

THE PA-POST



How to Be a Leader in Your Local Chapter

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By: William Heberlein,
PA-TSA President

You don't have to be an officer at the state level to be a leader in TSA. In fact, you don't have to be an officer at all. Being a leader in your school chapter is a lot easier than you may think. It doesn't take outstanding speech skills, expert craftsmanship in the workshop, or even experience; all it really takes is a bit of dedication. If you enjoy being in TSA and are

looking for ways to be a leader for your chapter, here are some tips to increase the quality of TSA in your area.

1.) Increase Communication: Facebook groups, twitter, or even a bulletin board in the Tech room are great ways to keep your members (as well as potential members) aware of what is happening within the organization.

2.) Involvement: Ask your advisor if you can

have a regularly scheduled open lab or work session where members can come to brainstorm and work on their projects. The more your team meets, the better the quality of your projects.

3.) Make It Fun: Everybody who's in TSA knows how fun the conferences are, but they're only three times a year and people who aren't in TSA can't see

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Design a New Event for PA-TSA

By: Joshua Rice, PA-TSA
Vice President

Ever dreamt of participating in an event that TSA doesn't currently offer? Well here's your chance to make your dream come true!

Although PA-TSA already offers many challenging and fun events, the state officer team would like for you, PA-TSA members, to submit new event ideas. Imagine yourself at the state conference watching TSA members enjoy an event that you created! This event could become

one of the most popular events at TSA!

When creating your event be sure to include an overview of your event, mainly what it is about; purpose, to explain why this event is good for developing understanding in an area of technology; eligibility, who can participate and in a group of a certain number or single; time limits, if any; attire required; procedure, how your event will be carried out; regulations, the rules you want in place for your event; evaluation, how

points will be determined for your event; and an evaluation sheet so we have an idea of how you want your event to be scored. For an example, look at the TSA Handbook.

Please be sure to comprehensively describe your event. All event ideas must be emailed to the state officer team. We will take the time to meticulously review all of your ideas and submit the best ones to the Board of Directors!

-Joshua Rice: TSA State
Vice President

Check Out These Special Sections:

- The comic "Brains Vs. Brawn" by Jeremiah Eyster, Selinsgrove Area High School
- The possible future of TSA and robots in the article "TSA Moving Into the Future...With Robots?!?"
- The new "In The Limelight" section: All about how PA-TSA is going green!

How to Be a Leader (from page 1)



how enjoyable our organization can be. Hold fundraisers at your school to advertise TSA to your school; i.e. maybe hold your own Ironman or Got Game Tournament. Not only will this raise money for your chapter or the American Cancer Society, but it's a fun way to get people interested.

4.) Be Proactive: It's the little things that really make you stand out as an individual leader. All it

takes is going that extra mile or even half mile that lets people know that you care about what you're doing in TSA; maybe making a fundraiser for the ACS, donate to Toys for Tots, or even just being available to answer questions or provide ideas for people. This attitude is contagious and before you know it, your fellow members will be getting as motivated as you are to succeed and participate

in TSA activities.

Remember, the best leaders lead by example; if you take the initiative to build TSA in your school others will follow your lead. Good luck with all of your events this year, and as always email me with any ideas or questions you may have!

Best Wishes,

-Will Heberlein: TSA State President

A Special Interest in Going Green

By: Adam Blaisse, PA-TSA Parliamentarian

This year the state officer team is working hard to provide fun and exciting special interest sessions. We plan to contact "green" corporations within the state to see if they want to have a stand to show off their products. Having these eco-friendly companies at our state conference will provide a great opportunity. Your

chapter might want to sit in on some of the special interest sessions to get new ideas about how your chapter or school might go green.

We are also playing with the idea of contacting the Microsoft Cooperation to see if they are interested in running a special interest session this year. They are definitely a driving force in technology and it only seems fit that they would

have a special interest session at our state conference.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or just want to suggest another company to contact, send me an e-mail at parliamentarian@patsa.org

-Adam Blaisse: TSA State Parliamentarian

"Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one."

