Virginia TSA! Hello and welcome back to the second edition of the Virginia Scene! Incase you missed the first edition with introductions of this years executive council, you can access that here http://virginiatsa.org/assets/2019/08/Virginia-Scene-2019-2020-1.pdf or by exiting this page and clicking the link right below this one.

Our officers recently attended our September Executive Council meeting, so you will read some of their experiences in this Scene; including some funny quotes...

Devan shares his experience as a college freshman!

If you are interested in your local communities, you will be hearing about your regionals fall rally. The region presidents have planned and executed their ideas for you to enjoy.

October 7th through 11th is National TSA Week! See how some of your state officers have celebrated and appreciated TSA during this week.

Be sure to follow Virginia TSA’s social medias! @s on last page
The Virginia TSA Executive council convened on September 14th, for the first time as a group since the National Conference, and it has been most excellent to have kicked back into gear for the next year! Our committees have been hard at work, and have prepared so many new initiatives that I couldn’t just pick one to talk about! Our Enterprising committee is working on a digital scan system, Business Partnerships has our new Mission Statement prepared to send out to potential sponsors, College and University Relations has a revamped plan for the Technosphere College Fair, and Resolutions has been looking into the requests we have heard from the membership. We have started off what will be an incredibly productive year, with a wonderful officer team making sure your voices are heard.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Xu

Virginia TSA President
Recently, all the officers and I returned together to Turner Ashby High School for another Executive Council meeting as we discussed the future of Virginia TSA for the next year. Being part of the meeting was the highlight itself, but it was so great seeing all my friends again in one building. My first experience with meeting them was at the New Officer Workshop, so seeing them again was like a breath of fresh air. During the first half of the meeting, we all gave our run-downs of our committees, which for me was the first time. Naturally, I was really nervous and I stuttered a little bit while trying to give my best with my rendition of my committee and my duties. Though, I was given some light encouragement by my fellow officer who sat next to me and it helped me to be more confident with what I said and how I said it. We all sat down together for a small break after half of the meeting, where we discussed Leadership Academy ideas and fun stories. We talked about funny stories, surprising stories, and content stories about our summers and duration of the school year. To be honest, it had been a long time since I had laughed that hard at an official meeting and that’s a memory I will never forget. Soon after, we held the rest of the meeting with no problems. I have high hopes for this Leadership Academy and I can’t wait to see everyone there!

Respectfully Submitted,

Tori Torres

Virginia TSA Vice President
My favorite thing about our last executive council meeting was getting to see all of the officers and regional presidents again. I know it may sound cheesy, but it’s true. What I think a lot of people don’t realize about the state officers is that we hardly ever get to see each other in person. Before I became a state officer I was convinced that the entire council had meetings about every month, that’s not the case. We only truly get to see other on special occasions, and by the time you feel like you’ve finally gotten to know each individual on the officer team, it’s Technosphere. Now you have to say goodbye to this newly cherished family by either leaving to go off to college or by becoming acquainted with an entirely new slate of state and regional officers. While that may sound like a bummer, it really just means you have to cherish all the good times, hilarious inside jokes, and amazing memories you have with your fellow officers as much as you can! Hopefully you can apply to become a state officer too, and discover all the wonderful benefits and life long lasting memories you can make from being a part of an officer team!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lexi Vencill

Virginia TSA Secretary
Hey Virginia TSA! I hope you guys are doing well and are gearing up for the year! As you may know, Leadership Academy is right around the corner, and the State Council has been hard at work to make this years’ the best Leadership Academy yet. On September 14th, 2019 we had our 2nd in person meeting as full council. One of the great things about being on council is that you get to meet all of these wonderful people and get to know them over the course of the year. While council meetings are serious, that doesn’t stop us from having fun. During this past council meeting we voted on the Technosphere theme, I’m not going to say what it is :) . The Tech Rec. committee came up with all of the themes and presented them to the rest of the council. Along with the student council, we have an advisory council that is composed of our advisors. When I was reading out the eventual theme to the council the second time through, one of the Abingdon advisors stood and shouted “Pick that one, that one!” She then started to make a case for why we should choose that theme. Some of the other advisors began to agree and make similar comments and eventually the council came to what I believe was a unanimous, or something really close to that decision. Nonetheless now all of the advisors are extremely excited to be able to serve apple juice at this years’ mixer; which you guys should totally plan to attend because Devan, Lexi, and I are working hard to ensure that it is going to be a “blast” ;) One of the rejected themes, Alice and Wonderland, had us rolling at the thought of Mr. Scott dressed up as Alice.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sierra Funk
Virginia TSA Treasurer
Hey Virginia TSA! I’m Ashley Sooklal, your 2019-2020 Reporter. I’m here to tell you a bit of my favorite part of the September Executive Council Meeting. For me, I had a three hour drive to Turner Ashby High School where I then met the rest of the officer team. It was great to reconnect after not seeing them since Nationals in DC! We all got settled down after receiving TSA mugs from our advisor, Mr. Scott, as a gift for hosting the National Conference! Alice kicked us off with the gavel and we got to business. My favorite part about the whole meeting probably had to be the little funny moments and inside jokes the officers threw out to each other every now and then. Mr. Scott even hopped in on them at times. I feel like that’s what brings our council. It feels like a perfect balance between work and fun. When Technosphere 2020 comes, 1. You guys will be blown away! 2. I’m going to be feeling down to see the 2019-2020 council go our own ways, but I know that in the end I’ll be happy for the memories. Thank you guys for reading!

