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The Swagger Within TSA – How to market your TSA chapter

Depending on the school that you attend, you may have many extracurricular activities, like TSA, that are academically competitive available to you. Science Olympiad, Academic Decathlon, Future Business Leaders of America, DECA, and others are quite omnipresent and, to some, seem to be very similar to TSA. I am familiar with all of these organizations and I'm still convinced that TSA is the very best one. Sure, they all allow you to compete, win awards, and advance your knowledge. But TSA combines two of the most important elements relating to today's 21st century career world—leadership and technology—brilliantly.

Still, I don't need to tell you this. You're the member or chapter officer of this organization and I'm sure

you've loved your time with the organization. My goal is to provide a framework for you to disperse the doctrine of TSA; so that more students can be a part of this amazing experience. Here are the steps to marketing your TSA chapter as we progress through this school year:

1. Distinguish yourselves. Make sure that TSA is not perceived as just another commodity at your school. Show them all of the diverse events that TSA has to offer—from extemporaneous presentation to animatronics to fashion design.
2. Value the social experience. TSA is

largely upheld by the strong bond between the community. Don't approach your members with an exclusively pragmatic rhetoric. Show them that TSA is an opportunity to be with other students who care just as much as them about technology, leadership, or the happenings of the time.

3. Communicate to all possible stakeholders. This includes anyone from your school's administration to your school's ninth grade art class. Word-of-mouth communication is an incredible promoter, so the more people who are invested in the idea of TSA, the better.

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**Do you have a
great article that
you want
published in the
PA-Post?**

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The Swagger Within TSA cont.

4. Plan ahead and stay organized. This seems obvious, but this is essential if you want to truly create a flagship TSA chapter.

An American Novelist and graduate of Pennsylvania's Swarthmore College, Jon Franzen, once said, "use

well thy freedom". The application of the four concepts listed above in combination with new thought—an unconventional take on typical tasks—will win you the greatest membership and recognition. Use your

freedom effectively to innovate, not just A TSA chapter, but YOUR TSA chapter.

Phil Hayes

PA-TSA President

Pennsylvania Education Budget Cuts

Education is the most vital component in the globalized world today. Edward Everett, former U.S Secretary of State, once stated "Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army". However, the education system in Pennsylvania is under threat from our new governor.

The 2008 financial crisis paralyzed the entire nation economically. Millions of people around the country lost trillions of dollars and millions lost their livelihoods. The lost jobs in many communities created large holes in governmental revenue. The number of people delinquent on their taxes also increased. Moreover, housing starts slumped to one of the lowest points historically. Severe slump in housing starts is placing enormous pressure on local communities which depend on property taxes for majority of their education funding. Hence, countless school boards slashed vital extracurricular and academic services. It is estimated by the Associated Press that nearly

294,000 education related jobs were lost during the recession. Additionally, the budgets of schools across the country dipped thereby reducing the number of opportunities for the younger generations.

Nonetheless, the federal government in the \$447 billion job creation package allocated nearly \$30 billion towards education. The move is being undermined by many state governors as they slash state education funding for local communities. In our state the proposed budget includes a \$900 million cut to our education system which amounts to cutting nearly 10% of the education budget. The state government needs to realize that the future of our younger citizens depends on our education system. It is imperative for us to continue supporting our education system in order to ensure a bright future for our country. Thus, I press upon the readers to be active and have your voice heard in order to stop such extreme moves to our essential education system.

Akhil Adla

PA-TSA Treasurer

Is Global Warming a Serious Problem?

Yes

Global warming is undeniable. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Control (IPCC) has proclaimed its existence “unequivocal.” The scientific evidence is accumulating, and now includes rising sea levels, melting ice caps, increases in ocean and air temperatures, and an almost palpable increase in atmospheric CO₂ concentration. NASA’s 2008 report on surface temperatures yielded the fact that the ten hottest years since 1880 have all occurred in the 12 years between 1997 and 2008. Already, 10% of the world’s coral reefs (which are home to the most diverse variety of organisms on the planet) are dead, with 60% of the remaining being endangered. Evidence continues with altered geographic range of beetles, a shift in rain patterns, endangered Antarctic species; the list is seemingly endless.

