



# PA-POST: ISSUE 4

## REGIONAL EDITION



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello PA-TSA! After much anticipation, we are finally approaching our first wave of competition: the regional conferences. As I consider my last regional conference, I am reminded of how important the regional conferences are to the development of the TSA experience. Hopefully, regionals will give all of you the opportunity to show off your hard work and also give you some feedback on how to improve for the state conference. To prepare you for your competitions, the state officers have compiled a variety of tips and tricks from our own regional experiences; hopefully our articles will assist you in succeeding at your regional conference. Additionally, in order to stay up to date on other PA-TSA news, sign up for the PA-TSA email list at <http://patsa.org/join-our-email-list>. If you have any questions about your competitions or PA-TSA activities, please email me or any of the other officers, or ask us in person when we visit your regional conferences!

Good luck at regionals!

Olivia Crocker

PA-TSA State President

January 2016

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## PA-TSA Scholarships

### *Stephen Donchez*

As a senior in high school, I can attest to the stress that the college process can impose on students. As a TSA member, I am sure that you know that your passion for technology will serve you well in the future; however, what you may not be aware of is the wide range of scholarships available exclusively to TSA members just like you. PA-TSA offers scholarships in 4 different categories: scholarships which are sponsored by the state association, recognitions which are sponsored by the state association, college sponsored scholarships, and business/society sponsored scholarships. Within these four categories there are no less than twelve different scholarship options, ranging in nature from Future Technology Teacher to Outstanding Technology Student (one male and one female each year) to a scholarship by the PA Society for Biomedical Research. Most scholarship applications are due March 1st, but some scholarships, including college specific ones, may have a different deadline.

Please see the graphic below for more information.

| <b>Scholarship</b>                              | <b>Amount</b>      | <b>Due Date</b> |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| Future Technology Teacher                       | \$1,500            | March 1st       |
| Outstanding Technology Student (2 Scholarships) | \$1500 each        | March 1st       |
| The Clark Scholarship (5 Scholarships)          | \$5000 (2)         | March 1st       |
|   | \$1500 (3)         | March 1st       |
| California University of PA                     | Varies             | June 1st        |
| Pittsburgh Technical Institute                  | \$3000/year        | February 27th   |
| Johnson and Wales University                    | Up to full tuition | February 1st    |



## ACS Fundraising Opportunities

*Evan Hassman*

This year the state officer team wants to raise as much money for the American Cancer Society as possible. Although you may be familiar with some of our fundraisers, you should look out for both old favorites and new initiatives at your regional conferences! At all of the regional conferences, the state officers will continue to can for the Pie-in-The-Face activity and will host a new event called TSA Cares.

As always, the state officers will be canning for donations at the regional conferences. At the conclusion of the state conference, the state officer with the most money raised will get pied in the face. Whether you love or hate the officer, seeing them get smacked with a pie will be satisfying! Don't forget to bring cash to regionals so you can donate towards this event!

TSA Cares, our new fundraiser, incorporates ACS pledge stars. For a donation of \$1, you can write your name (or someone you know who has been affected by cancer) on a star. At the end of the regional and state conferences, we can see all the people who have been impacted by cancer, and look to this compilation of names as inspiration for the fight against cancer.

With the implementation of these regional fundraisers, the state officer team is looking forward to PA-TSA's impact in the fight against cancer. Contribute to this impact by participating in these events at your regional conference.

## Ask a State Officer

*Lauren Kim*

**Q: What are some basic tips for finishing your TSA events?**

**A:** I know that right now, it seems like regionals is far away, but trust me, the conference is going to come before you know it. My biggest TSA tip is one that often gets ignored: DO NOT PROCRASTINATE. If you have been in TSA for a while, you would know that TSA is characterized by stressful all-nighters before the conference. However, this is not the best way to finish events. This season, try to coordinate with your team to finish your projects early. Personally, my team usually completes our projects three weeks before the conference, and the last few weeks are spent adding finishing touches. This way, our team has a stress-free pre-conference week to relax and practice our interviews or presentations.



