (of course) increasing chapter membership, encouraging younger leaders to step forward, and bringing the Valley Star competition to the rest of the state.

TSA has helped me meet so many cool people, but it has also taught me that I enjoy being a leader more than a competitor. That isn’t to say that I don’t compete – in the past five years, I have stood on the state stage to receive awards five times – however, TSA is more than just that to me. It is a safe space for discussion and career exploration; it is a place to find “your people.” I certainly hope that I can help everybody make their TSA experience the best it can be.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenna Benzing
Valley Region President
Do you know what a great Virginia TSA resource is? How about the Virginia TSA Blog! The Blog is managed by the State Officers to ensure that members are updated on information and that their voices are heard. We publish many different TSA-related articles with a wide range of themes. If you want to be featured on the Blog, contact me at tstein0913@gmail.com for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Stein
Virginia TSA Secretary
Hellooooo Virginia TSA! It's Erin Sullivan. You may be sick of hearing about me, but you're in luck! This is my fourth and final officer bio that you'll ever have to read! This year, after 2 years of serving as Virginia TSA Secretary and one as President, I am currently serving as National TSA Secretary. This is my seventh year in TSA, and a few things have remained the same. I still love reading Robert's Rules of Order and creating videos. However, a few things have changed: I am no longer (as) awkward and I love to meet new people!

TSA was and will always remain my first true love. I also love marching band; I am the Abingdon High School Drumline section leader. I enjoy all types of music: I play piano, am in the AHS Jazz Choir, and the Highlands Youth Ensemble. I'm a theater geek and enjoy watching and participating in musicals. I am also the Senior Class President and the Student Council Association Treasurer.

A little known fact about me: I'm a Disney Princess! I played the role of Belle in a musical, and realized that Belle was my alter ego. I now read to area preschools as Belle, and it gives me so much joy to bring smiles to kids' faces.

If I had to choose one goal to accomplish this year in Virginia TSA, it would definitely be to encourage much more alumni involvement within our regional and state conferences. This goal is very close to my heart since I will be graduating this upcoming spring! I don't know what I would do without TSA in my life and I'm going to do as much as I can to ensure that no alumni have to live without having a part in TSA.

If you ever want to talk about TSA or just want to talk in general, feel free to contact me at erin.sullivan.14@gmail.com or on Twitter and Instagram at @Sully_199. Thank you all for sticking with me through this article and the past 3 years, and I can't wait for the year to come!

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Sullivan
National TSA Secretary
Hey, Virginia TSA! I’m Aala Nasir and am thrilled to be a part of the 2016-2017 Virginia TSA Executive Council and your National TSA Reporter! I am a rising junior and am a part of Deep Run High School’s Chapter. This will be my fifth year in TSA as an active member of this incredible association. TSA has opened so many doors for me and exposed me to graphic design through Communications Challenge in middle school and Desktop Publishing in high school. I also love the engineering aspect and compete in Biotechnology Design and Engineering Design. TSA has played a major role in shaping me into the individual that I am today, and for that I am forever grateful. Outside of TSA, you can find me building robots and competing in VEX Robotics, conducting research experiments at a local university, or partaking in various volunteer activities. I am so excited to serve you along with the rest of the state council, and I wish you the best of luck this upcoming TSA season!

Respectfully Submitted,

Aala Nasir
National TSA Reporter

Congratulations from all of us at Virginia TSA to Erin and Aala for winning National Secretary and Reporter!!!
Nationals Results

10th Place
- Blacksburg Middle School--Catapult Design (MS)
- Deniz Olgun, Blacksburg Middle School--Electrical Applications (MS)
- Tracy Dermesropian, Holman Middle School--Promotional Marketing (MS)
- Devan Patel, Deep Run High School--Desktop Publishing (HS)