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Sooklal
Virginia TSA Reporter
Hey y’all!! My favorite part of the September meeting had to be the drive back. Don’t get me wrong, I had an amazing time at the meeting. I was just exhausted. The night before I had gone to my school’s football game to watch my cousin, written my officer reports, and finished my government homework. I then proceeded to wake up early enough to arrive at my high school by 6 am to attend the state officer meeting. Throughout the day, the officers and I had a lot of fun working and eating together. However, after the meeting my advisor decided to go to a small market, named Daton’s market, near Turner Ashby High School. Since my advisor was so obsessed with the chocolate sold there, I decided to purchase some too. I bought dark chocolate expresso truffles, coconut drops, and sea salt toffee. This chocolate is amazing, and if you’re ever in Bridgewater, VA I suggest you stop by Daton’s Market to buy some chocolate. I know I’m looking forward to Leadership Academy for this reason.

Respectfully Submitted,
Victoria Compton
Virginia TSA Parliamentarian
Hey Virginia TSA! We just recently held our second executive state meeting! Like always, I had the best time! It was a fun and very effective meeting. We discussed plans for our annual leadership academy, worked on a slogan, and a t-shirt. As we worked, we made jokes and had fun with each other while still getting what needed to be done. Mr. Scott made some great quotes. We started the meeting with our reports. Then we moved to discussion on our fall rallies. We then presented the Virginia Scene. After some work we got to go to lunch which made for some great times. Overall, it was a wonderful and extremely effective meeting. That’s why I love our meetings. We can still get things done, but still have the best time of our lives. I never expected to have so much fun at a “meeting” but I don’t think it’s the things we do that makes it so much fun. I think it’s the people. We’re not just people on the same council. We are a family. A TSA family. I look forward each month to our next meeting because I know it will bring more memories that will last a lifetime. As a present for hosting the national conference, Mr. Scott was nice enough to get us all mugs from the conference in DC, which I believe in turn made the overall mood so much better. I can’t wait for the next meeting and the ones to come.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greysan Williams
Virginia TSA Historian
The second executive council meeting was a blast! Months after Nationals, I finally got to meet with the entire council again. The ride to Turner Ashby, the high school where the meeting was held, was exciting as well. My advisor, the Southcentral regional president, and I drove past beautiful mountain ranges, but the morning fog made it nearly impossible to see what was up ahead on the road in front of us. When we got to Turner Ashby, I went over to the seat with the sign that said “Sergeant at Arms” printed on it and took a seat. At first, I was confused because I wasn’t sitting at the end of the table like I used to. I didn’t think about it much and the meeting eventually began after all of our officers arrived. About half way into the meeting, Greysan, the state Historian, and I realized that both of our seats were swapped. It turns out that the signs were in the wrong place and I was surprised that I didn’t notice beforehand. Eventually, Greysan and I ended up switching spots really fast. The rest of our meeting was productive, and we decided on the theme for Leadership Academy. Close to the end of the meeting, the Emblem Ceremony took place. This was probably my favorite part of the meeting because I would get to set up the Emblem for the first time. The most anticipated part of the emblem ceremony was definitely how “The Virginia” would be introduced. Sadly, Devan Patel wasn’t at the meeting to give us pointers, but he reassured us that he “was with us in spirit.” Overall, the September Executive council meeting was extremely fun and I can’t wait for our next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vijay Vadi
Virginia TSA Sergeant At Arms
Hey, Virginia TSA! I’ve been at Johns Hopkins University for about six weeks, and it is so different than I had initially imagined. It’s different in a good way. I want to take some time to share my college experience with you.

Before coming to college, I heard from so many people that it’s super tough, that there’s a long adjustment period, and that there’s not enough time to study, be involved, and have fun. It seemed daunting. While I have to admit that the college life is tough, I have to qualify it by saying that the toughness comes from learning how to teach yourself, managing your time, and basically being an adult. For me, they’ve been the most challenging aspects of the whole experience (even more so than the rigor of academics). I’ve found that it is definitely possible for me to have time to study, get involved within the community, and have fun with the amazing group of people I’ve found, so long as I know how to allocate my time to the different “categories.”

