

THE PA-POST



In This Issue:

Why TSA?	2
The Truth About Cancer	2-3
Bridging the Gap: Moving from Middle School to High School	4
New National Officers	5
TSA Heroes	6
Green Initiative Update	7
ESP	7-8
State Officer Team Redefines the Officer Meeting	8

President's Welcome

Welcome to the 2010-2011 PA-TSA Year!

I'd like to extend my regards to each and every one of you as a new year of competitions, projects, and teams gets underway. For those who are new to this organization, the upcoming year is chance to make new friends and experience the variety of activities TSA has to offer. For returning veterans, it's time reconnect with old acquaintances (and maybe old rivalries) and take your TSA experience to the next level by taking a larger role in the TSA landscape. I encourage you to

spend an extra hour rehearsing your presentation, build something the judges have never seen before, join the Green or Membership Committee, or run for a State Office. You will not regret it. After kicking off our term at Bucknell, the 2010-2011 Officer Team has hit the ground running with improvements to existing programs along with the addition of new ones. In the subsequent pages, you'll see a number of articles by various officers about topics that they are personally interested in. Since you are already reading this, you are well on your way to

becoming a more active member. However, you can take the PA-POST to the next level by speaking up! Contact us via e-mail if you have ideas that you would like to implement, complaints about problems you see in the organization or in your community, or questions that you want answered. The POST is not about the State Officer Team telling you what to think. In fact, it's an opportunity for you to tell US what you think!

Best,
Katherine

Questions?
Comments?
Concerns?
Feel free to contact me at
reporter@patsa.org

Why TSA?

What makes TSA so important, so unique, what can I do to show my passion for TSA, and recruit others to join such a fun organization? TSA is important because it allows student to gain leadership skills, work together as a cooperative unit and integrating technology into our everyday lives as well as challenging kids, only to better their understanding of the technological world that we live in. TSA is unique in so many ways because they have so many challenges for students to enter in at the regional, state and national level. Unlike other organizations

for students, TSA offers such a wide variety of events for students to compete in.

How can you show some TSA spirit? Well, there are several ways, make a TSA t-shirts for your club and wear them around your school! Also you can make a TSA slideshow of pictures with people from your chapters (you can even include pics from the state and/or national conference). It's always important to tell others about the fun and exciting organization we all love, TSA. You could announce

when your school has TSA meetings on the morning announcements or make it your facebook status, you could even hang up posters around your school to tell other classmates when your next club meeting is. Every member has the ability to make a change, you could even hang up posters around your school to tell other classmates when your next club meeting is. Every member has the ability to make a change, *you are the change!*

Emily Bieber
Sergeant At Arms

The Truth About Cancer And What We're Going to Do About It

Cancer is one of the most dreaded diseases today. Almost everyone seems to have a close friend or relative that has fought cancer, with a significant number even surviving. Significant progress is being made in the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, especially here in the United States, one of the most aggressive nations in cancer research and treatment. The 5-year relative survival rate for all cancers diagnosed between 1999-2005 is 68%,

up from 50% in 1975-1977. Advances in early detection of cancer have contributed to the general decline in mortality rates. We have by no means eliminated cancer, however. In 2010, it is estimated that 1,529,560 *new* cases of cancer will be diagnosed, and 569,490 people will die from it in the United States alone. Additionally, some types of cancer are on the rise; thyroid cancer in women is up 6.3%, and liver cancer in men is up 3.6%. Numerous other

types of cancers have risen by 1-2%. In order to slow down these alarming trends and to ensure the continued progress of cancer treatment, cancer research must continue to be pursued aggressively. Research, however, requires time, effort, and most importantly, money. It is estimated that the National Cancer Institute (NCI) spent about 2 billion dollars on cancer research in 2009! Even if 2 billion dollars is (Cont. next page)

Cancer (Cont.)

what it takes, we must ensure that the NCI and other organizations that conduct research continue to have the funds necessary.

We, Pennsylvania TSA, can help keep cancer research moving forward by helping to meet the costs that come with trying to find a cure. Last year we donated \$2,000 to the American Cancer Society (ACS) as a state. This year, the state officer team wants to build upon our tremendous success by

adding a few new fundraising methods. The biggest change that we want to attempt is fundraising at the regional level. Through interaction with the regional coordinators, we intend to organize an effective fundraiser for the ACS that would take place at the different regional competitions. We also want to organize an event on the first day of states that could be used as another fundraiser. We have a lot of creative ideas

and we don't want to give away the surprise, but we'll give you a hint: your arrival at Seven Springs will be smoother than other years!

Details are not finalized, and if anyone in PA TSA membership or advisorship has any ideas about fundraising techniques that they would like to see implemented, feel free to contact me at treasurer@patsa.org.

-Dhruv Pillai
PA-TSATreasurer

One machine can do the
work of fifty ordinary men. No
machine can do the work of
one extraordinary man.

~ **Elbert Hubbard**

Bridging the Gap: Moving from Middle School to High School

Worried about the transition from Middle School to High School TSA?

