

WV TSA Connection

West Virginia
Technology Student Association

Winter, 2004



From the President —

I hope by now every member is hard at work on competitions for the upcoming Spring Conference. Remember, registration is due March 10th, along with state officer candidate forms and all awards applications. Your

West Virginia TSA Officer Team has begun planning Spring Conference, which will be held on **April 1-3, 2004** at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, West Virginia.

Our National Service Project this year is a partnership with the American Cancer Society. WV TSA is planning several events to assist this great organization, including a "Relay for Life" during State Conference. I hope many of you choose to participate in this fundraising event. Remember, State Conference is coming soon, but National Conference, which will be held at Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee this year, is just over the horizon! Your hard work and careful preparation now might just secure your seat on the bus to Nationals!

*Alex Hemmelgarn
WV TSA President*

Calling All Talent

The state officers are calling all members with a special talent to perform at this year's spring conference (singers, dancers, musicians, etc.)! If you or someone in your chapter would like to perform at one of the

general sessions at this year's spring conference, please contact one of the state officers or Mrs. McDaniel as soon as possible, and let us

know what you would like to do. So start practicing, and we'll see you at the spring conference!

*Karen Snyder
WV TSA Vice President*



The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do.

Thomas Jefferson

Tips and Tricks

- **Desktop Publishing** - For color headlines, use type with wider strokes and make them a little larger than headlines in black, because they need extra bulk to get the same contrast as black and white.
- **Public Speaking** - When concluding a speech, resist the temptation to end with a quote. It doesn't sound dramatic—only pretentious. Besides, you want your audience to remember your words and ideas, not someone else's. Instead, restate your main points or end on a lighter note with an anecdote you created.
- **Interviews** - If you're nervous before making a presentation, yawn or laugh. Also, yawn right before you go on. Why: You can't yawn and be tense at the same time. Even a nervous laugh will help relieve tension.
- **Technical Writing** - Avoid wordy phrases if a more concise word will do. Examples: made a decision (decided), came to the realization (realized), circle around (circle).
- **Technical Writing** - make sure you have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Give each point you want to make a whole paragraph, not just a sentence or two. Make sure your conclusion review the points you have made.

Mrs. McD

Have you ever wondered:

- < How the Conference is planned?
- < Where State Officers get to travel?
- < What it would be like to serve as a leader?



If you can answer **yes** to these questions, you should consider running for state office! Being an officer, you get to design and implement the Fall Leadership conference, and design and host the Spring Conference. You will travel to Washington D.C. for the National Directions Leadership Conference, and around the state of West Virginia for meetings and events. You will also develop strong friendships with your fellow officers, and learn how to be practical, make decisions, and be resourceful.

Although being an officer is great fun, it's not all fun and games. Before running for a state office, make sure you are able to accept the responsibilities that come with leading WV TSA. You will spend many hours working behind the scenes – developing newsletters, designing conferences and setting up for them. You will also need to work on and off stage with your fellow officers.

You can find officer candidate forms online at www.wvtssa.org as well as other information on running for office. If you have any questions, e-mail Mrs. McDaniel at amcdanie@access.k12.wv.us.

*John Semmens
WV TSA Reporter*



We have a problem!!

Your vehicles are so well designed that they are hitting the wall in the Assembly Hall, and we need a longer space than Cedar Lakes can provide to run them!! Great problem to have—nice going!!

Due to necessity, students entering this contest will be traveling by bus to Ripley High School on Friday afternoon for the Mousetrap race.

Deadline Reminder

This is a reminder to be sure that all of the following are due by March 10.

- registration forms
- \$40 registration fee
- officer candidate forms
- recognition awards forms

If you need a form for any of these, see your advisor right away to be sure that you have it in on time!

Competitive Events Themes for 2004

By John Semmens

As everyone prepares for the upcoming Spring Conference, it is time to start thinking about competitions. Listed below are the themes for specific events. Please note both High School and Middle School themes. You can refer to the event guides or the National TSA website at www.tsaweb.org for further information.



Middle School Themes

- **Career Challenge**- Choose one (1) of the following careers: computer engineer, information technology resource analyst, architect, information management specialist, or CNC programmer.
- **Cyberspace Pursuit**- TSA: Twenty-five Years of Excellence
- **Graphic Design Challenge**- TSA: A Legacy of Leaders; June 28 to July 2, 2005, Chicago, Illinois.
- **Inventions and Innovations**- Energy and Power Technologies
- **Prepared Speech**- TSA - Visualizing the Next 25 Years of Excellence
- **Technical Writing Challenge**- Artificial Intelligence—subtopics include: state of the art, ethical issues, and threats and opportunities.

