

WV TSA Connection

West Virginia
Technology Student Association

Winter 2006

From the President



Dear Members,

The state officers hope that your year is going great! Hopefully, your competitions are well underway, and you're preparing to show off your hard work at the Spring Conference. I encourage you all to strive hard to win at state's, so that you can reserve a seat for travel to the national conference.

We apologize for canceling the Fall Conference for the second year in a row, but less than 40 people registered. As such, we could not afford to hold a conference. Ali Zahalka, our WV TSA State Vice President is developing a campaign to encourage county administrators to allow students to attend this worthwhile activity. We hope to see you next year.

On another note, Spring Conference will be March 30th - April 1st this year, so it's a bit earlier than usual. Make sure to get your events done in plenty of time and check the back page for a checklist of items to pack for Cedar Lakes. Make sure to apply for the many awards and scholarships that TSA has to offer, including the Silver Achievement and Technology Honor Society. You can also nominate adults for the Advisor of the Year award or the Distinguished Alumni award.

Nationals will be held in the great state of Texas. We will be flying to Dallas, therefore, conference costs will be more expensive, and seats may be limited. So make sure to start thinking ahead about fundraising while preparing your award-winning event!

To sum it all up, meet your deadlines, get your competitions ready, and have a blast at Cedar Lakes in a few months!

Good Luck,

Mary Zou

Mary Zou, WV TSA President

Morgantown High School Chapter Highlight

Much like the combustion reaction, $\text{CH}_4 + 3\text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{energy}$, Morgantown High School (MHS) TSA started the year off with a BANG! The Morgantown chapter jumped right into the flow of things, actively promoting TSA, attracting a full membership, starting off community service projects, and focusing on fundraising. The students have been selling Sarris pretzels and working concessions at WVU Men's Basketball games. Senior member, Katie Griffith said: "All I had to do was sell seven boxes of pretzels and I get to go to States for only a dollar!" These sales have given many of the interested students the opportunity to attend the TSA state competition in early April. "These days extracurricular activities are so costly, so I'm so glad that our chapter is doing a lot of fundraising," said Katie. Through the fundraisers, the chapter has been able to purchase and stock supplies for future competitions.

MHS and South Middle School are also conducting a series of workshops designed to help students learn about the scientific and technical processes used in various technology areas and to inspire students to use similar analyses in their TSA projects. Furthermore these workshops have exposed members to new career options. For example, senior member Juan Benzo said: "Before this workshop, I would never have considered architecture as a possible career option. However, after attending this workshop I learned about opportunities in the field of architecture." Juan and fellow members were instructed on basic techniques and building skills in order to prepare for the state conference in early spring. "This is my first year entering this competition. So I'm glad to receive some extra help in preparing for my competition," said Juan.

In addition to preparation for the state competitions, the chapter is actively participating in the school's first technology fair. Parents, students, and others are invited to join MHS TSA in the first annual technology fair, scheduled for April 21.

- Reshmi Syamlal

Morgantown HS, Chapter Reporter

Fundraising Ideas Valley High School Kisses a Pig!

Is your chapter tired of the same old funding raising ideas? If so, I have a great option to selling those old candy bars again. It is called a Kiss-a-Pig contest. Our chapter did this when we were raising money to go to last year's National Conference.

The main idea of the contest is to get the most votes. One penny equals one vote. If you are the person with the least amount of votes, you have to kiss the pig. First, the students going to Nationals each decorated canning jars with their pictures and put messages on them pleading for everyone's loose change. They set the jars out in the school's office and in local stores.

After a few weeks we collected the jars, counted the votes, and found the fortunate pig that was going to get kissed. We also thought it would be more fun if the student body could watch this happen. The cost of admission was \$1.



Mrs. Tammy Wells, principal, Valley High School, kisses the pig after losing the hat pass, in May '05.

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F1 Teams in Schools Holds 2nd Competition

Formula 1 Technology Challenge will hold its second WV competition at Cedar Lakes on March 31, 2006 during the WV TSA conference. We have several teams who are not currently affiliated with TSA, so come by the Assembly Hall from 10:00-4:00 on Friday and talk to some of them about the potential of joining TSA!

Check out this international high tech competition, where students design F1 cars using 3D CAD and produce them with computer controlled machining! Last year, South Charleston MS won third place at the national conference. They will be back this year—maybe with a TSA chapter.



A General Session will be held from 10:00-11:00, then you can view the displays and talk to the teams. Races start at about 3:00, so make sure to come be a part of the excitement! Awards will be given out at the Banquet on Friday evening.

Make our guests feel welcome, and tell them about the exciting things they can experience with TSA!!



Spring Conference Reminders

- **March 30—April 1** should already be on your calendar! This is when WV TSA will conduct this year's awesome conference— [A Pathway to Tomorrow!](#)
- **Conference Registration** is due to the State Office by March 10, 2006.
- Are you thinking of running for a State Office? **Officer Candidate Forms** due to the State Office by March 10, 2006.
- This probably means that you have to have these items in to your advisor BEFORE March 10!! Make sure to check with him or her!!
- **Don't forget to bring** bed sheets, towels and personal items to Cedar Lakes.
- **Clothes you need for the conference** include your TSA uniform or professional dress clothes, business casual clothes (if your event allows it), a dressy outfit for the banquet, and casual clothes for leisure time.
- Don't forget **fishing rods**, tennis rackets, footballs and Frisbees for those few free moments at the conference.
- A **TSA Store** will be available for you to be able to get great TSA souvenirs and apparel like T-shirts, sweatshirts, ties, patches, pins, ball caps and of course the TSA Tiger! So bring some extra cash!

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Finally the big day came. Everyone gathered in the school's parking and eagerly waited to see who was going to kiss the pig. A drum roll sounded and our advisor read the name of the chapter member who had to do the kissing. The lucky TSA member was one of our senior boys and he reluctantly kissed the pig.

We also put an added twist to the event. The members passed around hats with our principal and teacher's names on them. Everyone pulled out their dollar bills to vote for the teacher they wanted to see kiss a pig. In the end, it was a close race but our principal won. All in all, we raised over \$600 in this creative fundraising event.

Amanda Shaver,
WV TSA Treasurer