Greetings, Virginia TSA!

In school, sophomore year is often known as the “forgotten year.” This is due to the fact freshman year is where we are all getting adjusted. Junior year is the year where we start looking at colleges, and senior year is more of the laid-back, preparation year, where the future is closer then ever. For me, my sophomore year will be anything but forgotten. Every single day I dreamed about the national conference in Dallas.

Looking back at this conference was more then just what happened within the Gaylord. Looking back at nationals includes the months and months of preparation that I executed within my sophomore year. I will see this conference as the year that I had the guts to run for national Vice President. Although my campaign was unsuccessful according to the ballot, it was the most successful run I’ve ever made, in my book. I grew more as a person just in that week then I did that entire school year. My conference experience revolved mostly around my national campaign. I had the opportunity to meet thousands of people within just a few days.

This years national conference opened up so many opportunities for people across the national. Through leadership training workshops to competitions and delegation meetings, there was always something to do. Our delegation meeting gave members from Virginia that chance to meet at night to go over national candidates, discuss the national conference, and of course win great prizes. I hope everyone who came to nationals had an amazing time like me! Words cannot describe how excited I am to serve as your state Vice President this school year, and I cannot wait to see everyone at one of our 6 fall rallies!

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Kroll

Virginia TSA Vice-President
A Note From Our President

Virginia TSA, I can never thank you enough. You guys have given me the greatest experience of my life, and it’s not even close to being over.

To keep this brief, I’ll talk about the Presidential experience at Nationals.

I had the privilege of meeting up with other state presidents, including Tennessee, North Carolina, Texas, and Pennsylvania. It was then that I realized how diverse delegations within National TSA are! Though we’re all very different, we all have amazing ideas in our state. To help each other, we formed bonds and we traded ideas. My goal is that this will be the beginning of a very strong inter-state relationship between Virginia and the other state delegations.

I’ll never be able to explain the pride I felt by being able to represent Virginia at Nationals. Y’all are an awesome delegation. Coming to delegation meetings and seeing your exhausted but smiling faces was one of my biggest highlights of the week. I loved playing games, giving out door prizes, and even getting serious with you guys. All of it was a blast.

My favorite part was being able to bond with everyone. Whether it be at the general sessions, water park, or downtown Dallas, I love being surrounded by TSA members. I may be a little biased, but I would have to say that Virginia TSA has the coolest members ever.

But what was my favorite part? I would have to say during the business meeting, when all the Presidents get to stand in front of nearly 7,000 members and try to convince them that they have the best state. Judging by the cheers, either you guys are extremely loud or I would say that Virginia won.

I’m sure that there are a few of you wondering what I’m talking about because you were unable to go. PLEASE change that! We’re heading to Nashville and I want a massive Virginia delegation there!! Nationals is the experience of a lifetime. I wouldn’t trade those five days for anything, and I want you to be there and experience it too. Nothing beats meeting members from all over America AND Germany and Turkey! You’ll make some awesome friendships while you’re there competing.

Once again, thank you Virginia TSA. You guys have given me a wonderful opportunity, and I can’t wait to see where we go as a delegation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Sullivan
Virginia TSA President

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New Officer Workshop

On June 5th, the newly elected state executive council met in Wingate, VA located in the South Central Region. Upon arrival, we became acquainted and began to work. From June 5th-6th, we laid out plan of work logs for committees and set goals for the officers to accomplish during the year long term. We also began initial planning of Leadership Academy. On June 7th, the executive council approved the 2015-2016 Virginia TSA calendar and budget. We then separated into regions and began planning Fall Rallies and Spring Fairs. Based on the results from New Officer Workshop, we predict Virginia TSA is in for a great year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler Stein,
Southwestern Regional President
How well do you know TSA?

Take this quiz to find out!

1. TSA used to be known as what?
   A. IATSA
   B. ISA
   C. AIASA
   D. GAOS

2. Our delegation CANNOT go by this name:
   A. VA TSA
   B. Virginia TSA
   C. Technology Student Association
   D. TSA

3. Gordon H. Fallen did what?
   A. Was national president
   B. Created a handbook for the VDOE to increase participation in the industrial arts
   C. Has a scholarship in his name
   D. Started TSA

4. What was the original uniform?
   A. Sailor Suits
   B. White bottoms red tops
   C. Green and gold suits
   D. Jeans and t-shirts

Check the last page to see if you were right!