Global warming, however, is an unfortunate misnomer. Though the average temperature of the Earth is steadily and ruthlessly rising, the overall effect of the global warming is not merely an increase in temperature; indeed, skeptics of global warming will often cite major snowstorms and frigid temperatures during the winter months as evidence that global warming is either not occurring or not a serious threat. Unfortunately, one of the effects of global warming *is* worse winters. Global warming will disrupt global climate patterns, and one of the major effects is more frequent erratic and extreme weather. The winter of 2010 was record setting. Europe was hit especially hard, forced to close airports and other major forms of public transportation for weeks at a time, and our own Washington D.C. was hit with a whopping 55 inches of snow. Far from being contradictory, these seemingly opposite trends are actually helping to verify the hypotheses that leading climatologists such as James Hansen of NASA are postulating.

The major factor that affects global warming and, in turn, the human population is carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere. The burning of fossil fuels leads to the dissemination of CO₂ into the air; accumulating since the Industrial Revolution, when coal burst onto the manufacturing scene, the CO₂ concentration has more than doubled. Its effects? Australia, China, India, many nations in Africa, Argentina, Syria, and our very own United States are experiencing historic droughts as climate patterns shift and farmers cannot rely on rainfall that has been constant since the first Native Americans. Sea levels are rising so quickly and so unstopably that the President of the Maldives has actually purchased land in Australia to relocate his people once the sea claims his island nation. Ocean pH is plummeting as a result of chemical reactions occurring between the excess CO₂ in the atmosphere and the water on the surface of the ocean; carbonic acid is the product of water and carbon dioxide, and the higher acidity is killing coral reefs and other marine life. The most important effect? Drought. Though the overall rainfall in the world might be the same, much of this rain is now being dumped in the ocean, and farmers are unable to water their fields; as a global community already struggling to feed still developing countries, how are we to cope with a decreased food supply and only the promise of even less?

The evidence of global warming is a cold, hard fact. We may not be ready to come to terms with this extremely inconvenient truth yet, but if we do not act quickly, the truth will be

more than inconvenient. Dissenters claim that data has been “hockey-sticked”; they say that the graph of temperature and CO₂ has been cut off so that the trend looks much worse than it is, and that millions and billions of years ago, temperatures and CO₂ levels were much higher than they are now. Though there is some truth to this statement, the argument is irrelevant; no matter what the conditions were before the Ice Age, the fact remains that there was no society as vulnerable and as huge as humans live in today. The human race may have managed to survive the conditions of the past, but if those same conditions were present today, billions upon billions of people would die. Humans before the Ice Age merely had to sustain small populations; they did not require huge amounts of food. Today, we have 7 billion people to feed. There is already not enough arable land, and pretty soon, there won’t be enough water either. The human race would probably survive another set of conditions similar to the pre-Ice Age era. We would lose billions of our species, and most of them would be in developing countries that did not have the same opportunity to protect themselves from the onslaught of global warming as America does. We would be living in a completely different world, devoid of our global economy and global connections. But sure, we’d survive.

Dhruv Pillai

PA-TSA Vice-President

No, Global Warming is Not a Serious Problem

Now first of all, let me go right ahead and say that I love the environment. I am actively involved in my Boy Scout troop, and few things compare to the joy I feel while camping and enjoying the great outdoors. Furthermore, I know that the conservation of natural resources is a very important goal, and believe that protecting our world is one of the noblest occupations there is. However, I believe that the resources we spend on this environmental protection is best spent on exactly that: conservation and protection.