Don't be! So you're starting a new school year, and TSA is on your mind once again. Maybe, just maybe, you are a little nervous. You might be looking ahead to leaving middle school- or

you are a freshman and at the start of high school TSA, worried about the new rulebook. Well, never fear!

Below are some key tips to keep in mind as you start your new season. Fellow chapter members, advisors, and state officers are here to support you and help out.

Read the New Rulebook!

This past summer, the new high school rulebook was released. Some events have been removed (RIP Medical Technology Challenge), and some have new names, like Webmaster. With this in mind, be sure to check out the rules. Even if you did a similar event in Middle School, you can't assume that everything will be the same. Crossing your T's and dotting your I's will make sure you don't lose easy points while at competition.

Use Competition Time Wisely

Many events have open viewing sessions at the conference, where you can walk around and look at other entries. Try to give yourself some time to do this; you will get some great ideas from other competitors. You can then incorporate what you have learned in your future entries.

Don't Ever Count Yourself Out

Just because you are new to TSA, or are one of the younger competitors, does not mean you are at a disadvantage. At the end of the day, it's more about excitement than age. So choose events that you are passionate about, find great people to work with, and get excited for States!

Learn from Others!

Ask your advisor or older club members if you can see past projects. This is a great way to become familiar with an event, and see what works and what doesn't. Consider getting your chapter to start an event archive. At the end of the year, every member of your chapter submits a copy of their work. This way, future generations of students can learn from your successes and mistakes!

Good Luck!
-Rachel Newell
PA-TSA Parliamentarian

New National Officers

This past year's 32nd annual National TSA conference held in nearby Baltimore, Maryland was an exciting event for everyone! From Monday June 28th to Friday, July 2nd, TSA members from across the nation competed in various events in everything from debate to computer graphics. Once again, PA-TSA showed why Pennsylvania is the best state!

We had the largest delegation, a fantastic delegation session, excellent success in our events and lots of bonding!

On Tuesday, June 29th PA-TSA gathered for the annual delegation session. Will Heberlein, President of PA-TSA from 2009-2010, led an informational question and answer session about the proposed bylaw amendment and the potential candidates for national office. After careful consideration, PA-TSA chose to vote against the bylaw amendment. From a large pool of national candidates, PA-TSA chose to vote for: Zachary Barnes for the position of President, Austin Tatum for Vice President, Pratyusha Gupta for Secretary, Julie Davis for Treasurer and Chris Collins for Reporter. After the voting, past and newly elected PA state officers held a raffle for many cool prizes. The officers read winning tickets in different languages

and the evening was entertaining for all.

After a week filled with intense competitions TSA members met to elect the 2010-2011 National TSA officers. As the largest delegation, PA-TSA had the most power in the officer lineup and successfully voted their favorite officers into position! Zachary Barnes, Austin Tatum, Pratyusha Gupta, Julie Davis and Chip Bollendonk all received the most votes to become our next National TSA State Officer Team. PA-TSA favorite, Chris Collins had the second most amount of votes and became our National Sergeant-At-Arms! Our new officer team has many interests outside of TSA. President Barnes is a senior at Scotland High School, who plans to double major in religion and political science in college. He has many plans for the future and is excited for the upcoming TSA season! Tatum, our National VP is seventeen-year-old senior at Oak Ridge High School in Tennessee. He loves to play tennis and stays active in his youth group.

This is his eighth year as a TSA member and he can't wait to make your TSA experience

as amazing as his has been.

Secretary Gupta is a junior at Caesar Rodney High School in Delaware who

participates in Academic Bowl, Science Olympiad, Math League and Middle States. After being in TSA for five years her favorite events include Techno Talk and Inventions and Innovations. Treasurer Julie Davis has had an amazing 6 years in TSA while participating in her favorite events like Chapter Team and Prepared Presentation.

Outside of TSA, she stays involved in her church and youth group. Chip Bollendonk our National Reporter is an IB (International Baccalaureate) junior at Littleton High School. Chris loves to play the guitar and run. He competes on his school's track and XC (cross country) teams. Appointed Sergeant-AT-Arms, Chris Collins is a senior at Fort Townson HS, Oklahoma who has been in TSA for six years. He loves politics and is involved with several local and statewide campaigns as well as political party organizations and committees.

Our national Officers are an intellectual group of people who love devoting time to exciting activities as well as leading in TSA! With their elaborate plans for the upcoming year, who can't wait for nationals in Dallas, Texas next summer!

Liza Atillasoy
PA-TSA Secretary

TSA Heroes!

By: Jacob Ross, PA-TSA
Historian

Name	School	Who is your role model?	What TSA event would your role model participate in?	Why that event?
Christine Chung 	Plymouth Whitmarsh High School	Kevin Skinner	Music Production	Because he's a music artist.
Rachel Newell 	Lower Merion High School	Peter Jackson	Film	Because he's a film director, actor, screenwriter, and producer. He did Lord of the Rings!
Dhruv Pillai 	Harriton High School	Phil Hayes	A high school version of Environmental Focus (MS)	Because he's Mr. Green!
Sabrina Kanag 	Plymouth Whitmarsh High School	My Aunt	Technical Problem Solving	She can make goals for herself and accomplish them easily.
Evan Cosgrove 	Quakertown Freshmen Center	Leonardo da Vinci	Inventions and Innovations (MS)	Because he was a genius who liked to create and invent a lot of things.
Steven Hoffman 	Lower Merion High School	Whoever created National Talk Like a Pirate Day	Chapter Team or Prepared Speech	Because they could talk like a pirate through the entire thing!