Studying is the key to being successful in college. You have to teach yourself the material, and forming the right study habits is how you do it. Personally, I spend most of my time studying for organic chemistry, multivariable vector calculus, and cognitive neuropsychology, but I do so in a variety of ways: with my friends in a study group, by myself at the quiet-level of the library, at the Professor’s office hours, at review sessions with Teaching Assistants, and I even take advantage of the variety of help resources that the University offers. If there’s anything I have come to know, it’s that there’s nothing wrong with asking for help. In fact at Hopkins, the ability to ask for help is revered. I’ve also found that taking the time to stop studying is also a very helpful studying tactic. In fact, I often find myself studying for short 30-minute periods at a time with breaks interspersed. Try it!
On the topic of finding your group, Hopkins did such an amazing job with orientation that I felt like I had a family within a matter of days, and that’s how it should be. I’ve also found a community within the organizations I’ve gotten involved with: Red Cross, Epidemic Proportions (a Hopkins-published Public Health magazine), and Hop Help Tutoring. TSA has had a profound impact on me in this regard. For example, to join the Epidemic Proportions staff, I had to fill out an application and go through an interview process with the Executive Board. If it wasn’t for the skills like interviewing, leadership, graphic design elements, and so on, that I learned in TSA, I am not sure how the end result would’ve panned out (I’m actually on the Layout and Publicity staff for the magazine now). TSA teaches skills that last a lifetime.

And on the topic of the friends, don’t stress. You will definitely find a family. I’ve found that sitting next to new people and just starting conversations is the way to go. I’ve formed so many friendships that way here at Hopkins. Don’t be afraid to get yourself out there, because you never know when you might just start up a conversation with your future best friend.

I initially started out aiming for a sort of autobiographical article, but here I am having turned it into a sort of step-by-step guide to college—oops. Anyways, I have loved my first six weeks at Johns Hopkins, and I can’t wait for the next four years!

I wish you the best of luck in your educational endeavors!

Best,
Devan Patel
Virginia TSA Immediate Past President
Funny Moments from the September Executive Meeting

“I put the pro in procrastination.” - Lexi Vencill

“Wherever you go, there might be some Virginia TSA speakers.” - Mr. Scott

“I will slap you in the face with the Bylaws” - Victoria C. talking about Madelynne joking about running for regional president for a third time

Alice: Would we have internet at Leadership Academy?
Mr. Scott: *laughs*

Comp Tia socks. That’s it.

The 10,000 leftover 2008 pins will be worth something someday - Mrs. Gross

(During the emblem ceremony) Everyone: ThE ViRgInLa
Hello everyone! The Northern Virginia region is planning a special Fall Rally event to bring together new and old members of TSA. The event will be taking place at a date to be determined at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia from 10 AM to 3 PM. We have an exciting array of events planned.

Different from last year, we are having 3 rotating sessions specifically designed to cater to the interests of both new and old members. For example, one session will go deeply into an introduction of TSA, the organization’s goals, competitive events, and more, which is great for new members to hear. Concurrently, there will be an information session about running for regional or state office as well as the many scholarship opportunities available to students.

The second session offers a great way for our TSA community to interact with each other, old and new members alike. It will be an innovation competition where students will be divided into teams and will brainstorm a solution to a problem facing humanity today (climate change, eradication of diseases, technology advancements, etc). Awards will be given to the top 3 groups as determined by voting.

The last session is a science-fair-like exhibition. New members will be given the opportunity to look at the projects of more experienced chapters who can inform them of how to start tackling a competitive event, how to complete documentation and the LEAP resume, and more. Volunteer hours will be provided to those who present their projects.

More information about the data and registration process will be presented shortly. On behalf of the Northern Virginia executive council, we can’t wait to see you there!

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Iyer
Virginia TSA Northern Region President
Hello! I am so excited to announce that the South Central Region’s 2019 Fall Rally will be hosted at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) on Saturday, October 12th from 9:30am to 3:00pm. Throughout the event, you will be able to participate in a variety of fun activities planned by the officer team as well as exploring VCU’s engineering buildings and eating at their dining hall. Some of the sessions we have planned include a TSA 101, problem solving, and debating session. You can also look forward to meeting other TSA members from around the region!