Focusing on these areas brings real, tangible results with an immediate (and positive) effect on the surrounding ecosystem. Yet instead, global warming receives all of the hype. Now, how excessive pollution and greenhouse gases will effect our atmosphere definitely warrants research, as do all the drastic changes us humans have caused in the environment. However, I believe the publicity and funding around global warming overshadows and blots out other just as important endeavors. While we've held global conferences and signed treaties exhorting all countries to lower their air pollution levels, I haven't heard of any worldwide meetings between the world powers to save the

rainforests, protect endangered species, limit toxic waste, or even recycle more. Who could argue that those endeavors are just as important to our environment's continued survival as global warming? Yet for some reason, almost all of the public's attention is directed towards global warming and global warming alone. Because all of the data that points irrevocably towards global warming? Well we must be careful when analyzing this data. I'm sure almost all of you have seen the "hockey-stick" graph from Al Gore's, *An Inconvenient Truth*. This graph, developed by Canadian scientists, supposedly showed the temperature of the northern hemisphere over the past thousand years with a sudden spike in the last one hundred, showing how our increased use of oil and fossil fuels have contributed significantly to global warming. However, a few years later, the same Canadian scientists realized they made a mistake in their calculations, and readjusted them. The actual graph appeared to be much more of a flat line. I know there is a lot more evidence supporting global warming, but all I ask is that you analyze the evidence for yourself, learn the facts, make your own conclusions, and don't forget about the hundreds of other ways we can save the environment. Thank you.

Matt Basile

PA-TSA Sergeant-at-Arms

Open Mic Night

The State Officer team has been hard at work this year in an effort to make this spring's state conference the best one yet! Last year, we held our first annual Open Mic Night and it was such a success that we're bringing it back again for everyone to enjoy! So, on Wednesday night when you arrive at Seven Springs you can spend your evening adding finishing touches to your projects, spending time with your chapter, or hanging out with the State Officer Team and other members at this awesome showcase of talent! Members can perform a musical act either individually or in a group. All members are welcome to

stop by at any point during the night, as admission is free. If you're interested in performing, contact PA-TSA President Phil Hayes at president@patsa.org by April 1st. Be sure to include what music you want to play, what musical equipment you can bring, and the names of people you're performing with. We look forward to hearing what different kinds of musical talent our members' possess, and are enthusiastically awaiting a great time with all of you at the conference!

Liza Atillasoy

PA-TSA Historian

Contact Phil Hayes by April 1st at president@patsa.org if you are interested in performing at the Open Mic Night at States.

The Thief of Time: Procrastination

Whether we're members, state officers, or even advisors of TSA, we have all run into time restrictions for TSA work. And for some of us, those binders or display boards can be put off for an extended amount of time that will only lead to doing it at the last minute. And why is that, you ask? Procrastination. Yes, procrastination - our all-time favorite form of self-sabotage. I am positive that almost all of us have been in that situation where we found it necessary to temporize for weeks (and maybe even months), always on the lookout for anything to do except the task we should be completing- whether we decide to begin that display board for one of our events a few days before a conference or to delay the scheduling a meeting with our team members that should have been taken care of weeks ago. And for most of us, the procrastination package also comes with a nice steaming pile of regret, and we will end up asking ourselves why we put it off to the last minute. And the worst part of it is its ability to rob of us time, while simultaneously allowing us to temporarily feel as if we have somehow escaped the world of deadlines... until that final day or hour or minute. So why exactly do we fall for allure of this dangerous siren, time and time again?

Personally, I believe that there are two factors that play into our continual delay of responsibilities. The most obvious of the two is laziness. Sometimes, we just don't feel like exerting effort or brainpower. It is simply easier to not get out of bed or pick up that pencil. But another factor could also be fear - there are times when we are simply afraid. We are afraid to take the step

forward or to make that important decision due to the fact that we might be scared of unexpected (or unwanted) repercussions, of not succeeding, of rejection, of lack of control, etc. And, for that short span of time, we find solace and comfort in putting the hard task off until another day- that is, until that day comes and we are faced with a mountain of tasks and responsibilities to take care of with only a limited amount of time. At some point we come to realize that we're merely delaying the inevitable with a supply of consequences on top of that. We have to see for ourselves that knowledge is better than speculation, progress is better than stagnancy, and failure is better than never trying in the first place.

