Happy Wednesday Everyone!

Welcome to the start of the SkillsUSA Competition Season! Over the next several weeks we encourage you to pay close attention to deadlines and the Calendar located on the website. We would like to thank all six regional host sites and the off-site partners for all of their efforts in putting together top-notch competitions for all of our students. Along with these folks please make sure to thank our representatives from the Ohio Department of Education as they also have devoted many hours to the success of the Regional Competitions- (Thank you Frits, Matt, Patti, Robert and Tammy!)

A couple notable items this week:

ROTI - We are watching the weather closely and will be making a decision on the trip on Friday. We do have a plan B in place and will be in touch with schools so please monitor your email closely.

Membership Deadline - Just a reminder that the membership deadline for students to compete at the Regional Level is January 28, 2019. This will be strictly enforced this year so please make sure you have your membership submitted before the deadline.

Registration/Substitution Deadlines - We will be enforcing substitution deadlines this year. Students substituted after the deadline will acquire a $25 substitution fee. All changes should be made prior to the Monday at 5pm before a contest date to avoid this fee.

PLEASE HELP!! We do not have a coordinator/judges for Basic Healthcare or Nurse Assisting. If we do not have a coordinator for these contests by February 1, 2019 we will not be able to hold these contests at the State Level.

Moving forward:
**Regional contests are right around the corner! We would like to thank the host sites for all of their hard work in preparing for these events. Registration is open.
**As a reminder the membership deadline for all those competing at the Regional Level is January 28, 2019. This will be enforced. Please remember to hit the submit button for all "unsubmitted" memberships. Those memberships will not be accepted once the deadline has past.
**Please don't forget to submit nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Awards (nomination forms are on the homepage of the website).**

**We are still looking for Contest Coordinators for Basic Healthcare, Nurse Assisting, MLR and Cybersecurity. As a reminder without a coordinator and a sponsor these contests will not run at the State Championships in April. We have also been informed that our plumbing coordinator and building maintenance coordinators are retiring so we are looking for someone to work with them this year to help form technical committees and learn the ropes before they retire.**

**Barbering has a sponsor and a coordinator so it will be run this year as a demo contest along with Broadcast News Production.**

**National Officer Candidates- If your student is interested in becoming a National Officer Candidate please have them start working on the Career Essential Suite as the first 9 lessons are required for candidacy on the National Level.**

We hope all of our chapters will participate in the Chapter Excellence Program this year, this is an opportunity for school and student recognition for all of the hard work that you do. The advisor guide is located on our website and the application is located on the National CMS site (copy and paste and let your students take ownership of this!).

We are continuing our search for State Advisors and State Staff, if you think you are interested in one of these positions please see the website for more information. These dedicated individuals are crucial to the success of our program.

We are starting to look for Courtesy Corps for set up and tear down of the SkillsUSA Ohio State Championships. This year we are looking for a specific crew of Masonry students for Monday and Tuesday. Please email me at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com if you would like to participate or would like more details.

Thank you for your continued support of SkillsUSA Ohio and the great work you do with your students! Have a great week and we will see you soon!

Jackie

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**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Do you know someone who has made an impact on SkillsUSA Ohio over the year? Consider submitting them for recognition of their achievements and contributions. The purpose of this program is to recognize those who have served SkillsUSA in a significant way for an extended period of their career beyond being a school advisor. These individuals have been involved with making major strides in the organization in order to make insure student success and have truly embodied the SkillsUSA core beliefs and values. An individual's contributions may fall in one or more of the following areas:

- advancement in the organization
- development of student programs
- success and innovation of state conference/competitions
- increasing industry partnerships in the organization
- service to the organization
- advancement of the status or visibility of the field

Please follow this link for program description and nomination form: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ed3945_a7623d66520b43f18ae5efc9e3a2ae6.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ed3945_a7623d66520b43f18ae5efc9e3a2ae6.pdf)

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**Performing Arts and Graphic Arts**

We have not forgotten you and we are in the process of designing a new state only contest. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Kris Vigneron at kris.vigneron@education.ohio.gov.
We will also be reviewing the Graphic Communications contest. Please watch for communications on a state-wide meeting for this event.

## State Advisors

Want to be more involved with SkillsUSA? Would you like to gain the skills to facilitate SkillsUSA sessions in other schools as well as your own? Do you really enjoy chapter development and you want to pass on your knowledge to help developing chapters? This position is for you! The State Advisor Program is an integral part of our success; they play leadership roles in every event. The State Advisor Program has recently been upgraded and we have a need for 5-6 advisors in each region. This year we are proud to announce Crown Equipment is sponsoring this program and each State Advisor (after going through training) will receive SkillsUSA Ohio professional dress courtesy of Crown. Thank you to this new partner!

If this sounds like you, please visit the link below and fill out the application. More details can be found on our website at [www.ohioskillsusa.org/becoming-a-state-advisor](http://www.ohioskillsusa.org/becoming-a-state-advisor)

For more questions, please email Jackie Walker at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com

## The Website

We hope you have noticed that the website has undergone a major overhaul in the last year. This will continue as we add pages and make design updates. Please use the website as your number one source of information along with these newsletters throughout the year.

## Sponsors and New Industry Partners

As we grow, there is continued need for new and involved industry partners. Many of you have them sitting right in front of you on your Advisory Committees. If you know of a contact or have someone you would like us to meet, please email Jackie Walker at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com

## Calendar of Events

We have worked very hard to have all contracts signed and all dates secured for you this academic year. The Calendar of Events is posted on the website at [www.ohioskillsusa.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.ohioskillsusa.org/calendar-of-events)

## Membership

We do have some changes regarding membership. For those of you that have visited the website, you will notice some membership deadlines that were not previously there. These were enacted to make sure that we are serving the students of SkillsUSA Ohio to the best of our ability by providing high quality contests.