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2015 National Conference

On Saturday, June 27th, my chapter and I arrived at the Gaylord Texan. We prepared for events and our chapter officers assisted in unloading the national TSA truck. The next day, I dropped off my competitive events. Neha, Aala, and I attended a leadership meeting that informed us of what we would be doing at the leadership sessions we signed up to help run. After that, I went to the conference kick off. I got to meet the national candidates and participated in pin trading. I had a lot of fun at my first conference kick off. After the kickoff, we ran our first delegation meeting. We had one icebreaker this time and talked about what would be voted on at the business meeting. On Tuesday, the second general session was dedicated to recognition of outstanding TSA members and advisors. Some of our students were awarded at this assembly, including Rajan Jani. Mr. Andy Stephenson received an outstanding TSA advisor award, and the south central region received a relay for life award. We had our final delegation meeting that night, where we discussed pros and cons of each national candidate. The next night, we attended the annual business meeting. The delegates voted on candidates first and then the submitted amendment. After a lengthy process, it was decided that the motion to amend would not pass. Our state officer team was happy with this result. The next morning was the moment we had all been waiting for, the awards ceremony. Some of my friends were called to the stage as semi finalists and finalists. I was very proud of them for their achievements. Kelsey Stoner, my chapter president, was elected national president. Another thing to be very proud of! Overall, this conference was a great success for the state. I am so glad I was able to attend this year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Logan Smith
Virginia TSA Treasurer
The Path to National President

After spending the whole year preparing, the time finally came. Somehow I ended up in Dallas, Texas running for the highest position there is in the Technology Student Association. National President had been stuck in my mind for years now but honestly, I thought that was all just a dream.

The journey to national president at the conference was long and quite difficult. I remember going back to my room after a campaigning event at nationals and just thinking “wow, this is the hardest thing I have ever done.” It was. The first night was the conference kick off, an event where members trade state pins and candidates first have the opportunity to campaign. If I could compare this event to anything, it would be a jungle. Only the most confident and outgoing candidates would survive the best, since the goal was to walk up to random people and tell your story. After that first event, I really knew what challenges I faced ahead of me. The next morning was also one of the scariest things I have ever done; answering a question in 30 seconds in front of the whole membership. I remember the whole audience saying “oooooo…..” after my question was read out loud. Honestly, I have never been more proud of myself because I managed to get a solid answer out of a very difficult question. I’ll also never forget the knot in my stomach as I walked up to the podium to deliver my speech. Needless to say that after that was done more and more members were “On Board” (my catchy campaign slogan). Possibly the best part of campaigning was the meet and greet, a time where candidates stood at a booth for 4 hours and answered every imaginable question that a member could throw. It was a truly special time though because there, I learned how many members trusted in me and believed that I could do the job. It was long and exhausting, but I never got bored listening to what members had to say and showing them why I was the best choice. Finally, the business meeting arrived and it was time to vote. I was nervous, but hey, I had done everything I could and I could only pray that it would make all the difference.

“Your leader of this amazing team… the 2015-2016 National President is…” I still get chills reliving that moment in my head. When I saw my name on that screen, I jumped out of my seat and was almost running to the stage. I looked over and witnessed my whole family launch from their seats with tears streaming down their faces. Standing on that stage, I looked over to my new vice-president and said “Is this really happening?” Yes, the campaigning process was long and hard but it most definitely paid off. My brother always told me “good things happen to people who work hard” and I never truly grasped that until now.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelsey Stoner
National TSA President

Once again, the National Conference did not disappoint. Here I am, a month after the conference, still suffering from post-conference depression. From exploring the beautiful Gaylord Texan, to competing in some of my favorite events, to networking with students from other states, this experience was one I will never forget. Though this was only my second year attending Nationals, it continues to get better each year. During the school year, I always look forward to the Regional Fairs and Technosphere, but the National Conference is on a whole different level.

One of my absolute favorite parts of attending Nationals is meeting new people from all over the nation, as well as Germany and Turkey. It is truly incredible to be surrounded by students that share the same interests as you and the love for the Technology Student Association. It is very interesting to talk to other states and find out how similar yet different Virginia runs its delegation as opposed to other states. The exchange of information between the states has provided me with a greater knowledge of the various ways a delegation can be run. The amount of people you meet and the new bonds created at the end of the conference is amazing. Every year I leave Nationals counting down until next year. (On that note, there are only 326 days left until the 2015 National Conference).

Speaking of next year, the conference will be held on June 28th to July 2nd, 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee and the theme is “Building a Legacy”. Trust me, this is an opportunity you do not want to miss. This experience is one you really cannot get anywhere else! We are truly blessed to be given such an opportunity!