-Bill Gates



What's to Be Expected

By: Eli Wolfinger, PA-TSA Sergeant-at-Arms

Hello PA-TSA, I'm here to give you an update at what you can expect at the upcoming State Conference. Seeing it as a big hit, we are going to continue the Iron Man competition. We are excited to announce that we are updating the Got

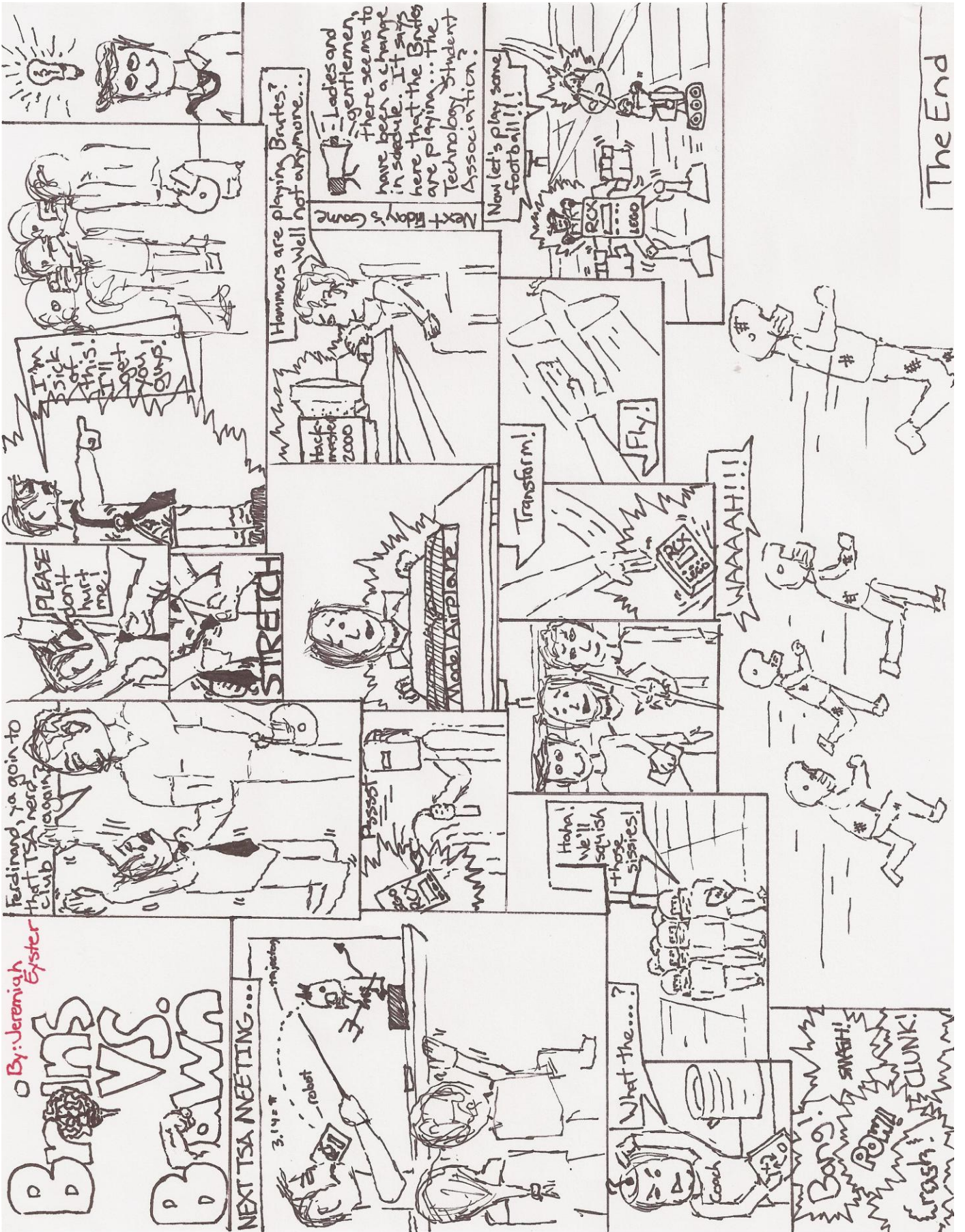
Game tournaments with new consoles and games. The dance is also going to continue, with the exciting theme of "We're going green, what are you coming as?"

For this dance theme, the state officer team will be decked out in our all-green attire to show our support for the PA-TSA

Green Initiative. We're asking everyone else to dress monochromatically (just wear one, and only one color) to fit in with our dance's theme. You can choose any color in the world, even buff!

Hope to see you all there!

-Eli Wolfinger: TSA State Sergeant-at-Arms



Awards and Scholarships

By: Katherine Chen, PA-TSA Secretary



The Technology Student Association prides itself on helping its members reach their personal heights of success in not only competition and technology, but also in life. Through its interactive and real-life simulating events, TSA prepares students for college and eventually, the general working force by instilling the qualities of great leaders and thinkers in each of us. Aside from the obvious advantages that PA-TSA presents, one item is often overlooked by the general membership: the scholarships and special awards that our organization offers. In a day and age where it seems as if everything you do is something to add to your résumé, scholarships and awards are definite advantages that can set you apart from the crowd and make you a more appealing candidate for the university or job of your dreams!

