

PA-POST

Winter 2006

Reporter's Message



Hello Pennsylvania TSA. It's now 2006, a new year, and the calendar isn't the only thing that has changed. The PA-POST has received a new look, and is starting many features that will hopefully become standards. These include the *Blast from the Past*, where PA-TSA alumni will be interviewed. The POST also contains more current events in it, including chapter activities and technological innovations. On behalf of the state officer team, I'm also excited to mention that the state conference will feature many new activities; you can find them in the article by Terri on page 2. They will be fun, so be sure to check them out. As you may know, there are new regions this year, and their first conferences will be held soon. Good luck at regionals and see you at states! P



Robert Kosarowich, 2005-2006 PA-TSA reporter, is a junior at Cedar Cliff High School.

-Robert Kosarowich, 2005-2006 PA-TSA Reporter

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Calendar of Events

February	March	April
24 Regions 1/6; 2 Conference	4 Region 5/9 Conference	19-22 PA-TSA State Conference
25 Regions 3; 7/8 Conference		

New Activities to Happen at States



Each year, the State Officer team attends the Bucknell Summer Leadership Conference, the Directions National Leadership Conference, and the Technology Education Association of Pennsylvania Conference. But what does the officer team accomplish during these gatherings? As could be guessed by the names, the officers participate in various leadership and teambuilding activities, but more importantly, many hours of hard work are spent planning the state conference. This year, the officer team has worked tirelessly to plan fun new activities for each night.

On the first night of states, there will be a mixer, combining the Mini-Bucknell Leadership Conference from last year and the traditional mixer of years past. The mixer will open with some icebreakers and leadership activities. Once those are finished, we will turn on the music. This will be a great way to kick off the

conference and meet new people, so plan to attend!

On the second night there will be a video game tournament. The game of choice is Madden 2006. The entrance fee will be five dollars, and all proceeds from the



tournament will go to the American Cancer Society. If you are a master at Madden then this is an activity you don't want to miss! The grand prize will be a gift certificate to EB Games. For more information and a registration form, see the Regional PA-POST.

As in years past, the dance will be on the last night of the

state conference. However, in an effort to make it more interesting, the dance will be a decades dance. We will play all of your favorite music from the 70's, 80's, 90's, and even today! To go along with the decade theme, the officer team will have a costume contest. To enter, wear a costume from an era appropriate to the dance (Sorry flappers!). The officer team will choose the best costume from each decade and the lucky winners will have a dance off. The winner of the dance off will receive a check card, so don't forget your costume!

Your state officers have spent a great deal of time planning activities to make this year's State Conference great. However, without your participation, these new activities will not be successful. So we urge you to come out each night of the conference to have fun and meet new people. P

-Terri Monserrat, 2005-2006 PA-TSA

State Secretary

Officers Attend Directions, TEAP



On October 6th the State Officer Team traveled to Reston, Virginia, to attend the 2005 Directions Leadership Conference. The theme for the conference was *The Wizard of Oz*. We traveled to Washington D.C. the first day to visit our state legislators, including Representative Mike Fitzpatrick of the 8th District, and tour the city. We discussed the Perkins Act, a federal measure to promote vocational and technology education, which was up for adoption at the time and was later passed. Also, we gave Representative Fitzpatrick information on TSA both nationally and on the state level. Did you know that we have 93 chapters and 9,399 members? After our meeting we had the opportunity to tour the U. S. Capitol, including the House and Senate chambers with Rep. Fitzpatrick's intern.

On the second day of the conference our team was split in half – those who had attended Directions previously, and those who had not. In different groups, we learned different leadership skills, such as goal setting, meeting management, and communication.

The conference went well and we had some extra time to further plan the state conference. At the conclusion, each participant received the “brain, heart, and courage” of TSA leadership. **P**

-Emily Snyder, 2005-2006 PA-TSA State Vice President

Each year, the Technology Education Association of Pennsylvania (TEAP), holds its conference for technology education teachers. In addition to having general sessions to conduct official business and sharing new methods of teaching, there is a ballroom with a variety of vendors, including your PA-TSA State Officers. We were there to discuss the

prospects of starting new TSA chapters with the technology teachers. Over the two days of the conference, we found 25 teachers

who hoped to start chapters and identified many teachers who currently were advisors to help them in starting the chapters. When we weren't selling TSA, we planned part of the state conference and had fun looking at the other exhibitors in the convention room. The minutes of our planning are online. It was a very fruitful trip! **P**

-Mike Rittenhouse, 2005-2006 PA-TSA State Historian



The officers chill at the Botanical Gardens in Washington, D.C., during Directions.

Scientist's Cloning Discoveries False

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Despite an emphasis on individual, repetitive trials in some fields, the scientific research community is still built on a framework of trust between colleagues and nations. The principle of interdependence and cooperation has allowed for a large degree of global collaboration and has facilitated numerous breakthroughs. It is quite saddening, therefore, to realize that some researchers are so concerned with personal glory that they snub this atmosphere of faith and teamwork and intentionally change their findings to make them appear more noteworthy.

A sobering example of this is that of the geneticist Woo Suk Hwang, a researcher at Seoul National University of South

Korea. Early last year Hwang wrote and published a groundbreaking report on stem cell research that depicted reliable human embryonic cloning as a distinct possibility in the near future. In late December, however, it was shown that only two of his proposed eleven stem cells were alive at the time of his report while four had died. Three never even became full embryos, and two never even existed. Even the data on the two living embryos was manipulated to an extent, and the creation of them took far more attempts than were actually recorded.

