SASC
CONFERENCE REPORT
2016

Host State: Tennessee
Host School: Wilson Central High
Executive Director: Marquita Thomas
Eastern Advisor: Wendy Cartwright
Western Advisor: Beth David

Wilson Central High School
President/Host
Co-Presidents: Alex Symonette and James Weiny
Advisor: Shannon Carney & Jordan Simpkins

Cane Bay High School
Vice-President
Co-Vice Presidents: Katie Allen and Sarah Tucker
Advisor: Michelle Smith

Ocoee High School
Secretary
Co-Secretaries: Tess Butler and Genesis Ford
Advisor: Wendy Cartwright

Athens High School
Parliamentarian
Co-Parliamentarians: Sloane Daley and Stephen Phraner
Advisor: Karen Clem
The 82nd Southern Association of Student Councils Conference took place in Lebanon, Tennessee – The home of country music! Delegates arrived at Wilson Central High School on October 15th, 2016 with high hopes of learning new leadership skills and ideas to take back to their councils as well as fun memories and great friendships that will last a lifetime!

Day 1—Saturday, October 15—Hip Hop Music

On Saturday, delegates from all over the south traveled to Wilson Central High School in Lebanon, Tennessee for the 82nd Southern Association of Student Councils Conference.

The delegates mingled outside and in the main hall where they participated in activities such as the Candidate Fair, Corn hole, an unlimited smoothie bar, CD recording studio, photobooth, project 615 table, and t-shirt printing.
There was a workshop presenter meeting, state president meeting, and a voting delegate meeting. The delegates also enjoyed a Concert presented by a local Tennessee band called “Paper Street Music.”

First General Session
Saturday, October 15, 2016

The first General Session of the 82nd SASC Conference opened with entertainment from a Blues and Soul Band called “Rhythm Kitchen.”

Next, The 2016 Executive Board was introduced as famous Country Music stars.
Following the introduction of the board, the SASC Executive Director, Ms. Marquita Thomas, presented Co-Presidents, Alex Symonette and James Weiny, with the gavel and the session was officially called to order. Co-Vice Presidents, Katie Allen and Sarah Tucker along with Wilson Central HS NJROTC led us in the pledge.

Wilson County Commissioner Diane Weathers, director of schools Dr. Wright, Principal of WCHS Travis Mayfield, and Director of student programs for NASSP, Ann Postlewaite, welcomed the delegates formally.

The State Presidents presented their state flags from the fifteen states that make up the Southern Association of Student Councils.
SASC officers Tess Butler and Genesis Ford delivered a motivational moment to inspire the great leaders.

Co-Parliamentarians, Sloane Daley and Stephen Phraner introduced the 1 minute campaign speeches.

Following the speeches, Co- Presidents Alex Symonette and James Weiny introduced the first keynote speaker of the conference, Jennifer Dake. Jennifer spoke to delegates about how their words can either “speak life or death into someone.” Her energetic personality made it a great kickoff to an unforgettable conference!
Co-Presidents Alex Symonette and James Weiny adjourned the first general session and the students enjoyed a snack and music by Dj “Just Todd” while the advisors graded project award submissions.

Delegates then headed back to the hotels for Lights out!

Day 2- Sunday, October 16- Rock’ n Roll

The day started off with the delegates enjoying a Pancake Breakfast accompanied by an optional Mass Service. After the morning festivities the schools met in their state rooms for a quick debriefing.
Second General Session

After an amazing first day, delegates arrived pumped and ready for lots of fun activities to start day 2 of SASC- Rock n’ Roll day! Platinum Dance Studio got the crowd energized with their spectacular dance performance!

Co–Presidents James Weiny, and Alex Symonette called the Second General Session to order. The Pledge was given by the Co–Parliamentarians, Stephen Phraner and Sloane Daley. A formal welcome was given to the delegates and the workshop rotations were explained.

Several delegates participated in “Making the Cut”. The event partnered with an organization that donates the cut portion of participants hair to individuals with cancer. The girls who volunteered to cut their hair, were sent to a stylist who gave them a new look!
The second Keynote speaker of the conference, Tyler Durman, discussed how your decisions can turn your great life into a not so great in a split second. It’s so important to see yourself from where you are now and envision how far your decisions could set you back.

To conclude the Second General Session the Co-Presidents went over the announcements and adjourned the session.