As the new year starts up, I challenge you to step a little out of your comfort zone. Whether it be getting more involved through running for a chapter, regional, or state office, or competing in a competition you never saw yourself participating in, or even having a fundraiser for your local chapter to help fund for supplies or your trip to Nationals. Life is more fun when you take risks, and believe me the outcome will be so worth it. May you enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to serving you as the 2015-2016 Virginia TSA Parliamentarian.

Respectfully submitted,
Aala Nasir
Virginia TSA Parliamentarian
Designing your dreams is essential to plan what you want to do with your life to help the world. Students from all across the nation and even parts of the world came together to design their dreams at the Technology Student Association National Conference held this year in Dallas, Texas. I had the privilege of being one of these many students who wanted nothing more to see the world beyond where I grew up. With over 6,500 individuals just like me, we came together for one week to explore beyond our horizons.

TSA gives members a chance to connect with likeminded individuals who share the same interests. The national conference gives everyone a chance to make and build strong relationships on a national level, interacting with people that love STEM and technology and share stories. Just from this conference, I’ve made close friendships with people all across the nation, and even have grown closer with many of the members on state council. Connecting with people who are similar to me might be one of my favorite parts of TSA.

Leadership is a key aspect of TSA, putting aside all the competitions and connections. It is what drives this TSA forward as a student run organization. Every single person has their own role to play no matter how big or small, as the national conference taught me. What matters more than the rank, is what you can contribute to your team and how hard you work in order to make your goals a reality. As a state officer, I was able to lead several Virginia delegation meetings alongside the rest of the state council as well as a leadership interest session with the Virginia state treasurer. I was able to put aside my title and really show who I am as a person and more importantly, who I am as a leader. Even if a leadership position might scare you, trust me: it is completely worth it. I know it might seem scary talking in front of a bunch of people and being in charge, but I encourage every single person inside and out of TSA to find their inner leader and take on the challenge. Being on state council for as short as I have been on it, it has been an extremely rewarding experience and I wouldn’t change it for the world.

Of course, the national conference wouldn’t complete without competitions. To be completely honest, I barely noticed the competing aspect throughout the entire national conference. My attention was mostly towards brainstorming ideas to make Virginia TSA and National TSA the best it can ever be. Most of my time was directed at talking to the candidates running for national office to make sure that I cast my vote in the right place. Many candidates had flawless platforms and were very dedicated to TSA. That made it hard to distinguish who would truly be the best for National TSA. Thus, I was on a mission to find the most qualified candidates for national TSA and asked many obscure questions to try to get a sense of character.

I encourage every member of Virginia TSA to plan to come to next year’s national conference held in Nashville, Tennessee to be able to have the unforgettable experience I did. This year will be an amazing one and I can’t wait to start building a legacy, the TSA way!

Respectfully Submitted,
Neha Hudait
Blue Ridge Regional President
This was my first, and sadly last, national conference as a state officer. Being a part of the executive council has made this conference in Dallas, Texas more special then any other competition. This year also marked my first full rotation of national conferences. I had also competed in Dallas before while I was in seventh grade; my first year in TSA, but this conference was nothing like it had been back in 2011. This year, I spent the entire conference meeting people from other state delegations, having dinner with my new found state council friends, and hanging out with people from all over Virginia instead of figuring out how to navigate the hotel and competition schedule like I had when I was in middle school. However, being a state officer wasn’t the only thing that made this year’s nationals exceptional, I also got the opportunity to speak on a national bylaw amendment. An amendment to allow pool voting came before national TSA this year. Well, I got the opportunity to argue against the amendment in front of the entire national assembly and I would like to think that, just maybe, I might have changed at least one voting delegates mind. I will have to admit that public speaking is not my forte and I was extremely nervous to speak in front of everyone, but it turned out to be the single most exhilarating moment of my entire life. I loved being able to put what I had learned through years of chapter team tests to use in a real life situation. In short, I learned one thing from this conference: Just do it. Don’t worry about failing or what other people will think of you, just do it. Go to a national conference. Meet new people from other states. Speak on a microphone in front of a large crowd. Try a new competition. This year was the best year I’ve ever had in TSA and it’s all because I tried new things. Being on the executive council and speaking on a national bylaw amendment definitely made this conference one to put down in the books and I plan to make next year in Nashville, Tennessee even better!

