

# PA-POST

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# President's Message



Greetings, PATSA! I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are making a smooth transition into the school year. While summer has unfortunately ended, there is one thing to look forward to: the start of the TSA season. This year is one to approach with especial optimism and excitement as it will be PATSA's 40th Anniversary! In 1978, four high school chapters, Conestoga Valley, Ambridge, Garden Spot, and Norristown, met in Harrisburg to establish this wonderful organization. Since its inception, PATSA has exhibited phenomenal growth in membership and has consistently performed as one of the top state delegations in the nation. This year, as a delegation of over 140 chapters, we will be celebrating our state's successes, persistence through adversity, and growth that have taken place throughout the past 40 years.

The State Officer Team is focusing on developing novel ways to include your voice within PATSA's various state-level functions. From idea submission forms to platforms to ask your questions regarding competitions and state-level initiatives, the State Officer Team has numerous projects under progress that will ultimately make this year's PATSA experience the most memorable one yet. To stay updated with PATSA's various functions and opportunities, make sure to subscribe to PATSA's email list and follow our social media accounts:

Facebook: Pennsylvania Technology Student Association

Instagram: @PennsylvaniaTSA

Twitter: @PennsylvaniaTSA

In this edition of the PA-POST, the State Officer Team will discuss our goals for the year and what you can expect in this historic year. In future publications, we will discuss various tips and tricks for success in TSA, explore state-level opportunities for your chapter, and many other topics. Make sure to subscribe to the emailing list if you would like to stay updated with the PA-POST.

This year, I challenge you to expand your limitations in TSA. Whether it be learning new skills or holding your chapter's first fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, I encourage you to aspire for more this year, as it is PATSA's 40th Anniversary.

If you have any questions or need anything from the State Officer Team, please do not hesitate to contact me at [president@patsa.org](mailto:president@patsa.org). I wish you the best of luck for the upcoming school year and hope that you reach your aspirations in TSA this year. See you at States!

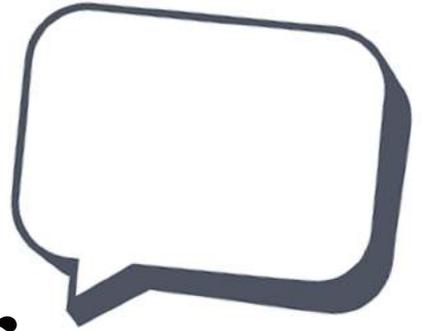
Francis Chalissery  
2017-18 State President

# Say

# Hello

# to your

# Officers



## President



Allow me to introduce myself: my name is **Francis Chalissery** and I am euphoric to serve as your 2017-18 State President. Since sixth grade, TSA has made a momentous impact on me, ultimately preparing me for the challenges and competitive nature of the 21st century workforce. As State President, I want all of you to reap the myriad benefits that TSA has granted me. Outside of TSA, in regards to extracurriculars, I am involved in FBLA, Physics Olympics, aeronautics club, swimming. When not doing TSA or schoolwork, I enjoy watching basketball, studying physics, and flying drones. Coming off a riveting National Conference in Orlando, I am thrilled to begin working on my favorite events again, Chapter Team and Promotional Design, two events that have taught me substantial skills and lessons. This year will be PATSA's 40th State Conference, and the State Officer is working on incredible initiatives that will ultimately make your TSA experience a milestone. One of the team's primary focuses is to work alongside the State Conference Planning Team in order to improve upon the consistency and accuracy of Competitive Events judging where possible. Ultimately, as State Officers, we have one goal: to represent you and your interests. If you have any questions throughout the year, feel free to contact me at [president@patsa.org](mailto:president@patsa.org).