So, that being said, the membership deadline for ALL CONTESTANTS competing at the REGIONAL LEVEL is January 28, 2019.

Straight to State Competitors will still have until the March 1 deadline.

## Changes for State Championships

**Demo Contests:** Cyber Security and Auto Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR) - We are looking for coordinators and sponsors for both. These will only be demo contests if all needs are met for the contests. Please contact Jackie Walker at Skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com if you have anyone that may be interested in coordinating or sponsoring one of these contests.
Discontinued Contests: Chapter Business Procedure - We are sad to see this go but due to lack of teams over the last 5 years, we cannot support this contest any longer.

We need your help! We recently had vacancies in the coordinator positions for Basic Healthcare, Building Maintenance, and Nurse Assisting. We are looking for industry partners to coordinate these contests. Please contact Jackie Walker at Skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com if you have anyone that may be interested.

Nationals

We have secured new hotels!! Details will be coming once contracts are finalized. The rates will be increasing, but we felt this was a necessary move to due to the decreasing quality and complaints over the last two years. We will keep you updated as details become available.

Chapter Excellence Program

Please make sure you are starting your SkillsUSA Chapters off on the right foot by completing the Chapter Excellence Program and using at your guide to have your students take the lead in your activities throughout the year. More information about this program can be found at https://www.skillsusa.org/programs/chapter-excellence-program/.

Plan Now for SkillsUSA Week

In preparation for SkillsUSA Week Feb. 3-9, encourage student members and advisors to host events that include administrators, business leaders and legislators. You can participate in SkillsUSA Week lots of different ways: hold an open house, invite local media to tour your programs, conduct a community service project, work with area businesses to build more meaningful partnerships, or engage with policymakers to talk about the value of technical education.

For a sample calendar, proclamation and press release, go to: www.skillsusa.org/events-training/skillsusa-week

The SkillsUSA Store has created a SkillsUSA Week T-shirt for $18. Visit www.skillsusastore.org to order your shirt and a whole host of products that are ready for your week of celebration.

Special thank you to Channellock as the lead sponsor of SkillsUSA Week and to Toyota for their additional support of this program.

Constitutional Amendments Deadline Approaching

Current SkillsUSA members can submit proposed constitutional amendments to the middle school, high school and college/postsecondary constitutions. Constitutional amendment motions must be submitted, in writing, to Kim Hegedus at khegedus@skillsusa.org by Feb. 1 by 5 p.m. ET.

SkillsUSA's National Executive Council and board of directors will review all submissions during the March 2019 board meeting.

All motions will be distributed to state SkillsUSA directors no later than 60 days prior to the National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) by April 25. Motions will then be considered for possible inclusion in the SkillsUSA constitutions for the next three years.
Constitutional amendments are governed by Article XII of the high school and college/postsecondary constitutions and Article X of the middle school constitution.

For more information and to view the constitutions, go to: www.skillsusa.org/events-training/national-leadership-and-skills-conference/delegate-sessions/. The motion form is located here: www.skillsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Constitution-and-Bylaw-Amendment-Form.docx. If you have questions, contact Kim Hegedus at 317-544-8750 or khegedus@skillsusa.org.

Building a Successful SkillsUSA Chapter

You know you are having a great year in SkillsUSA, so why not be recognized for it? Did you elect officers, hold chapter meetings and engage in chapter activities? Then take it to the next level: Complete the Chapter Excellence Program Quality Chapter application and receive the recognition you have earned as a chapter.

Start your SkillsUSA Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) application today and earn recognition for your chapter. The online application is on the main page of the membership registration site once you log into your school account (www.skillsusa-register.org/Login.aspx).

The Building a Successful SkillsUSA Chapter Teacher's Guide can be downloaded at: https://www.skillsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/cep-Teachers-Guide-2018-v2.pdf. The guide offers simple and easy steps to follow on completing the application, engaging students in the process and infusing the SkillsUSA Framework into chapter activities.

For questions or help, call or email the SkillsUSA Hotline: 844-875-4557 or operators@skillsusa.org.

New Year, New Blazers Coming Your Way!

The new year is just around the corner, and for SkillsUSA Store staff, it means “out with the old and in with the new” for 2019.

The SkillsUSA Store is excitedly preparing to launch the highly anticipated and newly redesigned SkillsUSA blazers. The store elves are busy making room, opening boxes, stocking shelves and updating the website for a new year launch of the new blazers at: www.skillsusastore.org.

With a new lower price point of $99, bulk-buy discounts as low as $79 and upgraded features, you can update your closet and outfit your students less expensively for competitions throughout the new year.

The entire SkillsUSA Store team wishes you and yours a healthy and happy holiday season. Make the SkillsUSA Store your first stop in the new year!

Nominations Open for Honorary Life Membership, Outstanding Career and Technical Educator

If you would like to nominate someone for SkillsUSA’s national Honorary Life Membership or Outstanding Career and Technical Educator, please submit
your nomination by going to the following assigned links and completing the online application. The deadline for both applications is Feb. 15.

- Honorary Life Membership: skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/honorary-life/
- Outstanding Career and Technical Educator: skillsusa.org/membership-resources/awards/outstanding-educator-nomination/

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Rauch at lrauch@skillsusa.org or 703-737-0619.

**Help is Only a Call, Email or Chat Away!**

Hotline operators are ready to answer your questions on how to start a new chapter, engage chapter members and strengthen an existing chapter. Operators are on call from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Eastern time) Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (Eastern) Tuesday and Thursday. Call the hotline toll free: 844-875-4557.

Don't have time to call? Send the operators an email at operators@skillsusa.org or chat with them online at the membership registration site.