Registration is open on the Virginia TSA website. We’re looking forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at southcentral.virginiatsa@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Naomi Nichols
Virginia TSA South Central Regional President
The 2019 Southwestern Region Fall Rally was held on August 17th, 2019 at the home of EB Stanley Middle School’s co-advisor, Jennifer Shortt. New and returning members and parents from Abingdon High School and EB Stanley Middle School were in attendance, as well as former members of those two chapters. The event was catered by a local restaurant. Our rally opened with the introduction of the 2019-2020 Southwestern Regional Council, Abingdon High School chapter president, and EB Stanley Middle School chapter president. Afterwards, the alumni in attendance spoke about their experiences in TSA. The event concluded with members participating in games and icebreakers ran by the Southwestern Regional Council, while parents spoke with advisors and alumni who answered any remaining questions about TSA. Overall, the 2019 Southwestern Region Fall Rally was a major success. This event allowed members to become better acquainted with TSA while also letting them show their strengths and weaknesses as members, students, and leaders. And by the way, I was thoroughly drenched. All in all, I am so grateful to have held a successful Fall Rally this year, and I am very excited for what’s to come.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryan Stinson
Virginia TSA Southwestern Regional President
Hello Virginia TSA!

The 2019 Tidewater Region Fall Rally is fast approaching. Fall Rally will be held at Fort Monroe on October 12, 2019. Fort Monroe was a site identified by Captain Christopher Newport in the early 1600’s as a strategic defensive location for the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River regions. One of the first early fortifications constructed was a wooden stockade in early 1609 and later a much more substantial stone fortification was built in the 1800’s. The site is a perfect place to host rally, as plans have been made to do stem activities that are directly related to the nature of the fort itself. There will be team building activities that include science, engineering and mathematics. Participants will also be touring main areas of the fort that include the casemate museum and the Seth Thomas clock that is still operational today. We will learn about the fort’s history and the technological advancements of the fort’s operation. We will be kicking off the rally with informative sessions meant to cover information pertinent to TSA events, have a couple of ice-breakers and games too. The Tidewater region will also unveil its t-shirt design created by one of the officers on the board. We plan to end rally with a small picnic lunch where we can spend a bit of time getting to know one another. If your chapter has not signed up for the Tidewater Rally, do so by checking out the Virginia TSA website under the Tidewater Fall Rally section. Hope to see you there!

Respectfully Submitted,

Sydney Funk

Tidewater Region President
The Blue Ridge Regional Fall Rally is set to take place on Friday, October 18th. Students will take the day off of school to have a fun and informational day about TSA, everything it has to offer, and other technology in our area. We’ll be travelling to Virginia Tech in Blacksburg and tour labs throughout the day. On top of this, we’ll start the day with team building and introductory activities with the Region Officer Team. Lunch will take place at a dining hall on campus, where students will again have an opportunity to meet TSA members from other schools in their region.

Some teambuilding activities we have planned are train wreck, human knot, short relay games, splat, some other events our Region Officers came up with. Sessions to take place at Virginia Tech will include tours of places such as the Smart Road, Helmet Lab, Cybersecurity Lab, a 3D printed house, and much more! These sessions are subject to change, but will undoubtedly be exciting and entertaining for TSA members. They’ll gain useful knowledge various technological fields and see how their work in TSA will eventually apply in real-world situations.

The Region Officers of the Blue Ridge are working to provide the best experience possible for our delegation! We can’t wait for you to see what we have planned and to finally meet you all in person. With an anticipated attendance of nearly 100 students, this Fall Rally will be an engaging networking event you won’t want to miss.

Respectfully Submitted,
Defne Olgun
Blue Ridge Region President
The Valley Fall Rally will be held on November 16 at the JMU ISAT building. Our event will begin with our official oak opening ceremony where announcements of this year's events will be given. We hope to welcome back Dr. Cindy Klevickis to give a demonstration after our opening. After her presentation, members will be given the opportunity to attend various workshops led by our officer team. In the past we have offered many workshops based on leadership, competitive events, and our changing technological world. We hope to bring in multiple guests to help lead our workshops including Mr. Bud Ritchie, who will lead our Cybersecurity workshop, and JMU students to give our members a taste of college. After our workshop sessions, we will hold our closing ceremony in which those that passed the STAR test that day will be recognized. Any further announcements will be given as well as a big thank you to our guests. After adjournment, a pizza lunch will be provided and our members will have the opportunity to eat and socialize with other members from different schools. Later in the day, our members will be able to attend the JMU VS Richmond football game as a group.

Respectfully Submitted,
Madelynne Ritchie
Vally Region President
October 7th through 11th was National TSA Week. We hope you celebrated! The days were as followed:

Monday—Member Monday
Tuesday—Team Mate Tuesday
Wednesday—Why TSA Wednesday
Thursday—Throwback Thursday
Friday—Forever TSA Friday

The addendum is now available on the Virginia TSA Website at www.virginiatsa.org

Follow Virginia TSA on social media! There’s a chance there will be special opportunities only accessed by these:
Instagram—@Virginia TSA
Snapchat—virginiatsa1
Twitter—@VirginiaTSA

THANK YOU FOR READING!