9th Place
- Holman Middle School--Catapult Design (MS)
- Zach McCoy, Mark Twain Middle School--Flight (MS)
- Holman Middle School--STEM Animation (MS)
- Blacksburg Middle School--Tech Bowl, Oral (MS)
- Vishvesh Sridhar, Blacksburg Middle School--Tech Bowl, Written (MS)
- Erin Sullivan, Abingdon High School--Chapter Team, Written (HS)
- Unmesha Vullikanti, Blacksburg High School--Future Technology Teacher (HS)

8th Place
- Blacksburg Middle School--Catapult Design (MS)
- Mikan Smith, E. B. Stanley Middle School--Chapter Team, Written (MS)
- Holman Middle School--Construction Challenge (MS)
- Hirsh Sharma, Holman Middle School--Flight (MS)
- Leonardo Franzinetti, Richmond Technical Center--Prepared Presentation (HS)
- TJ High School for Science and Technology--Software Development (HS)
- Troy Bryant, Highland Springs High School--Flight Endurance (HS)

7th Place
- Ritika Allada, Moody Middle School--Career Prep (MS)
- Asmita Kadam, Holman Middle School--Digital Photography (MS)
- Gayatri Tyagi, Short Pump Middle School--Essays on Technology (MS)
- Andrew Wapperom, Blacksburg Middle School--Flight (MS)
- Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School--Geospatial Technology (MS)
- Holman Middle School--Microcontroller Design (MS)
- Oakton High School--Digital Video Production (HS)
- Liem Budzien, TJ High School for Science and Technology--Photographic Technology (HS)

6th Place
- E. B. Stanley Middle School--Construction Challenge (MS)
- Philip Clement, Holman Middle School--Flight (MS)
- Stafford Middle School--STEM Animation (MS)
- Alice Xu, Blacksburg Middle School--Prepared Speech (MS)
- Henrico High School--Debating Technological Issues (HS)
- Noah Alabi, Landstown Governor's STEM and Technology Academy--Transportation Modeling (HS)

5th Place
- Omar Mahases, Elko Middle School--CAD Foundations (MS)
- Saint Clare Walker Middle School--Community Service Video (MS)
- Danielle Jones, Saint Clare Walker Middle School--Dragster (MS)
- Mark Twain Middle School--Environmental Engineering (MS)
- Stafford Middle School--Technical Design (MS)
- Mira Davis, Richmond Technical Center--CAD 2D, Architecture (HS)
- Monica Choiniere, Landstown Governor's STEM and Technology Academy--CAD 3D Engineering (HS)
- Samuel Anderson, Turner Ashby High School--Technology Bowl, Written (HS)

4th Place
- Holman Middle School--Geospatial Technology (MS)
- Short Pump Middle School--Leadership Strategies (MS)
- Holman Middle School--Medical Technology (MS)
- Moody Middle School--Microcontroller Design (MS)
- Dasol Lee, Blacksburg Middle School--Promotional Marketing (MS)
- Holman Middle School--Technical Design (MS)
- Moody Middle School--Website Design (MS)
- Mountain View High School--Manufacturing Prototype (HS)
- Lily Zhu, Blacksburg High School--Technical Sketching and Application (HS)

3rd Place
- Stone Hill Middle School--Biotechnology Design (MS)
- Hickory Middle School--Construction Challenge (MS)
- Sierra Funk, Saint Clare Walker Middle School--Flight (MS)
- Blacksburg Middle School--Geospatial Technology (MS)
- Rachel Carson Middle School--Microcontroller Design (MS)
- Caelan Barranta, TJ High School for Science and Technology--Future Technology Teacher (HS)
- Mountain View High School--System Control Technology (HS)
- South Country High School--Video Game Design (HS)

2nd Place
- Stone Hill Middle School--Catapult Design (MS)
- Victoria Compton, E. B. Stanley Middle School--Chapter Team, Written (MS)
- E. B. Stanley Middle School--Children’s Stories (MS)
- Saint Clare Walker Middle School--Environmental Engineering (MS)
- Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School--Forensic Technology (MS)
- E. B. Stanley Middle School--Geospatial Technology (MS)
- Blacksburg Middle School--Medical Technology (MS)
- Emma Devine, Stafford Middle School--Promotional Marketing (MS)
- Blacksburg Middle School--Video Game Design (MS)
- Blacksburg Middle School--Website Design (MS)
- Neha Hudait, Blacksburg High School--Future Technology Teacher (HS)