This discovery has caused scientists to place Hwang's previous two reports on stem cell research under a new wave of

intense scrutiny and has begun an official investigation of Hwang and his research team. Hwang has already declared his resignation, and it is believed that the status and credibility of Seoul National University will not be permanently damaged. Still, the evidence of this deception has come as a blow to the global scientific community and tainted the spirit of free discussion and shared research across national and cultural borders. **P**

-Michael Wagman, Tenth Grade,
Cedar Cliff High School



If you're interested in becoming more involved in TSA, why not write an article for the POST? The article doesn't have to be a current event, it can also discuss any events your chapter does. Remember to send pictures! All submissions should be e-mailed to reporter@patsa.org.

PA-TSA Region Realignment Approved



This past summer the PA-TSA Board of Directors (BOD) voted to approve a regional realignment. The realignment committee worked many hours to develop a fair plan. The purpose of this realignment is to try to make the regional competitions more equitable in numbers, fairer to all students and to plan for future growth in PA-TSA.

In the past, some students had to compete against over 300 students while other regions had only two chapters competing against each other. This was not fair to anyone. Some regions had grown so large that they could not fairly evaluate the number of students competing. Many chapters had to have chapter run offs to see who would represent their chapter at the regional competition.

The BOD approved two maps. The first one is what is presently on the PA-TSA website. This divided in the state into eight regions. The numbers

are not in consecutive order because the more active regions were given first choice for their numbers. Although some regions look large and some small, the regional division was primarily based on the number of chapters per region. The second map that was approved is to add more regions as our numbers grow.

Regions may still hold joint regional competitions with more than one region competing at one site. However, the students will only compete against schools from their own region and each region must submit separate results. This will give every student a fairer opportunity of moving onto the state competitions. Our goal is to eventually have each region host their own region competition. As the number of chapters grow so will our region competitions with the plan that is now in place. P

-Craig Jarret, 2005-2006 PA-TSA, Inc. BOD President

Remember: Read Your Rules!



I hope everyone's new year of school and TSA has been enjoyable. With Regional Conferences just around the corner, you should start to begin to read the rules and regulations of your specific events. When I first began TSA in sixth grade, Mr. Wayne McConahy, a TSA Advisor, always told me to "Read, Read, Read" the rules. He would say read them once, read them again, and read them yet again so you know the rules like the back of your hand. The more you read the rules, the better you know them and less of a chance you will have of violating the rules. In certain events, if you have a rules violation, the judges will not give you just a 20-point deduction, they will disqualify you from the start. Then all of your hard work just "went down the drain," simply because you opted not to read the rules thoroughly enough. So, it goes to show that it will be worth your while to "read, read, read" the rules as much and as often as possible. P

-Geoff Quinque, 2005-2006 PA-TSA State Sergeant-at-Arms

Blast from the Past



Alumni play an important role in TSA, far larger than you probably realize. They coordinate our conferences, judge our events, guide us to success, and sometimes even teach us. As a way of expressing our thanks, the State Officer Team is going to include an interview with prominent alumni for each issue of the POST. This month's alumni is Nathan Mentzer, 1994-1995 PA-TSA President.

What have you been up to since your time in TSA?

I have a master's and bachelor's degree in Technology Education. I have taught for 5 years in Darby, Montana, as a junior high and high school technology education teacher. I have just moved to Logan, Utah, to attend Utah State University for a PhD in Education - specializing in engineering and technology education. Also, I have been working for a variety of companies, the biggest contract of which is for a rifle manufacturing facility. I am the CAD/CAM programmer as well as research and development guy. I make rifle stocks (wood - primarily walnut) and metal parts on the CNC Lathe and mill.

What skills that you learned from TSA do you feel most benefited your life today?

Specifically, I developed a comfort and experience in public speech. Communication skills are the most

important skill you can have. Your ability to communicate your ideas is increasingly more important in today's society. Our technological world is so complex that you will not make great accomplishments in isolation. I also learned leadership. Our world is full of people who want to lead and think they can, but a true leader is developed, practiced, respected, motivated and necessary for social structural change. TSA encourages and practices leadership development. Leadership is as important as communication, and they are very interrelated.

What advice do you have for current TSA members?

§ This is your life...you can make of it what you will. Your destiny is in your hands. You can build a strong foundation or not.

§ Get an education past high school. It could be college, military, or technical school.

§ Be socially sensitive to people less privileged than you.

§ Don't make fun of people who are different - in fact, take a moment each day to get to know someone different than you - you will discover everybody is more alike than different. P

National TSA Creates Member Messenger



This year National TSA has updated what used to be called the "Advisor Messenger," which was set up to send out mass emails to TSA Advisors that would update them on what National TSA and the National Officer Team were planning. Now National TSA has updated it by giving it a new name: "TSA Member Messenger." It is slightly different from the old messenger. It is geared toward TSA members, like you and me, and it will provide information about the National Officer Team, the National Conference in Dallas, Texas, and technology related subjects.

To sign up to receive your email from National TSA, go to <http://www.tsaweb.org> and scroll down to the bottom right corner and enter your email address in the designated box and hit the enter key on your computer. Now you will be all set to receive email from National TSA about important upcoming events. P

-Geoff Quinque, 2005-2006 PA-TSA State Sergeant-at-Arms