There are two general scholarships that are

offered. The first is the "Future Technology Teacher" Award, also known as the Terry Schwalm Memorial Award, which is given to one member that has shown the exceptional qualities and interest in being a technology teacher. Applicants must be a high school senior or graduate already admitted to but not enrolled in an undergraduate technology education program. The second is the "Outstanding Technology Student" scholarship given to a TSA member that has shown noteworthy leadership skills inside and out of the organization. Applicants must be a senior or graduate that has already been admitted to, but not enrolled, in an undergraduate program. In both scholarships, the amount given is \$1500 and the deadline to send in the application form is January 15th, 2010. Additional scholarships are given for graduates or seniors that have been accepted to the following universities: California University of

Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Technical Institute, and the Johnson and Wales University.

PA-TSA also offers awards to members who are inducted into the Technology Honors Society. The Dr. Thomas C. Winters Award is given to a chapter advisor who has been present for five years or more and has shown leadership within the past three years. The Donald Rickard Memorial Volunteer Award is for a non-advisor who has shown leadership and tireless actions that have benefited the organization.

Please find more information and actual nomination and application forms at www.patsa.org under the student tab on the right side toolbar. Let PA-TSA help you get the recognition you deserve! For more information visit:

<http://www.patsa.org/students/scholarships.php>

-Katherine Chen: TSA State Secretary

"Do not worry about your difficulties in Mathematics. I can assure you that mine are still greater."

-Albert Einstein

TSA Moving Into the Future...With Robots?!

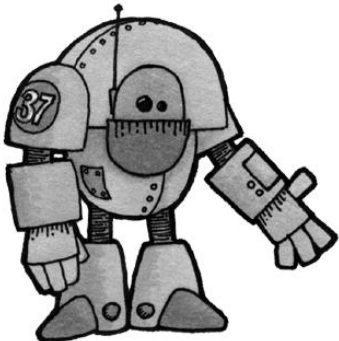
By: Rachel Newell, PA-TSA Historian

Over the past year, as you made your way to the different TSA competitions, you might have noticed a few new additions to the conferences- robots! At states, did you see them

whiz around a field, and in between your competitions did you try driving them? You would have paid to play with these robots, and discovered that your money was going to the American Cancer Society. Or, you might have arrived at nationals in

Denver and visited the robotics expo. These events point to the possibility that TSA may be looking to add a head-to-head robotics competition to its long list of events. So if you saw robot activities at TSA

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TSA Future...With Robots?!? (from page 4)

and thought, "Man, I wish there were more events like this," cheer up! There is a chance that could happen.

VEX Robotics, owned by parent company Innovation First is the organization that National TSA worked with to provide the Denver demo. This company runs its own competitions all over the country. Every year a game is created, and schools build robots that can play the game, as well as work with each other in competition. This allows participants to learn both the ins and outs of robotics, and the importance of sportsmanship and teamwork.

Some of you may be thinking to yourself that there are already robot-related competitions in TSA, like Animatronics. You may also have noticed that National TSA has even added a robotic event for next year's competition. Well, you're

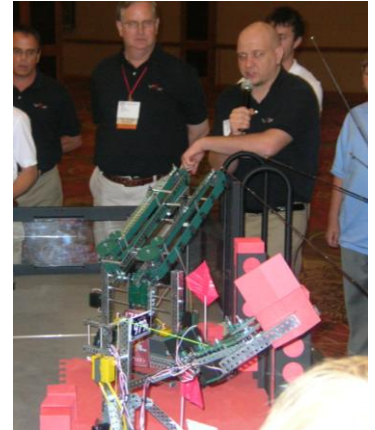
right, there are TSA events that involve the use of robots, but none that involve head-to-head competition and teamwork to the degree that VEX events do. With this competition, teams are encouraged to help one another if a problem arises-providing technical support or mechanical assistance. This creates a greater sense of community and sportsmanship during the competition.

In Denver this year, robotics teams from around the country showed up and participated in one of the robotics games created by VEX. The goal of this demonstration was to expose TSA members to this new opportunity. There were crowds for every match, and teams worked hard to keep their robots in tip top shape. Later, TSA advisors met with the robotics teams to ask questions. VEX also set up a station where

members could play with robots, or even take a look at what kind of parts and materials go into the construction. If you want to learn more about VEX visit their website at: <http://www.vexrobotics.com/vex-products.shtml>.

Right now, nothing is set between VEX Robotics and National TSA. However, there was positive feedback from the expo and advisors have been surveyed for their views about a robotics competition like this. Every year after the national competition, TSA issues a survey on its website. This year's survey featured a section where students could submit their thoughts on strengthening robotics in TSA. If members show that there is genuine interest in a partnership with VEX, then you may be seeing even more robots showing up at our competitions.