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Compton
Virginia TSA Historian

Let’s not kid ourselves: we’ve all had that one event where a team member just didn’t pull their weight. With the new TSA year upon us, that vital time of choosing events is on the near horizon. It’s almost daunting taking on new events, trying your hand at something you’ve never done before. However, that’s one of the great things about TSA; you have that opportunity to try things you wouldn’t have had the chance to otherwise. Especially for experienced members, it’s important that you build a strong team and push your newer members to their fullest potential. And as a new member… Make sure you aren’t that lazy member! A lazy team member can be spotted a mile away; the ones with poor attendance, or whose parents made them do the event, or who aren’t passionate about their topic. As early in the year as we are now, team leaders or experienced members can take that initiative to bring that team member back into action! Every student has some talent that TSA can utilize; public speaking, graphic design, website coding, a knack for retaining information. As an experienced member who knows the ropes, it’s your job to find and express that member’s talent. If a member seems to be uninterested in the event, it might even be in your best interests to talk to that member face-to-face about their commitment. If you show them how much their teammates need them, and find a niche in the group that’s right for them, no member should be bored on your team. Every seasoned TSA member remembers what it’s like to be a new member. Whether you’re a sixth grader or a senior, it can be intimidating to work alongside members in an event they’ve been at for years. However, don’t let the more experienced members give you the mindset of “they can handle this without me”. Remember that you wouldn’t be on the team if someone didn’t think you were good enough to make it. Study the event guidelines, ask questions about what your team is doing. If you still feel out of place, talk to another member about what needs to be done that might be your forte. You never know; you might discover a talent you didn’t even know you had! No one ever tries to be the lazy member of a team. That attitude spawns more often than not from feelings of discouragement, inexperience, and disconnectedness with their team. The newer and older members must mesh together for a successful team, knowing and utilizing each other’s strengths to their greatest advantage. When everyone has a clear job to do and strong but caring leaders to guide them, there are no limits to what the team can accomplish; with every member of it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Strait
Virginia TSA Secretary
News from the State Office: It seems we just returned from National conference, yet the start of school is looming and some have even started already. I could not have been prouder of the Virginia Delegation. We were smaller than usual yet we still had a large impact. 74 Finalist, 11 first place, 8 second place and 7 third place finishes. Then topping that off with the election of our own Kelsey Stoner as National TSA President!

Before leaving for Dallas your newly elected State Officer team spent a weekend planning, training and bonding. They left the June New Officer workshop with a fantastic Plan of Work for the Virginia TSA year! The first big event of the year will be the Annual Leadership Academy. This year’s Academy is themed Survivor: Leadership Academy, complete with guest speakers and a treasure hunt. Come prepared to carry home your treasure chest as well as a bountiful knowledge about being leader! The Academy will be held at the Doubletree Richmond-Midlothian on Kroger Center Blvd. near the Chesterfield Town Center.

Be sure to check out the Virginia Competitive events Addendum. It will be out soon. There will be a lot of new items this year. Especially for Middle School.: New Events like CAD Foundations, Catapult Design, Children’s Stories, Forensic Technology, Mass Production & Microcontroller Design have replaced Go-Green Manufacturing, Energy Sources, Water Infrastructure and Communication Challenge which are no longer events. Environmental Focus is now Environmental Engineering and is changed somewhat as was Promotional Design, now Promotional Marketing and Agriculture & Biotechnology is now just Biotechnology. Some big changes abound with Structural model now Structural Design. Many of these changes will be reflected at the Regional Spring fairs.

Everyone, Middle & High Schools will be using Clear Front report covers/portfolios rather than Ring Binders and we will no longer turn projects in on CD’s rather use only Flash/thumb drives.

I hope everyone is as excited for this new year as I am! Virginia TSA, Let’s get moving; **Onward & Upward!**

Andy Stephenson
Virginia TSA State Advisor

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A Word from the Editor

Words cannot describe how thrilled I am to be the person creating the Scene: I consider it to be the thing that keeps every chapter and region connected throughout the year and up to speed on the latest news.

While at Nationals, many people asked “what’s it like to be here as a state officer?” Well, lots of meetings! However, I enjoyed all of them. I also had a lot of people from different states come talk to me when dropping challenges off, standing in line for coffee, or the always awkward elevator ride. It’s all great fun, though, to have people asking you about your state; it makes you feel important and in the loop of information, and I’m sad that I’ll never get to experience that again.

I wish everyone a happy TSA year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Karyn Cumming

Virginia TSA Reporter

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Social Media:

- Instagram: @VirginiaTSA
- Twitter: @VirginiaTSA
- Online: VirginiaTSA.org

Answers to the Quiz:

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. B

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Learning to live in a technical world!