That is my perspective - but there are psychologists who actually set out to find a scientific explanation for why it is so hard to actually do what we set out to do. Are we programmed for postponement? Researchers have studies that show procrastination is related to personality and emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence is measured by one's dominance over their emotions and there are 5 categories of it: intrapersonal, interpersonal, adaptation, coping with stress, and general mood. The studies reveal that if a person has an

intrapersonal personality, he or she is better at managing his or her time. Similarly, a person with an internal locus of control will complete the work faster than a person with an external locus of control who does not procrastinate. And those who have the emotion of fear do not usually distribute their time well.

But there's good news. Depending on the person, procrastination can be managed. Some techniques that students can try are making deadlines, breaking down the task, making wise choices, and managing distractions. So, with all the distractions and new lifestyles that we, TSA members, run into, each of us will just have to find their own strategy to combat the human desire to procrastinate. So with that said, get started PA-TSA. With new goals and new ideas for this year, there's much to be done.

Sitara Soundararajan

Harriton TSA Reporter

Do You Want To Write an Article?

You don't have to be a state officer!

Email any articles for the PA-Post that you write to me at

reporter@patsa.org

Parliamentary Procedure: More Advanced Motions

Now that you know the basics of Parliamentary Procedure, it's time to delve a little deeper. Parliamentary Procedure is used in its most basic forms, as reviewed in the last edition of the POST, almost everywhere. It is slightly less used in its more regimented form, as we use it in our amazing organization, although it is still very useful to know how some of the more obscure parts work. The more you understand, the better you will be able to execute it and be more organized. Some of the most useful parts of parliamentary procedure are the ways to change a motion. For the purpose of easy explanation, if a motion is referenced it will be "Mr. President, I move to bring cake to the next meeting."

1. Types of Motions- Although all motions do the same thing, there are 5 types of motions:

-Main Motion-brings business before the assembly when no other motion is pending. There are two subgroups of main motions as well:

-Incidental-are related to previous activities where as regular main motions present new ideas.

-Restoratory- brings up old motions/ideas to the assembly again. These include Amend a previous action, ratify, reconsider, rescind and resume consideration.

1. Subsidiary- These motions affect the main motion being considered. These include Postpone Indefinitely, Amend, commit or refer, postpone to a certain time, limit or extend limits of debate, previous question, and lay on the table.

2. Incidental Motions-Any motion related to main motions or other pending business. These include appeal the decision of the chair, consideration by paragraph or seriatim, division of a question, division of the assembly, objection to the consideration of a question, parliamentary inquiry, point of information, point of order, request for permission to withdraw or modify a

motion, and to suspend the rules.

3. Privileged- Motions that are granted special precedence over other types of motions because they are urgent or explicitly important. These include fix the time at which to adjourn, adjourn, recess, question of privilege and call for the orders of the day.

4. Motions that bring a matter again before an assembly-Brings back a motion to its intended/ original goal. These include take from the table, reconsider and discharge a committee.

Now that you have an overview of different types of motions, here are a few of the commonly used ones. Many are explained by their names, and so will not be explained here.

-Amend- to amend a motion means to make a change to it once it has already been seconded, during the debate period. An amendment can be made by saying: "Mr. President, I move to amend the motion by inserting the words 'and ice-cream' after cake." This amendment would make the motion read, "Mr. President, I move to bring cake *and ice-cream* to our next meeting." Amendments have to be seconded and can be debated just like motions are. An amendment to an amendment is called a secondary amendment. An amendment to an amendment to an amendment is called a tertiary amendment, and so on.

-Lay on the table- This motion puts a main motion "on the table", or on hold, until more information is available or more work is done on it. This can be indefinitely or until a set time. A member can propose this by saying "I move to lay this motion on the table (can specify a certain time or something that needs to be figured out before the motion is considered again)."

-Division of the question- A motion (commonly referred to as a 'question') with many parts can be split up so the parts can be voted on separately. For example, using our amended motion, we can divide it to say "Mr. President, I move to bring cake to our next meeting" and "Mr. President, I move to bring ice-cream

to our next meeting." This motion is necessary because some members may feel differently about the different parts of a big motion and so when it is split up, they can vote for what they want for each section. A member can propose this by saying, "I move to divide the question so as to consider separately by (and then specifying how to divide it).