1st Place
- Alice Xu, Blacksburg Middle School--CAD Foundations (MS)
- Stafford Middle School--Children’s Stories (MS)
- Blacksburg Middle School--Environmental Engineering (MS)
- Mark Twain Middle School--Forensic Technology (MS)
- Rachel Carson Middle School--Geospatial Technology (MS)
- Blacksburg Middle School--STEM Animation (MS)
- Stafford Middle School--Website Design (MS)
- Van Taylor, Highland Springs High School--Flight Endurance (HS)
- Sam Lichtman, Mountain View High School--Technology Bowl, Written (HS)
Why should I join TSA when there are so many other clubs to choose from?

TSA fosters a long-lasting community. Alumni still come back to help judge regional fairs and Technosphere year after year, even when they are far-removed from their competition days. This strong bond allows current TSA members to make friends in other states and nations at National Conference by virtue of shared experiences.

TSA is also based strongly on community service - each year, it sends thousands of dollars to the American Cancer Society. TSA is aimed to turn students into leaders, and this goal is accomplished through an array of public speaking competitions; chapter, regional, state, and national officership positions; and programs such as Leadership Academy. The organization is mainly student-run, so the majority of the planning at the regional, state, and national level is done by middle and high-schoolers. This sort of camaraderie and leadership initiative is something you will find in no other club - it is unique to TSA.  

- Jenna Benzing, Valley Region President

Technology doesn’t really interest me, is there anything else TSA can offer?

Hellooooo Virginia TSA! TSA can offer everyone so much more than just technology. There are competitive events in public speaking, debate, writing, and so much more! In addition, TSA isn’t all about competing. TSA is equally about finding your inner leader and enhancing your leadership skills in all aspects of your life. Whether that means running for office at the local, regional, or state level, or even just being a leader in your community! TSA truly has it all. Some of you may be thinking “Neha, I am by no means a leader!” Well, guess what, anyone can be a leader, and TSA makes it easy to learn how to lead. National TSA has TONS of free resources through their new initiative called LEAP where you can learn more about leadership in TSA, and how to truly learn to lead in a technical world.  

- Neha Hudait, State Vice President

How has TSA impacted officers like you guys?

When I first started doing TSA, it was just another club that I decided to try out because of my friends. Never did I know that two years later I would be a state officer for it. To put it in simple terms, TSA has changed my life like no other activity. Due to TSA, I was able to meet people all over the state, with such diverse backgrounds. By meeting these people, my perspective on society in general has changed. It’s so spectacular to see that people in your own state live in such different systems than your own. I mean never did I know that Virginia had a town with more cows than humans! Additionally, being an officer really pointed out some of my own flaws. I learned that being a leader isn’t always taking control and dictating others. It’s simply serving as a medium for others to prosper and be more efficient. All in all, TSA has shifted my perspective to be more open minded. From my wonderful chapter with over 100 members to the state with thousands, I’ve learned it’s important to understand everyone, and not base everything over my own view.

- Ram Karri, State Sergeant-At-Arms
Gallery

From Nationals 2016

@NehaSatish

@smstsa

@jesslynne73
A special thanks to everyone who submitted pictures!
Word from the Editor:
Hello Virginia TSA! My name is Evan Sooklal, and I can’t tell you how excited I am to be taking over *The Virginia Scene!* I’d been briefly introduced to this newsletter before, but I never knew the work that went into this! It is my duty as an officer to make sure these volumes come out with the highest quality I’m able to achieve! **See you in the next edition!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Evan Sooklal
Virginia State Reporter

In the next edition:
- Fall Rally
- Leadership Academy
- Starting the TSA year
- Fundraising Tips

--- Important Websites ---

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<td>- Virginia TSA Website</td>
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