

WV TSA Connection

West Virginia
Technology Student Association

Fall 2005

WEST VIRGINIA
Department of
EDUCATION

West Virginia Department of Education



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Another school year begins as we bid good-bye to our relaxing summer vacation. However, your 2005-2006 State Officer Team has been industrious in their efforts to make this an adventurous and exciting year for everyone!

Your fellow officers have set many goals to further enhance your TSA experience, such as developing a WV TSA Message Board and developing a new look to our publications.

We hope that you will be pleased with things.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the other State Officers with questions or concerns. It's simple! You can e-mail the officer of your choice by typing in the name of their office followed by @wvtsa.org. For example: You can e-mail me at president@wvtsa.org.

Also, I'm sure that many of you will be very excited to know that John Semmens from Morgantown High School has won his National Office of Treasurer. As such, I would like to welcome Ali Zahalka as our new State Vice President.

I encourage all of you to get started on your TSA school year now. Elect your officers, and begin your service projects. Also, start thinking about those competitions! I hope all of you plan to strive for the best this year, and I wish you all the very best of luck!

Yours in TSA,

Mary Zou

Mary Zou
WV TSA President

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TSA NATIONALS IN CHICAGO



This year's national conference was held in the Windy City of Chicago, Illinois at the dazzling Sheraton Hotel. The conference took place from June 28th-July 2nd. However, students arrived a day early extending their conference trip to six days.

Between their already hectic competitions, students and advisors managed to make time to visit the city's many tourist attractions including: the Sear's

Tower, Navy Pier, the Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, and Taste of Chicago. Members were also kept busy with TSA sponsored events such as the opening mixer, DuPont Leadership Challenge, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, and the dance.

From general sessions to competitive events to sight seeing, Chicago was an extremely exciting yet tiring city. WV TSA was proud to have former state officer John Semmens elected to the National Office of Treasurer. We are also proud to have 22 finalists and four places.



2005 NATIONAL CONFERENCE WINNERS

Agriculture/Biotechnology Design	7th	Team	Magnolia HS
Challenging Technology Issues	7th	Team	South MS
Chapter Team Oral	10th	Team	John Marshall HS
Construction Challenge	8th	Team	South MS
Cyberspace Pursuit	3rd	Team	South MS
Desktop Publishing	6th	Justin Cullop	Academy of Careers
Electronic Research/Experimentation	8th	Team	Morgantown HS
F1 Team in Schools	3rd	Team	South Charleston MS
Film Technology	7th	Joshua Williams	Academy of Careers
Flight Challenge	4th	Dayton Wadell	Clay MS
F1 Team in Schools	4th	Team	Morgantown HS
Imaging Technology	3rd	Amanda Shaver	Valley HS
Imaging Technology	7th	Caitlyn Davis-McDaniel	Winfield HS
Manufacturing Challenge	4th	Team	Clay MS
Manufacturing Prototype	4th	Team	Clay HS
Medical Technology Challenge	9th	Team	South MS
RC Robotics	5th	Team	Clay HS
Systems Control	7th	Team	Clay HS
Technological Systems	9th	Team	Morgantown HS
Technology Bowl Challenge Oral	8th	Team	South MS
Transportation Challenge	1st	Sam Powers	South MS
Video Challenge	7th	Team	South MS

CHANGES TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE OFFICER TEAM

With the new appointment of **John Semmens** as **National TSA Treasurer**, he had to resign his state presidency. Our current Vice President, **Mary Zou** filled the position of **WV TSA President**, as stated in the bylaws, and the officer team was left with the task of filling the position of Vice President. An announcement was made at the national conference for anyone interested to contact the state office. The executive board reviewed the applications and voted to fill the position. With a majority vote, **Ali Zahalka** became the new **WV TSA Vice President**.



Ali is a student at Morgantown High School. His prior leadership experiences which will help him contribute to WV TSA include his active involvement in Student Council, leadership conferences and academies, community volunteering, and serving as Chapter Vice President. He participates in soccer, lacrosse, science bowl, robotics, and other science related activities.

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN SEMMENS, 2005-06 NATIONAL TSA TREASURER



Why did you want to run for a National Office?

It started as a goal I had set for myself and strived to achieve. It was a challenge I had to overcome in my TSA career. In addition, I like being visible and running sessions at conferences. In this way, I can enhance both my speaking and leadership skills. I knew that being a National Officer would allow me to further these skills past the state level.

What were your feelings about campaigning to people from all over the nation?

It was both exciting and nerve racking at the same time. You realize that you have such a large group of people to appeal to. If you're elected, you receive the huge responsibility of leading the nation as a whole. You have to accept this responsibility and have fun with it to run successfully.

What was your favorite part of campaigning?

I liked the public appearances where I was able to communicate my ideas to TSA at large. I enjoyed meeting the other candidates, as well as other people from across the country. I also found it interesting to hear ideas these people had to manipulate and improve TSA.

Did you feel confident about yourself throughout your campaign?