-Division of the assembly-also known simply as "division"- This motion is used when a vocal vote is too close to tell whether the affirmative or negative vote won. A member simply states "Division!" and the presiding officer will take a standing count of who voted in which way.

-Point of Information-(now called Request for Information in the newest edition of RONR) - This motion allows members to ask the president (who can delegate to other people) questions about the pending business.

-Point of order-This motion is used when a member believes a rule has been broken. A member simply has to say "Point of order!" and the presiding officer will make a ruling on whether the rules are being followed or if someone has overstepped their bounds.

These are just some of the motions that are used in meetings and very basic explanations of them. I hope this will help you in your chapter meetings and in your preparations for chapter team competition. If you have any questions about this article or parliamentary procedure in general, feel free to contact me at parliamentarian@patsa.org! Good luck in your regional competitions and I look forward to seeing you all at Seven Springs!

Kelsey Johnson

PA-TSA Parliamentarian

Interested in Running for a State Office?

There are many fun and exciting things that happen at the State Conference, but arguably the most intense and rewarding is running for a State Office. Overall, a primary responsibility of the State Officer Team is to plan the State Conference, but the individual positions have their own responsibilities, and of course there are whatever ideas and initiatives the individual running for the office has to improve PA-TSA. So if you think you may be interested in running for a State Office, here are some tips and other things to keep in mind as you get started.

1. Think of meaningful ways to improve PA-TSA.

There are so many things that make Pennsylvania TSA stand out from other states, but it isn't perfect. Think about your own experiences in TSA to come up with ideas that you can implement if you are elected. If these ideas are not meaningful and relevant, than the TSA members will not care enough about them to vote for you. While these ideas and initiatives should be things that people care about, you should try to think of things that are relatively simple and easy to accomplish. Extremely complex ideas are harder to get approved, planned, and overall there is a higher chance that you won't be able to get it done. Your best bet is to stick with ideas that people care about but are pretty simple.

2. Be responsible with deadlines. A major part of being a State Officer is dealing with and following deadlines. The State Officers are a team, which means they rely on each other to get stuff done. When there is an officer that never has things done when they were supposed to be finished, it can mess up the whole team. If you are the type of person who procrastinates, to be a State Officer you should also be the type of person who can buckle down and get to work to accomplish a task in a short amount of time.

3. Be confident and outgoing. When campaigning at the State Conference, a key part of getting people to vote for you is to go up and talk to them about your ideas and convince them to vote for you. Even though your speech is a great opportunity to talk about why you should be elected, it is not the only part of the campaigning. In order to run a successful campaign, you should have the confidence to go up to people you don't know and have normal conversations with them, ask them how their events are going, as well as talking about your ideas and why they should vote for you.

Those are just a few tips and things to keep in mind if you are considering running for a State Office in the spring. For more information about running for a State Office you can go to www.patsa.org. You can also email me at reporter@patsa.org if you have any specific questions or comments.

Ben Hewitt

PA-TSA Reporter

Interview With Mr. Tim Brockman and Mr. Matt Birch (Welsh Valley Middle School TSA)

Interviewees:

- 1: Mr. Timothy Brockman
- 2: Mr. Matthew Birch

What first got you interested in technology education?

1: In high school, my favorite classes were woodshop, which was Industrial Arts, and then physics and science. Then when I was in college, I tried to find a subject that

would combine the two into a place where I could design and build, and maybe even teach. So I went to college, and I wasn't really interested any of the subjects, so I transferred to California University and actually majored in Technology Education. It allowed me to use both the science and building parts of high school that I loved.

2: Likewise, I grew up at a time where technology just coming on the scene. I had one of the very first Macintosh computers, and so it was something that I was always interested in, and it made a natural connection to the sciences and what I teach.

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Interview With Mr. Tim Brockman and Mr. Matt Birch (Continued)

As has science progressed, so has technology, and it makes sense. Plus, it's something that I love to do.

What inspired you to be a TSA advisor?