## Vice President



Hello PA-TSA! My name is **Ben Abt** and I am honored to be your 2017-2018 state vice president. I have been a part of TSA since sixth grade and I am proud to say that this will be my sixth year participating. Outside of TSA and in school, I participate on the swim team, the tennis team and play the tenor saxophone for the jazz band. While not in school I enjoy biking. This year, I am working with the membership committee to place a form on the website where you can submit your needs, concerns or ideas for the state conference. The membership committee will reach out to you if you submit the form and we will work with you from there. The goal of this is for you to have an active voice in the future of PA-TSA. Over the past 40 years, PA-TSA has produced a large amount of successful alumni who have lots of experience in different careers. With a list containing the contact information of willing alumni, you will be able to use these connections to help design your future. I cannot wait to see all of you at the state

## Secretary



Hello PA-TSA! My name is **Maddy Okkerse**. I walked into my very first Tech Ed class enticed by Technology Club (because my mom made me), and am now entering my senior year at Daniel Boone High School as a two-time State Officer, currently serving as your 2017-2018 State Secretary. PA-TSA, before I start crying, I'd like to thank this organization for this journey over the past 7 years. Outside of TSA, I participate in 3 different choruses, concert and marching band, FBLA & NBHS, NHS, Tri-M, and am my Class Treasurer. At home, I like to sleep, watch Food Network, and go out to eat. This year, I am Celebrating Success by participating in my favorite events Future Technology Teacher and Biotechnology Design one last time before I graduate, as well as serving PA-TSA one last year. I am very proud of my chapter, DBHS-TSA, and am excited for one last go around. If you have any questions or want to get involved with my committee (Corporate Outreach Committee) email me at [secretary@patsa.org](mailto:secretary@patsa.org).

## Treasurer



Hello PA-TSA! My name is **Abigail Reigner**, and I'm humbled to be serving as your 2017-2018 State Treasurer. I attend Boyertown Area Senior High, where I will be entering my junior year and my 5th year of TSA. This year, I'm looking forward to competing in some of my favorite events, like CIM, Chapter Team and Materials Process. Outside of TSA, I serve as my school's junior school board representative, I'm a member of student council, AISES, orchestra, and jazz band. Above all, I love spending time with my chapter, whether we're fundraising for the ACS, or catching up on our favorite show, Silicon Valley. This year, it's my goal to not only top our ACS donation as a state from last year, but to involve more PA-TSA chapters in Relay for Life and other fundraisers for the National Service Project. Along these lines, I want to make a concerted effort in helping PA-TSA facilitate a greater comprehension regarding cancer research and prevention. I cannot wait to work with my fellow officers to make this, the 40th year of TSA, the greatest conference of all time. If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to email me at [treasurer@patsa.org](mailto:treasurer@patsa.org).

## Reporter



Hey PA-TSA! My name is **Lyndsey Nedrow**, and I am thrilled to be serving as your 2017-18 State Reporter. I am currently going into my junior year at Conestoga Valley High School. In the past four years of my TSA experience, I've enjoyed many different events. Chapter Team is, of course, my favorite. I also enjoy the creative aspects of Digital Video Production, On Demand Video, Music Production, and Prepared Presentation. When I'm not doing TSA (or homework), I participate in my high school's swim team, plan school events with Student Council, help the community with service projects through National Honors Society, lead my fellow Scouts throughout the wilderness with my Venture Crew, and sing my heart out with the Drama Program. I love TSA for the endless amount of opportunity, and I'm so thankful for this opportunity to lead and help make TSA's 40th year the best for all members. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or questions, please feel free to use your voice and shoot me an email at [reporter@patsa.org](mailto:reporter@patsa.org). Let's celebrate our success together. See you at states!

## Sergeant at Arms



Hello PA-TSA! My name is **Charisma Hasan** and I am ecstatic to be serving as your 2017-2018 State Sergeant-at-Arms. With now entering my sophomore year and fourth year in TSA, I am looking forward to working with my fellow officers and all of you to make this 40th year worth remembering. As this year I will be running the General Sessions Committee, I can't wait to execute this year's theme of the Celebration of Success and would love to have you join. I hope you have been soaking up some sun this summer, because if you're anything like me, you won't get much when TSA kicks off. When TSA season starts up again this school year, I am eager to compete in events such as STEM Careers and Biotechnology Design. Outside of TSA, I play soccer for my school and club, play cello, write for my school newspaper, and spend countless hours trying to save my math grade. Throughout the year, I will be committed to fulfilling the promises I have made to PA-TSA. I'd love to hear any questions or suggestions you'd have for me, so feel free to email me at [sergeant\\_at\\_arms@patsa.org](mailto:sergeant_at_arms@patsa.org). I'm already counting down the days to states and I can't wait to see you all there!