After the General Session, the delegates enjoyed their own little piece of the south with Nashville’s renowned food trucks! The students had various dishes to choose from such as: Bacon Macaroni, Spicy Chicken, Sandwiches, and of course BBQ. During this time the advisors had an advisor’s meeting where Tyler Durman spoke. After lunch, the students moved on to participate in the workshops and the service project.
The Service Project benefited children in the Foster Care system by making backpacks full of school supplies and donating them to individuals who needed it.

After lunch, there was a Cracker Barrel Fashion Show where Wilson Central’s own put on an amazing runway to display Cracker Barrel’s new juvenile clothing line. Following the fashion show, there was a talent show where SASC delegates showcased their outstanding talent. Next was a t-shirt auction, where the proceeds were donated to a charity in need.
To wrap up the session, three SASC Alumni Leadership Legacy Speakers, Tyrone Dobson, Rachel Hudson, and Seth Carey shared their wisdom pertaining to Philanthropy, Organization, and Relationships.

Schools then met in their council rooms to discuss any new ideas they wanted to bring back to their schools, and then went on to dinner where they enjoyed a genuine southern meal that consisted of: fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni, corn, salad, and a heaping slice of homemade cake! After dinner, the schools met in their state room where they went over any chants they wanted to do before the general session.

Third General Session
Sunday, October 16, 2016

The Third General Session was off to an energetic start when the Platinum Dance Studio got the crowd hype with some exciting dance moves! The energy continued with the recognition of speech contest winners, recognition of project award winners, and candidate skits.
The Co-Presidents called the session to order. Co-Vice Presidents Katie Allen and Sarah Tucker helped recognize the winners of the speech contest. The speeches by the first place middle and high school contest participants were presented.

Following the speech presentations, the candidate schools performed their campaign skits for the audience.
The session continued with Master Hypnotist–Michael Blaine. His “magic” did a number on our President James Weiny!

**Day 3– Monday, October 17 – Country Music**

The delegates kicked their morning off with a state room meeting to discuss their final goodbyes and what positive change they would bring back to their school.

**Fourth General Session**

Monday, October 17, 2016

After a long fun filled second day, Platinum Dance Studio opens up the session with energizers to wake the delegates up!
Co-Presidents James Weiny, and Alex Symonette then called the fourth General Session to order and introduced keynote speaker Jeffrey Dean. Mr. Dean helps teens see themselves for who they are and challenges them to move beyond where they are, in a constant motion towards greatness.

Co-Parliamentarians Sloane Daley and Stephen Phraner then presented the guidelines for the candidates giving the 2 minute speeches.
After the speeches, Co-Parliamentarians Sloane Daley and Stephen Phraner returned to the stage where they explained the election process. Each council had time to discuss the candidates running for office, and then sent one representative to cast the vote.

After voting was finished, Executive Director, Marquita Thomas, Eastern Advisor Wendy Cartwright, and Western Advisor Beth David presented the 2016 Scholarship awards, Members of the Year and Advisor of the Year.
Executive Director Marquita Thomas, who stepped down from office, was recognized for her many years of outstanding service to SASC. Her leadership and dedication will be truly missed.
Award Results

Advisor of the Year: Laura Droms from Mountain View High in Georgia

Middle Level Student of the Year: Andrew Pugh from Lafayette Middle in Mississippi

High School Member of the Year: Juan Ramon Riojas from St. Patrick Catholic in Mississippi

Scholarship Recipients: Chyna Mays from Rockdale Magnet High in Georgia, Maria Schweitzer from Charles W. Flanagan in Florida, Bailey Sudduth from Cascade High in Tennessee, Tyler Welch from A.M. Barbe High in Louisiana.

Oratory Competition
Middle School:
1st place: Siddharth Sivaram from Marvin Ridge Middle in North Carolina
2nd place: Gabriella Melo from Mater Academy in Florida
3rd place: Karson Byrd from Youree Middle in Louisiana
Oratory Competition
High School:
1st place: Grant Mays from Mid-Carolina High in South Carolina
2nd place: Juan Ramon Riojas from St. Patrick Catholic in Mississippi
3rd place: Samuel Spinda from Cane Bay High in South Carolina

Community Service Outreach
1st place: Blythewood High from South Carolina for “Home for the Holidays”
2nd place: Long Beach High from Mississippi for “Help our Neighbor”
3rd place: Crescent High School from South Carolina for “Townville Strong”

Environmental Awareness Category
1st place: American Heritage from Florida for “Harvest Against Hunger”
2nd place: Crescent High School from South Carolina for “Tigers Recycle”
3rd place: Mid-Carolina High from South Carolina for “Living Clean Mid-Carolina”