High School Themes

- **Architectural Model**- Design a technology education facility (one or more rooms) that meets the requirements in the Standards for Technology Literacy.
- **Cyberspace Pursuit**- Hydrogen Power: Forecasts, Trends, and Ideas about the Future
- **Imaging Technology**- Some Things Never Change
- **Manufacturing Prototype**- Design a game with written instructions and appropriate marketing package
- **Prepared Presentation**- TSA - Visualizing the Next 25 Years of Excellence
- **Promotional Graphics**- TSA: A Legacy of Leaders
- **Technical Research and Report Writing**- Artificial Intelligence —subtopics include: state of the art, ethical issues, and threats and opportunities.
- **Technological Systems**- Real-World Application of Space-Age Research and Development
- **Transportation Modeling**- Design a school bus



Packing for Spring Conference ?

Before you pack, review our checklist. Some things may have changed since you were last at Cedar Lakes.

Sheets, a pillowcase, and towels Cedar Lakes will not be providing bed linens this year.

Personal hygiene items Toothbrush, shampoo, soap, etc.

Clothes

- Business attire or official uniform
- Business casual attire if your events allow it
- dressy outfit for Awards Banquet (suits and fancy dresses)
- casual clothes (free time)

Your projects Make sure to bring any tools or equipment you may need to repair an event. Also, make sure to pack projects so they don't get destroyed on the trip down.

Free Time Activities Cards, volleyball, basketball, tennis rackets, sewing, books, etc. (You always have some free time during conference.)

Snacks Cedar Lakes provides 3 meals a day, but you may want to bring other snacks or drinks. Pop machines are available, but sometimes run out.

*Alexis Emch
WV TSA Sgt Arms*



Cyberspace Pursuit Entries

Please e-mail your site address to :
cyberspace@wvtsa.org.
It must be received by midnight March 10 to be eligible to be judged.



Calling for Volunteers The Courtesy Corps Needs You.

During spring conference, the Courtesy Corps helps out tremendously by making judges and guests feel comfortable, and assisting the state officers in some of the behind the scenes jobs that need to be done.

On Thursday at the conference, there is a meeting where you can come to find out more. Here you will sign up for times you are available and what jobs you would like to do. You can invest as little as an hour, or serve multiple times during the conference. During the awards ceremony, Courtesy Corps volunteers are recognized and given a special pin.

Please volunteer for these positions to benefit TSA, and make the entire conference flow smoother. If you want to sign up ahead of time, e-mail me at sergeantatarms@wvtsa.org.

*Alexis Emch
WV TSA Sgt Arms*

Do You Have a Great Advisor?

Do you know what it takes to be an advisor? Chances are they do more than you know. Without them things wouldn't run smoothly or ever get done!

I've been my own advisor since 6th grade. Let me tell you, it is not an easy job. Every now and then, I've found teachers who say they will help. Students would get involved, but then the teacher never followed through. You could tell they didn't care much about TSA.

I know there are a lot of great advisors in WV TSA, who care about their students and the organization. They make sure everything gets done on time and that you have fun. They teach you about this "technical world." They are by your side cheering you on at events and other life obstacles. Where would you be without your advisor?

If you think your advisor deserves to be recognized, nominate him or her for WV TSA Advisor of the Year. They may be recognized at state and national conference. Get the form in the back of the competitive events guide.

*Caitlyn Davis-McDaniel
WV TSA Secretary*



Look at the smile of our 1999 Advisor of the Year, Mr. Fred Chavanak, here with his wife

New Dress Code in Effect—Make Sure You Know the Rules!!

As you all know TSA has a dress code. You will all be expected to abide by it. At all general sessions, you must wear official TSA attire, professional attire, or business casual attire. Check your competitive events rules for what type of attire you must wear during your competition. Some require that you wear the official TSA attire, where others don't. If you don't have the proper attire on when you go to your event, you will get a 20-point deduction from your score. You don't want that to happen, do you? I didn't think so!! Below are the descriptions of each type of attire.

Official TSA Attire (most formal)

Blazer: navy blue with official TSA patch
Ties: scarlet red imprinted with official TSA logo (for males and females)
Shirt or blouse: white, button-up with turn down collar
Pants or skirt: light gray
Dark socks: males only (black or dark blue)
Shoes: black dress shoes (unacceptable: athletic shoes, combat or work boots)
Sandals: females only may wear black open toe shoes or sandals



Professional TSA Attire (less formal)

Shirt: males or females, button-up with turn down collar (unacceptable: t-shirt, polo or golf shirt)
Blouses: females only
Ties: males required, females optional
Dress pants (unacceptable: jeans, baggy pants, exterior pocket pants)
Dresses/skirts: females only (length even with tips of one's fingers)
Dark socks: males only (black or dark blue)
Shoes: dress shoes or boots (unacceptable: athletic shoes, combat or work boots)
Sandals: females only may wear open toe shoes or sandals



Business Casual TSA Attire (least formal)

Same as professional attire, however a tie is not required, and the shirt or blouse may be a polo or golf shirt. (Unacceptable: t-shirt or shorts)



*Caitlyn Davis-McDaniel
WV TSA Secretary*