## **Event Spotlight: Chapter Team**

*Maddy Okkerse*  
*Communications Committee Vice-Chair*

Ignoring its name, Chapter Team is both an individual **and** team event that is perfect for a competitor interested in technology, engineering, and business. This event gives students the ability to demonstrate knowledge of parliamentary procedure and teaches leadership qualities such as communication, self-esteem, and teamwork. During this event, teams of six from each school take a test on parliamentary procedure. At regionals, tests are graded individually and awards are also given out on an individual basis. At the state level, individuals are recognized in the “Chapter Team Written” event, but everyone on your team must take the individual test to make it to the semi-finalist round. Each individual test is graded, but then all of the team members’ scores are averaged to create a semi-finalist list of the top twelve teams with the highest averages. In the semi-finalist round, twelve teams perform an opening and closing ceremony as well as dispose items of business while being timed. Teams have 15 minutes without penalty and 17 minutes with penalty to set up officer paraphernalia and flags, complete required parliamentary actions, and adjourn. A treasurer’s report and a copy of previous minutes are provided. After the meeting, the secretary for the team has 5 minutes to write and complete a copy of minutes for the meeting just performed. Qualities needed for this event are leadership, public speaking, and memorization skills.



## **PA-TSA Communications Committee: Who We Are**

*Zach Chan*

Hi PA-TSA, my name is Zach Chan and I am the chair of the 2015-2016 PA-TSA Communications Committee. My vice chair this year is Maddy Okkerse. Our work this year includes increasing the use of the PA-TSA social media accounts and allowing for members of PA-TSA who are interested in expressing their writing talents to write PA-Post articles. The PA-TSA Communications Committee will have two articles posted in each edition of the PA-Post. For this edition, we will be posting this article and another edition of Event Spotlight. Be sure to look for articles from our committee in future editions of the PA-Post. If you have any questions about us or our work, email me, Zach Chan, at [reporter@patsa.org](mailto:reporter@patsa.org).



## Running for State Office Special Interest Session

### Zach Chan

Running for state office was one of the greatest experiences of my TSA career. When I was at my first state conference, I was inspired by the state officers that I met. However, I had many doubts and questions about running for state office. What was a typical campaign like? How could I set myself apart from the other candidates? What did it *really* mean to be a state officer? I would have never gotten my start if I hadn't attended the Running for State Office Special Interest Session

at my regional conference. I highly recommend that anyone who has ambitions to run for state office to attend this special interest session. The state officers will be conducting these sessions at all of the regional conferences, and will be available to answer any questions you may have about running for or being a state officer. Keep a look out at your regional conference in order to take advantage of this opportunity to participate in a relaxed, informative session.



## Ask a State Officer

### Lauren Kim

**Q: What should I do before regionals?**

**A:** There are several things you should do to make sure you are prepared before you show up at your regional conference. Talk to your advisor to see if there are any additional forms you need to bring. According to your regional location, there could be minor rule adjustments; you can find them on the PA-TSA website under documents called, "READ, READ, READ." These will be extremely important for your competitions! Ask an advisor or contact a state officer if you need help locating these sources. Also, set aside your Class A or business attire, and do not forget to bring your events! This year, you will be required to put paper portions of events in report covers. Lastly, get a good night rest, and be ready for an awesome conference! Best of luck in all your events!



## New Parliamentary Procedure Resources *Samantha Horry*

Hello PA-TSA! As our various regional conferences creep closer, I hope you are working diligently on your events. Some events, such as Chapter Team, may be completed on-site; however, this does not mean one shouldn't study in preparation.

While parliamentary procedure is essential for business practices and TSA meetings, learning and studying parliamentary procedure can often seem boring and dry. The information presented in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition can be dense and confusing, which can be discouraging to those who are new to competing in Chapter Team. It can be daunting to try to encourage team members to study comprehensively.

As your state parliamentarian, it is my goal to help the members of PA-TSA become more fluent in parliamentary procedure, as it is an active tool for members to change and craft PA-TSA to respond to student wishes. Instead of subjecting every member to thoroughly read several editions of parliamentary publications, I thought I would help you all out by creating a simple study guide of the basics of parliamentary procedure.

I hope this slideshow helps you and your team study for Chapter Team. It can serve as a great introduction to parliamentary procedure, and a great review guide. While not meant to replace all outside preparation for Chapter Team, I hope this guide can serve to supplement all the hard work PA-TSA students are known for.

In addition to the parliamentary procedure study guide, I have also created an annotated rubric for both middle school and high school Chapter Team. This rubric offers advice for the event, including tips on how to ace the semifinalist presentation. However, you should remember that this rubric is simply advice from one student to another; my interpretation of the rules does not trump a judge's opinion.

The slideshow and annotated rubric can be found at the link below. Feel free to email me at [parliamentarian@patsa.org](mailto:parliamentarian@patsa.org) if you have any further questions about parliamentary procedure.

**<http://patsa.org/students/event-resources>**

Look out for the  
next edition of  
the PA-POST!



Want an article  
published in the next  
edition of the PA-  
POST?

Email your State  
Reporter, Zach Chan,  
at [reporter@patsa.org](mailto:reporter@patsa.org)  
for it to be included in  
the next PA-POST.