Fundraising Division
1st place: Westwood High from South Carolina for “Teachers and Tiaras”
2nd place: Wando High School from South Carolina for “Powder Puff”
3rd place: Boca Raton High from Florida for “Boca High’s Luau”

Homecoming Category
1st place: Mountain View High from Georgia for “Come One, Come All”
2nd place: Ocoee High from Florida for “Shopping Cart Parade”
3rd place: Blythewood High from South Carolina for “Spirit Week 2016”
Leadership Outreach Category
1st place: Wayne County High from Georgia for “Jackets Read Around”
2nd place: Arlington High from Tennessee for “Mentoring Kirby High”
3rd place: Youree Drive Middle from Louisiana for “Life is Sweet in the 6th Grade”

Membership Motivation and Development Category
1st place: Boca Raton High from Florida for “ArtSea”
2nd place: Laurens District 55 High from South Carolina for “Leadership Beach Week”
3rd place: Mountain View High from South Carolina for “Leadership with a Smile”

Print Media Category
1st place: Blythewood High from South Carolina for “Countdown to Summer Banner”
2nd place: Crescent High from South Carolina for “Student Government Newsletter”
3rd place: Richland Northeast High from South Carolina for “Publicity Art Work”

School and Family Relations Projects
1st place: Wayne County High from Georgia for “Faculty Staff Christmas Party”
2nd place: Charles Flanagan High from Florida for “Butterfly Effect”
3rd place: Ocoee High from Florida for “Freshmen Fun Friday”

School Service
1st place: Marshall County High from Tennessee for “Bathroom Makeover”
2nd place: Wayne County High from Georgia for “Holiday Decorating”
3rd place: Kate Bond Middle from Tennessee for “Teaching Gardens”
School Spirit
1st place: Lafayette High from Mississippi for “Ask Me”
2nd place: Blythewood High from South Carolina for “Freshmen First”
3rd place: Giles County High from Tennessee for “Spirit Club”

Student Support
1st place: Arlington High from Tennessee for “Valentine’s Bash”
2nd place: Westwood High from South Carolina for “New Student Lunches”
3rd place: Rockdale Magnet from Georgia for “De-stress Express”

Technology Division
1st place: Charles Flanagan from Florida for “Keeping up with SGA”
2nd place: Blythewood High from South Carolina for “Someone Else’s Schools”
3rd place: Arlington High from Tennessee for “TASC Promo Video”

Co-Parliamentarians Sloane Daley and Stephen Phraner announced the election results.

Election Results
President: Ocoee High School
Vice President: Boca Raton Community High School
Secretary: Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
Parliamentarian: Archbishop Hannan High School
President Elect: Cane Bay High School
After the exciting news, Co-Presidents James Weiny, and Alex Symonette adjourned the final general session of SASC 2016.

Students received a box lunch from Firehouse subs and hopped on the buses to Nashville for a fun filled evening!

Downtown Nashville

The delegates arrived in downtown Nashville where they had the chance to participate in an Instagram scavenger hunt. They had to visit specific locations downtown, take a picture of themselves there, and post it using a hashtag provided. The team with the most locations won a special prize!

Delegates each received a ticket to try Downtown Nashville’s infamous “Mike’s Ice Cream,” where they got to choose from tons of different flavors!
Delegates also got to experience the Country Music Hall of Fame. Each school had a specific appointment slot where they got to walk around and admire what the museum had to offer.

After the fun at the museum, delegates returned to the Wild Horse Saloon where the delegates got to enjoy a delicious barbecue dinner, and learn how to country line dance.
Following dinner, we said goodbye to our Executive Director Marquita Thomas and hello to our new one, Dana Gros. Ms. Marquita then led the candle lighting as she recognized our 2016 SASC officers and inducted our 2017 SASC officers.

To end an AMAZING conference, delegates got to attend a concert put on by “The Voice” star Nolan Neal, and other local country artists.
The concert was amazing, and as it ended, so did SASC 2016. Delegates said their goodbyes and headed their separate ways.

The 82nd annual SASC Conference was a spectacular event. From the inspirational speakers and seminars, to the swapping of great ideas, and giving back to the community through a service project, the delegates learned how to truly “Tune into Leadership”. The conference theme was thoughtfully displayed throughout the entire conference and rest assured every single individual left with a new skill that they could bring back to their council, and most likely, a new friend!