Happy Friday! We are so excited about next week's Fall Leadership Conference! We have 1199 registrants! This year's new programming will heavily focus on training local officers. Sessions will include training on public speaking, public relations, social media, The Chapter Excellence Program, SkillsUSA 101, the Framework and much more! Sessions will be led by our State and National Officers and State Advisors. Students will be able to choose their sessions this year allowing some autonomy and so they can learn what they need to know to meet your school’s individual needs. Be sure to join us for our advisor sessions as well led by State Advisors, Ohio Department of Education, The Ohio Army National Guard, and many more. For a sneak peak at the program and agenda, follow this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xg4Z5pVW21WOI3qLrUtxUfuevRPQiUCO?usp=sharing

We have been getting a lot of questions about SkillsUSA “Swag”, so we are pleased to announce we will be hosting a SkillsUSA Store this year at Fall Leadership Conference. Please see the attached link to view all the great items we will have available. We will also have curriculum available for purchase not pictured in the PowerPoint.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VmVGgmn5bE9nSM0WWdgH-v88OnhMvF1/view?usp=sharing

As we draw closer to competition season, please make sure you fill out the intent form to let us know what contests your school intends to compete in. This helps us determine what contests to hold at the Regional Level and helps us with supply needs at the State Level to provide the best experience for your students. Please fill out the following survey to complete the form:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QFBQQR5

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 Walker  
State Association Director

**Fall Leadership Conference - Nov. 8-9**

Registration is now closed, but details are available on the website at [www.ohioskillsusa.org/fall-leadership-conference](http://www.ohioskillsusa.org/fall-leadership-conference)

Regional Officer Candidate information is also available on the website. Please make sure to refer to the Instructor's guide for specific details.

The Hyatt is our official SkillsUSA Ohio hotel this year. Make sure to mention SkillsUSA Ohio when you book to receive special rates. **“Our Block is now officially full”**

Change for 2018: Parking Passes will need to be reserved as they were with last year's State Championships. The link to purchase bus passes is:


Parking passes will go quickly. Overflow parking will be available. These are first come first serve.

**SkillsUSA Ohio and the Columbus Blue Jackets**

You are invited to attend the SkillsUSA Day with the Blue Jackets on Tuesday, December 4, 2018. The event will run from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and will include a ticket to that evening's hockey game. Our format this year will include a Hockey 101 lesson, an on-ice skate, and a Q&A with a panel of professionals. The first ten schools to register get to select two students to high-five the players as they take the ice.

The cost is $29 per person and the deadline to register is November 20.

For more information and to order your tickets, [click here](https://parking.columbusconventions.com/Onlinetickets/index.aspx?qs=OmMETi2lBeA%3d).

**Pin, T-Shirt and Banner Design Contests**

Please make sure to have your students participate in this exciting event. As mentioned last year, there are now two parts to these contests. All designs are to be submitted by January 9. Designs will be reviewed by our Regional Officer Team and a Pin, T-Shirt and Banner design will be chosen to be our official State Championships Designs available at the 2019 SkillsUSA Ohio State Championships. The Banner winner's design will represent SkillsUSA Ohio during the National SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference in June. Students that submit Pin and T-Shirt designs will then be eligible to compete at the SkillsUSA Ohio State Championships in April for the possibility of being chosen for the SkillsUSA Ohio National Pin or T-Shirt Design to be traded in Louisville in June.
Advisor of the Year Contest

Is there an amazing SkillsUSA Advisor who truly makes a difference in his or her classroom, school and within your state association? Applications are being accepted for the 2018-19 SkillsUSA National Advisor of the Year Program. This is SkillsUSA's teacher honor bestowed annually and one of the most exciting announcements at the national conference each year. Please submit your applications no later than January 9 to tamyra.plotts@education.ohio.gov.