## Historian



Hey PA-TSA! My name is **Meysoon Quraishi** and it is with great pleasure I am able to serve as your Historian this year. I am now entering my sophomore year at the Downingtown S.T.E.M. Academy, and look forward to taking part in TSA this year. Some of my favorite events are Structural Engineering as well as Essays on Technology. I also enjoy more unique events such as Children Stories. Outside of TSA, I am in class office, participate in Key Club, and am apart of the Downingtown West Track Team. Apart from academics, I competitively horseback ride, play the saxophone, and love art as well as photography. As we enter our 40th year as a delegation, I cannot wait to be able to create the best possible content throughout the year. I look forward to documenting the 40th year and the memories throughout our "Celebration of Success." I can barely wait until states, but until then you can contact me at [historian@patsa.org](mailto:historian@patsa.org).

## Parliamentarian



Hello PA-TSA! My name is **Julian Ginzburg** and I am thrilled to be serving as your State Parliamentarian this year. I am a junior at Lower Merion High School, and I will be entering my fifth year in TSA. While Chapter Team is by far my favorite event, I also enjoy competing in Engineering Design and Future Technology Teacher. When am not diligently working on my events or organizing Lego and robotics events for elementary schoolers in my district, I swim for my school team, edit my school newspaper, and serve as a leader for my school's environmental club. I am super excited to serve PA-TSA as we enter our fortieth year as a delegation. Looking forward to seeing everyone in April, but in the meantime if you have any questions (whether they relate to parliamentary procedure or not), feel free to email me at [parliamentarian@patsa.org](mailto:parliamentarian@patsa.org)

# Game Plan for TSA's 40th Year

With this year being PATSA's 40th Anniversary, the State Officer Team is hard at work planning innovative projects to vivify this year's experiences. Ultimately, we hope that through these proposals, this year will be your most memorable one in TSA yet.

## State Officer Regional Contacts:

Being a new student in TSA can often be a challenging, and puzzling experience. Understanding the essential practices and methodology is a daunting task that has limited the innate potential of budding chapters in PATSA for decades. This year, the State Officer Team is introducing a new system where members of PATSA can submit questions and concerns regarding TSA to a specific State Officer assigned to their designated region. Members can ask questions ranging from ambiguities in Competitive Event descriptions to information on ACS fundraising. Our intent with designing this system is to offer all members of PATSA, especially new members, a concrete system in which they can ask their clarify their doubts in TSA through experienced members of TSA. Typically, the growth of new chapters is inhibited by the fact that they may lack an experienced environment of people to offer insight on how to be successful in TSA. Through the State Officer Regional Contacts program, we hope to develop a simple and straightforward way in which members of PATSA can gain the knowledge and experience necessary to attain success in this organization.

## New Polls and Idea Submission Forms:

As elected representatives of your interests, the State Officer Team finds it incredibly important to hear and synthesize your opinions when making progress on our various ventures this year. In past years, we believe that communication between the State Officer Team and the student membership has been lacking. Through this new initiative, the State Officer Team hopes to open new bounds of interaction that will improve the general welfare of this organization. Starting in early October, we will be posting polls on PATSA.org to get a better understanding of what the membership would like to see in this milestone year.

Furthermore, the State Officer Team will be producing an Idea Submission page on the website to hear what proposals you have for PATSA. On this page, members can submit their ideas for PATSA via an electronic form. The State Officer Team will then consider a member's idea, and subsequently collaborate with the member regarding the idea's execution. Developing the most inventive ideas for PATSA based on the experiences of eight State Officers is an inefficient practice; rather, using the collective opinions of the whole organization can stimulate avant-garde changes for the better of TSA.