Green Initiative Update

The PA-TSA Green Committee for this year has been formed! We made it easier this year to join the committee by putting up an application on the PA-TSA website, and as a result we have significantly more members than last year.

The Green Initiative has a good history since its founding in July 2009. The mission of the Green Initiative is to promote environmental awareness and activism within the PA-TSA organization and to expand efforts to TSA members

statewide, nationally, and internationally. We're taking on various projects, including the Electronic Waste Drive Project, which will offer materials to support chapters in running their own e-waste recycling collections, Pennsylvania: Ride the Bus Day, encouraging chapters to hold such events for good public relations, the Electronic Submission Project (more about that below), plastic bag and battery recycling at the State Conference and other ideas. The new

committee will be working hard this year on many other ideas, the process of which you will be able to see on the PA-TSA Green Initiative webpage, patsa.org/green. If you have any ideas yourself on how to make our organization greener, feel free to email me and the committee at green@patsa.org.

-Josh Hoffman,
PA-TSA Green Committee Chair

Electronic Submission Project

I founded the Electronic Submission Project of the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association (PA-TSA) Green Initiative on the suggestion of the PA-TSA Board of Directors as a replacement for my original project on duplex printing. The aim of this project is to reduce the amount of resources that TSA uses by allowing students to submit their events through electronic means instead of having to put together a binder. Since TSA events are created on the computer, this could allow us to skip the step of printing which is slowly

disappearing in the business and academic world. The biggest impact of event documentation submitted as it is currently, in a three-ring binder with a clear plastic front sleeve, is actually not in the paper but in the three-ring binder itself.

The process started out in the summertime. At the 2010 National TSA Conference in Baltimore, MD, a resolution was moved on behalf of the PA-TSA Green Initiative by Phil Hayes, the chair of the Green Committee at the time, which asked that the National TSA Competition Regulations Committee (CRC) review the

Electronic Submission Project proposals. It passed unanimously. PA-TSA put out a survey online for this phase of the Electronic Submission Project. Over the summer, sixty-one people from eight different states filled out the survey, answering questions about method of submission, file format, which specific events we should start with, and ideas for all of them, the answers to all of which I took to heart. Those who filled out the survey expressed extreme disapproval at this idea of replacing the display (Cont. next page)

ESP (Cont. from page 7)

Portion of the events, so I dropped it. TSA members' responses to the survey were *vitaly* important to the process and the content of the proposals to the CRC. Thank you to all who gave your ideas. The survey results can be found [here](#). After drafting, I eventually got to this final proposal, which can be found [here](#) or on the PA-TSA website under "Green Initiative." The proposal was sent to the CRC through Pennsylvania's representative on the CRC, Dr. Laura Hummell, also to whom

big thanks go out.

The CRC discussed the proposal at their meeting back in mid-September. We have good news of this discussion. Because of the proposal from the PA-TSA Green Committee, starting in the 2011-2012 year, the middle school event Digital Photography will be submitted electronically as a pilot for electronic submission. The Electronic Submission Project will still be going this TSA year. After all, I could only propose changes to *middle*

school events for this meeting. The CRC will be discussing high school events at their next meeting in the autumn of 2011, and we want to get a ton of good ideas on electronic submission of *high school* events, satisfying as many people as possible. So stay on the lookout for another survey, and if you have any ideas beforehand, feel free to email me at green@patsa.org!

-Josh Hoffman,
PA-TSA Green Committee Chair

State Officer Team Redefines the Officer Meeting

The state officer meeting is a congregation of great productivity; it serves as an archetypal example of how eight TSA students can combine their knowledge and skill to form a team that exemplifies teamwork at every level. The state officers typically meet once every one or two months, a time-crunch when talking about planning for the state conference, nationals, and other events that the PA-TSA member can look forward to.

When considering the addition of more meetings, one must consider the sheer

size of the state of Pennsylvania: 280 miles wide, 160 miles long, and an area of 46,055 square miles. The fuel expenses of traveling all these miles are, to say the least, high. Speaking like an economist, the opportunity cost of travel is hours of time that could be spent working and making PA-TSA an even better organization.

Last April, I identified the need for a meeting after the State Conference in order to plan for Nationals. We turned to Webex. This online meeting software

allowed the officers to discuss ideas, resolve potential issues, and plan effectively. Still, the value of maintaining face-to-face, in-person meetings is high. The team has maintained the same number of face-to-face meetings while holding four online meetings in the last six months. This not only makes us a more productive team, but a more synchronized, familiar, and environmentally efficient group of state officers.

Phil Hayes
PA-TSA Vice President