1: While at college, I was hanging out on the weekends and saw a couple hundred kids come on to campus competing in all sorts of different events. The first year, I didn't really know what that was, so I went to check it out, and it ended up being the Regional Competition for TSA being held at California University. Then the next year, I thought it was pretty cool so I signed up to be some of the judges and we even helped some parts of the events that people would compete in onsite. So I started my involvement in college, and that just followed through until I was teaching at Welsh Valley.

2: I became an advisor either the first or second year after the program started at Welsh Valley. Again, stemming from my natural love of technology and its interaction with science, when the opportunity arose, I thought it'd be a great way to extend what I do in the classroom and also a great way to get to know students and have a fun time at school.

How do you think TSA affects students?

1: I think TSA gives students an opportunity to learn that is

different from in the classroom. It teaches leadership skills, and it also teaches more abstract thinking, where they're actually able to take a real world problem, do some research, create a solution, and make a difference. In the classroom, a lot of times we're taking tests or doing projects, where in TSA, you can see that real world difference you can make.

2: I think the real-world connection is a major piece. Kids today know so much about videogames, and can "prison break" [hack] their iPods, but that isn't real world, and it's not going to do anything for them as they go out and seek employment and opportunity. However, TSA provides them with the ability to learn how to work with others, how to focus their interests, manage their time, and really concentrate on how to put their ideas and work into a valuable product.

Which TSA event do you enjoy the most?

1: I'd say my personal favorite is Go Green Manufacturing because it teaches a variety of skills. It also gives students creative freedom to design a product, and not just design it, but also build it, market it, and work as a team to set and achieve goals. It's an event that incorporates just about every part of technology. The nicest part of it that when

they're finished, they have a finished product that they can take home, and keep for the rest of their lives if they want.

2: Wow, that's really hard to narrow down. My two favorites would have to be Chapter Team, which is probably a close second because it is so interactive and it's really more of a preparation for running a meeting, working with others, and learning how important it is for other people to be able to speak, but if I had to choose, it would be Environmental Focus. Environmental deals with quite a bit of research, but the experience we've had at Welsh Valley is that they've been able to do very valuable research. Aside from that, they've been able to get involved and actually make change on at least a local level on some environmental issues. So there is a decent amount of active involvement, and it's fun to see the kids do that, and create a complete project. It's satisfying for me as an advisor to see that, but it's also definitely satisfying for the student as well.

Sabrina Sayoc

PA-TSA Secretary

What to look forward to from the Green Committee at States

Hey PA-TSA!

In an effort to get you guys more involved in what goes on at your state conference I'm bringing back the polls that allow you guys to communicate with the State Officer Team! For the second year in a row you get to vote on important issues like the mixer theme, electronic submission project, music to be played throughout the conference, etc. Make sure you check patsa.org's homepage periodically to cast your vote and have a say! Also if you have any ideas that you'd like to be featured on patsa.org for the membership to vote on shoot me an email at historian@patsa.org. Can't wait to hear back from you all!

Liza Atillasoy

PA-TSA Historian

As regional conferences across the state quickly approach and TSA members hurry to perfect their events, the PA-TSA Green Committee is already looking towards the State Conference. The highlight of Seven Springs for the Green Committee is the annual special interest session. The focus of this year's session will be a discussion of current popular environmental topics.

Additionally, the issues raised will be of particular importance to PA-TSA members. Such concerns include Marcellus Shale hydraulic fracturing, which is especially prevalent in Pennsylvania. Another pertinent subject of conversation is e-waste and other impacts of technology on our environment. I hope you will take some time out of your busy conference schedule to join the Green Committee for the event.

Besides planning conference activities for States, as usual, the Committee is busy behind the scenes writing proposals and helping TSA to become a more eco-friendly organization. If you want to know what

the Green Committee is currently up to, check patsa.org/green for updates.

Please contact me at green@patsa.org with your questions, comments, ideas, or interest in joining the Committee. Good luck and have fun at Regionals!

By Kristi Barr
Green Committee Chairperson

Go to

www.patsa.org/green

For more information on
the Green Committee

What did You Think?

Please email me at
reporter@patsa.org

with any questions or
comments about the
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