## A New Look at ACS Fundraising:

Pennsylvania TSA has consistently been one of the leading state delegations in ACS fundraising. However, when one examines fundraising trends across the state, they may notice that our fundraising total is merely composed of a small number of chapters who raise large amounts of money. This year, the State Officer Team seeks to change that. We believe that if a widespread number of chapters raise average/lower quantities of money, our state delegation can raise record amounts of money. The issue, however, is that many chapters do not know how to start an ACS fundraiser. Accordingly, we plan to create a resources page on the PATSA website where chapters can find useful instructions, ideas, and tips on how to fundraise for the ACS. In addition, the State Officer Team will be creating an ACS award this year that will be given to the chapter who raises the most amount of money. Overall, we hope that with this new initiative, fundraising for the ACS can become a common practice in PATSA.

Francis Chalissery  
2017-18 State President

# State Officer

## Q & A

Q: When should I start my competitions?

A: You should start your competitions as soon as possible! Once you get the OK from your advisor to do a competition, start brainstorming ideas as soon as you can. I would say a good timeline would be to form a plan of topic/when and how you are working on it by Thanksgiving. After, use your Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks to get the bulk of it done, so before locals or regionals all you have to do is completely clean everything up.

Q: How do I join a committee?

All committee applications are on the PA-TSA website under “For Students” and under “Committees”. The most important thing is choosing a committee that is right for you! All committees have leadership opportunities, but choose a committee that highlights your strengths. For example, if you enjoy being creative, you might like the General Sessions Committee; but if you don’t like talking to people you don’t know, maybe the membership or Corporate Outreach Committee is not for you.

Q: I want to run for state office. What should I do?

Thanks for your interest! Deciding to run for state office is a huge feat! Make sure you ask your advisor if it is ok to run (and check the recent bylaw amendment to be sure your school is not over the requirements.) The application should go live in January, and from there you must fill out a signature form and answer a few questions. The most important thing is choosing an office that is right for you, so if you are unsure, ask your advisor!

Maddy Okkerse  
2017-18 State Secretary



## Committees

One unique opportunity PA-TSA offers is Student Committees. Student Committees are groups of students from all across Pennsylvania that meet via web meetings throughout the school year to accomplish goals that benefit PA-TSA and its members. Each committee is comprised of one or two student officer chairs, an appointed vice chair, and the members. To become a member or vice chair of a committee, you can apply for your preferred committee on the PA-TSA website. There is no limit to how many committees you can apply for. To apply for the position of vice chair, most committee applications require you to answer additional questions on the application. This year, the deadline to apply for committees is November 1st at 11:59 PM.

PA-TSA currently offers five committees: Communications and Promotions, Conference Activities and Sessions Planning, Corporate Outreach, Membership, and National Service Project. Each committee is vastly different in terms of what they accomplish, as well as catering to different components of PA-TSA. The Communications and Promotions committee is chaired by Reporter Lyndsey Nedrow and Historian Meysoon Quraishi. This year, some of the major points of the committee will be developing media to promote PA-TSA, as well as contributing to the PA-Post. The committee plans on meeting weekly throughout the year. If you have any questions, contact [reporter@patsa.org](mailto:reporter@patsa.org) and [historian@patsa.org](mailto:historian@patsa.org).

PA-TSA's newest committee, Conference Planning and Activities, will be chaired by Sergeant-at-Arms Charisma Hasan and Parliamentarian Julian Ginzburg. This committee will be ensuring PA-TSA's 40th year is memorable by planning special interest and general sessions for PA-TSA conferences. The committee will be meeting either weekly or bi-weekly throughout the year. If you have any questions, contact [sergeant\\_at\\_arms@patsa.org](mailto:sergeant_at_arms@patsa.org) and [parliamentarian@patsa.org](mailto:parliamentarian@patsa.org).

Last year, PA-TSA's largest committee was the Corporate Outreach Committee. This year, the committee will be chaired by Secretary Maddy Okkerse, and will be focusing on gaining sponsorships that benefit the PA-TSA delegation, as well as planning a special interest session. The committee plans to meet bi-weekly throughout the year. If you have any questions, contact [secretary@patsa.org](mailto:secretary@patsa.org).