-Rachel Newell: TSA State Historian



"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to just try one more time."

-Thomas A. Edison

Membership Involvement

By: Christian Levan, PA-TSA Treasurer

For the advancement of our Technology Student Association, increased future member involvement is crucial. As a student association we as students have a right and a duty to express our desires for the future of this organization to the officers and the executive board of this organization. We as the membership of

TSA can express our hopes for the future through use of our referendum-based organization and through observing Robert's Rules of Order (Parliamentary Procedure) during the business meeting of this organization every year at the state conference. As students of a student organization we should not forget that this is our, us students' organization.

So noting that this is in fact, our organization student involvement can help shape the organization subject to the desires of the membership. You, the students of TSA, control where our organization is going. So if we have this ability to do good for all members, then we ought to use that ability to produce a more efficient, educational, fun, and student oriented

future for TSA. We should use this access to the parliamentary engine that directs TSA's future in order to strengthen TSA's statewide influence, strengthen the future of TSA's membership, and to strengthen the general camaraderie within this association.

-Christian Levan: TSA State Treasurer

PA-TSA

Don't like what we're doing or think that we're not doing a very good job? Show us how it's done and submit your own articles, ideas, or suggestions to the PA-POST!

E-Mail:
reporter@patsa.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.patsa.org



PA-TSA Green Initiative

By: Phil Hayes, PA-TSA Environmental Committee Chairman

Going back to April, to the days following the state conference, I realized the trend. Look at the biggest technology companies and organizations, amid global problems with pollution and climate change – they're getting the message: It is time to go green. I had soon contacted Will Heberlein and the state officer team and asked them how to proceed. Without their interest and support, none of this would have

In the Limelight

By: Jacob Ross, PA-TSA Reporter

Welcome to the newest section of the PA-POST: In the Limelight! This part of the publication is being created for the sole purpose of displaying the efforts of TSA to go green. This is for any level: National, State, Regional, or Chapter. PA-

and ultimately was approved and set into full gear at Bucknell conference in July.

We started out with a few ideas, but our list keeps growing! We're a technology organization, so why not have an electronic waste drive at states? With all the dangerous electronic waste made up of computers, cell phones, and many other consumer electronics being dumped on third world countries and in landfills, we owe it to the environment to start making a change. Other top ideas on our list include a plastic bag-recycling event, using recycled paper to print PA-TSA publications, and various technology-based measures: all of these projects cumulating to make PA-TSA a leader in environmental awareness. We will be setting the precedent for not only National TSA, but also career/technical student organizations across the nation.

Another one of our actions is the duplex printing project (DPP),

TSA will have a lot of information about what we are doing to make our state conference more eco-friendly because we have started the PA-TSA Going Green Initiative.

But as I said before, this section isn't just for the state level. If your chapter does something to help protect the

which is allowing for TSA event binders to be printed double-sided. After doing the math, we realized that a state can almost completely offset the carbon emissions from plane rides to and from Nationals in a given year by the amount of paper that could be saved at one state conference! The state officer team and I appointed Josh Hoffmann (Lower Merion High School) to manage DPP, and he has played an instrumental role ever since. We started our research by contacting the CRC (Competitions Regulations Committee) and the national officer team. In time, we wrote up a proposal and submitted it to Peter Andrews, national TSA president. In the next few weeks, the CRC is

environment, please let us know about it! We'd love to show other chapters your ideas and actions. Please e-mail any ideas, comments, questions, or chapter stories regarding going green to:

reporter@patsa.org

-Jacob Ross: TSA State Reporter

expected to accept our proposition, which will then take effect in the following year!

Lastly, we are working on attaining new environmental technology/education sponsors for Pennsylvania TSA. With our new efforts in green activism, we believe that companies in this sector are more likely to be interested in the PA-TSA organization. We encourage any member or advisor of PA-TSA to get involved. If you have an idea, join our group on Facebook ("PA-TSA Green Initiative") or email a state officer and let us know! We may also have volunteer opportunities at the state conference. See you at Seven Springs!

-Phil Hayes, TSA State Committee Chairman



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[Sign Up](#) Sign up for Facebook to join PA-TSA Green Initiative.

PA-TSA Green Initiative
Global

Basic Info

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| <p>Name: PA-TSA Green Initiative</p> <p>Category: Student Groups - General</p> <p>Description: Mission Statement: The PA-TSA Green Initiative promotes environmental awareness and activism within the PA-TSA organization and aspires to expand efforts to TSA members state-wide, nationally, and internationally.</p> |  |
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