Yes, because I had a lot of prior training and experience in TSA. I felt I had done my best in developing my campaign and I could not expect more from myself.

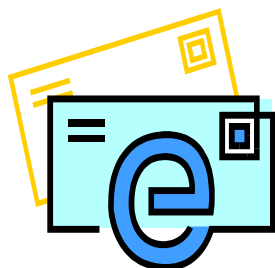
The moment that you heard your name called as the next National Treasurer, what were your feelings?

I was elated I had reached, in a sense, the epitome of my TSA career. So many doors were opened for me at that moment and I could not wait to see what each held for me.

NEW NEWSLETTER

To make the WV TSA newsletter more convenient to students, advisors, and parents, it will now be available in an e-mail format. Anyone who is interested in receiving the newsletter via e-mail should send their

e-mail address to
reporter@wvtsa.org.



MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS HAVE CHANGED

There is one new competitive event and many rule changes in the Middle School Competitive Events for this year. Make sure to get a copy of the 2005-2006 competitive events early in the year and review them in detail for new rule changes.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CHALLENGE

A TSA chapter, working with other TSA chapters (at least 2) will design, manufacture, and package a marketable mass-produced product. Participating chapters do not have to be from the same state.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Having trouble keeping track of members' personal information? Need a simple way to organize your chapter? Well, the chapter from Morgantown High School has a suggestion. Have each member fill out a chapter membership card. This card could include information such as, name, address, phone number, e-mail, etc.

Here's an example card

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
State	_____ Zip Code _____
Phone Number	_____
E-mail	_____
Parents' Names	_____
Parents' E-mails	_____
Emergency Medical Information	_____

CHECK OUT THE UPDATED WEBSITE!

Yet again, we've updated the website. Look for new additions, including the results of the National Conference, pictures from the National Conference, the new officer goals, and the 2005-2006 calendar of events.



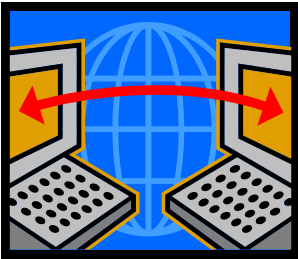
EVENT

For competitions that require a

display board:

- make sure your board is professional looking, not too cluttered with useless information
- effectively use pictures, charts, and/or graphs to help display your ideas not just for decoration
- do not just copy your notebook onto a display board, someone should be able to get the general concept of your project from looking at your board
- make sure the font used isn't hard to read or too small or large

NEW FORUMS



West Virginia TSA is currently developing message boards in which members will be able to ask questions and get responses about TSA and competitions. Stay tuned for further developments.

DUES INCREASED

Dues have increased on a national level by \$2, to \$9 per member. State dues are still \$3 per member, making **individual dues \$12**. There is no longer a discount for CAP chapters, and with the increase, **CAP dues are now \$400**, which includes an unlimited number of members per chapter.



GET READY FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE

Do you need some ideas and guidance on developing leadership, teamwork, and communication skills? Do you feel that you could be an effective leader, but just need to further develop your skills? If you answered yes then we've got just the solution you've been looking for. Talk to your advisor now about signing up for the Fall Leadership Conference. All chapter members are encouraged to come to Cedar Lake



from October 31-November 1, 2005 for an awesome time.

You will learn how to plan community service projects, as well as effective fundraisers, and strengthen your team building skills. In addition, you can develop your parliamentary procedure skills, and have a fun time in the process. Get your team together now and register.



OFFICER TRAINING



Shortly after three o'clock on Sunday August 14th all six of the new 2005-2006 WV state officers were sitting in a room very quietly, but all of that soon changed. After a few get-to-know-you games, the officers really kicked off the summer training by making some very important decisions concerning the overall welfare of WV TSA.

First things first, it was time to finally get to know each other and who we would be working with for the next year. A few short, outdoor games were played to better our ability to work as a team. Later that night, decisions were made about everything that they needed to accomplish that week.

During the rest of the week, everything from the budget to the Fall Conference was discussed. Packets were made, the website was updated, and goals were set. A lot of time and effort went into everything that was finally completed.

For more details and pictures of officer training, go to www.wvtsa.org.

OFFICER GOALS

Update Website: We will fix lost pages, broken links, & missing pictures from over the years

Promotional Material: Posters, WV TSA business cards & informational brochures will be included in every back-to-school booklet.

Courtesy Corps: Get more participation by handing out more information ahead of time to the chapters.

Forums: Create a user-friendly message board for member to communicate with each other.

Attract Judges: Attracting more judges & sponsors by targeting colleges for technology-oriented professors or graduate students.

Judges Feedback: Improving judges feedback at state conference by supplementing the individual comment sheets with a generic, overall review of entries.

Officers Network: Bridge the gap between chapter & state officers

Membership: Expand membership by working with interested schools to establish TSA Chapters

Communication: Improve Communication between all members. Advertise website more, & encourage members to read more WV TSA-related material.

Fall Leadership Conference: A great way for students to develop leadership skills as well as meet other WV TSA members.