The Membership Committee will be chaired by Vice President Ben Abt this year. The committee will be working on a handout for new advisors, a regional visit proposal, and creating new pages for PATSA.org, such as FAQ, Idea Submission, and Alumni pages. The committee plans on meeting weekly throughout the year. If you have any questions, contact [vice\\_president@patsa.org](mailto:vice_president@patsa.org).

The National Service Project Committee will be chaired by Treasurer Abigail Reigner this year. The committee's main goals will be to promote the American Cancer Society and its events, as well as creating an ACS fundraising award for states and organizing a special interest session. The committee plans on meeting bi-weekly throughout the year. If you have any questions, contact [treasurer@patsa.org](mailto:treasurer@patsa.org).

Joining a committee is a great way to have your ideas heard all while meeting and

networking with new people who are passionate about TSA. If you're interested in applying for committees but don't know how, follow the simple steps below!

- 1.) On PATSA.org, select the "For Students" tab found on the far left.
- 2.) Select the "Committees" tab, also found on the far left.
- 3.) Each committee has a description as well as links to a work log and application.
- 4.) Select your preferred committee's membership application and apply.

Abigail Reigner

2017-18 State Treasurer

**Remember: applications are due  
November 1st at 11:59 PM!**

## New Member Tips

Starting out as a new member in TSA can be a formidable challenge for many. Often times, it is tedious to comprehend the rules and customs of TSA Competitive Events. The following tips will help you succeed in your first year of TSA!

- 1.) Always ask questions

There is a Chinese proverb stating, "He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question remains a fool forever." Never be afraid to ask a question, especially in your first year of TSA. As State Officers who have been in TSA for several years, we still consistently ask questions regarding events and functions in TSA, as we understand that learning never ends. The best way to learn more about TSA is to acquire knowledge from experienced members of TSA. Whenever you have a doubt about a characteristic of your project or something that doesn't quite make sense in the rules, always ask someone who has experience in TSA. This

is not limited to members or advisors of your chapter; in fact, you can always relay your questions to a State Officer through our new question submission form, a TSA member of a high school in your school district, or even a professional in the industry your event covers. Ultimately, the best way to understand practices and techniques that TSA veterans use in their projects is to ask them questions to acquire their knowledges and experiences.

### 2.) Use the Internet to your advantage

For many video, graphic design, and web-based events, entries from past years exist on the Internet through various platforms such as YouTube and Behance. Utilize the Internet to your advantage! Search up projects from past years: we're sure that at least a few images or videos from your event in the past will be present on the web. For example, if you search up "Webmaster TSA Augmented Reality," a plethora of entries from this past year will appear on your search browser. From events ranging from Promotional Design to Chapter Team to Flight, resources are available for such events on the Internet. We suggest that you derive ideas and inspirations from projects you see from past years, and build upon them with your own creativity, developing an innovative project/solution. Ultimately, through viewing online resources, you can gain valuable insight on how to produce a successful entry project based on effective trends and techniques of past projects.

### 3.) Think outside the box

This tip may seem like an obvious one, however, it is actually a simple and straightforward method of thinking that can set you ahead of the competition. The entries that win top awards at conferences are consistently the ones that exhibit the most creativity. Thus, the most important phase of your project development is the design phase. It is completely fine (in fact encouraged) to spend extra time trying to think of an ingenious and creative idea that will amaze the judges and sacrifice time that would otherwise be spent building or documenting an average idea. In middle school especially, we suggest that for display events you attempt to expand the scope of your creative bounds when designing your display. Most displays are typically trifolds; consequently, if you take the time to inception and design an aesthetically-pleasing and imaginative display, you are likely to do well. While this tip may seem inherently clear, meticulously aligning with this style of thinking can create success in TSA for years.

Francis Chalissery  
2017-18 State President



# Subscribe to the PA-POST!

The first step in doing is knowing. Subscribe to the PA-POST by going to <http://patsa.org/join-our-email-list> and filling out the information shown below. Spread the word about the email list so we can all be on the same page for TSA's 40th year! Thank you :)

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