SkillsUSA Lifetime Achievement Award

Do you know someone who has made an impact on SkillsUSA Ohio over the years? 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 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:

a. advancement in the organization  
b. development of student programs  
c. success and innovation of state conference/competitions  
d. increasing industry partnerships in the organization  
e. service to the organization  
f. advancement of the status or visibility of the field

Please follow this link for program description and nomination form:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rB-ScA2ZA3cDcTY3h0BCNgJY6387Jpxd?usp=sharing

Performing Arts and Graphic Arts

We have not forgotten you and we are in the process of designing a new state only art show contest. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Kris Vigneron at kristopher.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.
School Visits

Have questions? Want to give your school a great kick-off for your SkillsUSA year? We have dates available to come and meet with your school, students, administration etc. If you are interested in a time please email me at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com. These will be first come first serve and we will accommodate as many as possible. We also have State Advisors in every Region to assist with any of these needs as well.

Website

We hope you have noticed that the website has undergone a major overhaul in the last year. This will continue as we continue to add pages and make design updates. Please use the website as your number 1 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 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/2017-2018-calendar-of-events

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 upgrades and we have a need for 5-6 advisors in each region. This year we are proud to announce Crown Equipment will be sponsoring this program and each State Advisor, after going through training will receive SkillsUSA Ohio Professional Dress, sponsored by Crown. Thank you to this new partner!

More details can be found on our website at www.ohioskillsusa.org/becoming-a-state-advisor.

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

State Championships Contest Changes
This year we will be looking into the following contest changes for the State Championships:

**Demo Contests**: Broadcast News, Cyber-Security, Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR) - We are looking for coordinators and sponsors for all three of these contests. These will only be demo contests if all needs are met. Please contact Jackie Walker at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com if you have anyone that may be interested in coordinating or sponsoring one of these contests.

**Demo Contests advancing to full contests**: Screen Printing and Computerized Collision Appraisal

**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 Team Works, Basic Healthcare, Building Maintenance, Nurse Assisting, Quiz Bowl, Prepared Speech and Extemporaneous Speaking. We are looking for industry partners willing to coordinate these contests. Please contact Jackie Walker at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com if you have anyone that may be interested.

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**CBI and Middle School Membership**

Last year the CBI Board in conjunction with SkillsUSA Ohio voted to abolish the affiliation program. For more information about the new program, please email Jackie Walker at skillsusaohiojw@gmail.com

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**Youth Service America Offers Grants to Engage Volunteers**

Youth Service America (YSA) is accepting applications for Martin Luther King Day of Service Grants to activate young volunteers. Funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, these grants offer youth development organizations and schools the funding and training to effectively recruit and engage young people in meaningful service activities.

Grants are $1,000 to activate a minimum of 500 youth during the MLK Day weekend (Jan. 18-21). Applicants should focus on engaging middle- and high-school-age youth from underserved communities to lead service or service-learning projects through which they can acquire 21st Century Skills (collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking). The application deadline is **Nov. 4**. For more information, go to: [http://ysa.org/grant/mlkday/](http://ysa.org/grant/mlkday/).

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**Seeking Talented Singers to Open Conference**

SkillsUSA is seeking talented student or adult performers to sing the national anthem at the Opening Ceremony for the 2019 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Audition videos can be submitted via: [https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/national-anthem-auditions/](https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/national-anthem-auditions/) and **must be the singing of the national anthem**.
Auditions must be received by **Feb. 4.** SkillsUSA does not pay any travel expenses for the selected singer to attend the national conference. Questions may be directed to Heidi Walsh at 703-737-0615 or hwalsh@skillsusa.org.

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**Register by Nov. 15 to Receive These Membership Incentives**

Why is it important to register yourself as a professional member of SkillsUSA? Becoming a professional member of SkillsUSA is one of the best ways you can demonstrate to your students the importance of the organization and the opportunities that membership will provide. As a professional member, you will receive online access to the following: *2019 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards, Jump into STEM!* curriculum and *SkillsUSA Career Essentials: Foundations*.

SkillsUSA professional members, as a no-cost member benefit, receive the aforementioned items when they have submitted a current and accurate email address along with their membership details. The *2019 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* is available online to professional members as part of their paid membership. Once membership has been submitted, an email will be sent to the address on file that will include a PIN to access the items electronically.

As a special membership incentive, register at least 15 student members in your training program plus one or more professionals by Nov. 15, and you will receive a free educational resource item, *The Four Pillars: Your Personal Leadership Journey* (value: $4.95). Instructors who register with 100-percent membership plus one or more professionals will also receive a SkillsUSA Program of Work calendar (value: $5.95).

For more details on these incentives, see the membership kits or visit the SkillsUSA website: [www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/membership-kit-2/high-school/5-register-students-members-skillsusa](www.skillsusa.org/membership-resources/membership-kit-2/high-school/5-register-students-members-skillsusa) or you can begin to register yourself and your students at: [www.skillsusa-register.org](www.skillsusa-register.org)

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**SkillsUSA and Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Team Up to Support Outstanding Skilled Trades Students and Chapters**

SkillsUSA has partnered with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools on a new grant opportunity for SkillsUSA chapters. Eligible programs can receive up to $5,000 to strengthen their local SkillsUSA chapter. Applications will be accepted through Nov. 15, 2018, and grant recipients will be announced Dec. 1, 2018. The grants are intended for SkillsUSA chapters established within the past three years that serve students enrolled in one of 29 construction, transportation or manufacturing occupational programs or contests.

To apply, chapters must complete an electronic application and explain how they will use the grant to improve the SkillsUSA program at their school. Applications will be evaluated based on proposed plans, community partnerships and sustainability of program improvements. Schools with 75 percent or more of their enrolled students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches are encouraged to apply. Grant recipients will be required to complete an evaluation of their implementation during the 2018-19 school year, sign photography/video waivers and provide photos of students and teachers participating in activities funded by the grant.
Danny Corwin, executive director of Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, said, "Harbor Freight Tools for Schools could not be prouder to support excellence in high school skilled trades education through this partnership with SkillsUSA. The outstanding students, advisors and mentors of the SkillsUSA community demonstrate the great promise of the trades as a course of study and career." SkillsUSA executive director Timothy Lawrence added, "Partnerships like these expand opportunities for our members and strengthen relationships between education and industry. SkillsUSA is thrilled to partner with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools on this program, which supports the growth of SkillsUSA chapters across the nation."

The grant opportunity is available to high schools with SkillsUSA chapters established after July 1, 2015, in trade areas that align with the following SkillsUSA Championships competitions:

- Architectural Drafting
- Cabinetmaking
- Carpentry
- Electrical Construction Wiring
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR)
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Sheet Metal
- TeamWorks
- Welding
- Welding Fabrication
- Welding Sculpture
- Additive Manufacturing
- CNC Milling Technology
- CNC Technician
- CNC Turning Technology
- Industrial Motor Control
- Major Appliance and Refrigeration Technology
- Mechatronics
- Residential Systems Installation and Maintenance
- Automotive Refinishing Technology
- Automotive Service Technology
- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Collision Repair Technology

**Grant restrictions:** The grant may not be used for the purchase of tools, hardware, electronics or related items or accessories including automotive and motorcycle supplies or accessories, engines and generators, garage and machinery equipment or accessories, lawn and garden equipment, welding equipment or accessories, or material handling equipment and supplies.

To complete the grant application, go to: [https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/harbor-freight-tools-for-schools](https://skillsusa.wufoo.com/forms/harbor-freight-tools-for-schools)

For more information, contact Cathy Arrington at carrington@skillsusa.org.

Help is Only a Call, Email or Chat Away!
Everyone needs a little help now and then. Let the SkillsUSA Membership Hotline operators help you solve your problems. 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.