February 8, 2019

Director’s Letter

Happy February Everyone!

We hope you have been doing great things in recognition of SkillsUSA week. We hope you have been watching our social media pages as our State Officers have been hard at work keeping everyone updated. If you have photos from your week, please send them to us so we can post about the great things you are doing in your schools! As of last week, we are proud to announce that we have already surpassed our total membership from last year; and as of today, we are at 31,873 members. (This puts us as the second largest membership in the nation!) Thank you to all of you for your efforts on the local level getting students excited about SkillsUSA.

We hope everyone is excited for competition season. We have officially begun the 2019 season with a few of the off-site contests already being completed. Please watch Facebook as we will be posting photos of contests as we progress through the next month. We would like to give a special thank you to all of our host schools and off-site business and industry partners for supporting all of the students in SkillsUSA Ohio. If you see any of them, please make sure to say thank you and encourage your students to send thank you notes to host sites, judges, and coordinators. 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!) These contests could not happen without all of the great people behind the scenes.

Registration/Substitution Deadlines - As a reminder, we will also 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 before a contest date to avoid this fee.

It is also time to start thinking about the State Championships. Please make sure that all students are registered members by March 1, 2019 (and don't forget to hit the submit button). As of yesterday, we are happy to announce all contests have coordinators including our new demo contests (MLR, Cyber Security, Barbering,
We are proud to bring back the SkillsUSA Ohio Leadership Experience this year. (This is for students that are not competing to get them excited about SkillsUSA and give them an opportunity to participate in the Championships). This year we have been selected to be the production site of a PBS documentary about Career and Technical Education in Ohio. We will be looking for students who would like to speak to the film crews; please make sure all students are prepared to answer questions about SkillsUSA and Career and Technical Education in Ohio. Along with the leadership experience, we will also be doing the VIP Tour again this year. This event is geared around new business and industry (advisory committee members) to learn about SkillsUSA and for us to showcase what your students do. Please email me for more information on either of these events.

Middle School Registration is open. To compete in Middle School Championships, all students must be registered members by March 1, 2019. This year’s Middle School State Championships will be held April 5, 2019, at Eastland Career Center.

Moving forward:
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.

The State and National Officer Screening Test will be going live next week. Please email Tammy for the code beginning Monday.

Please don't forget about the Chapter Excellence Program this year. This is an opportunity for school and student recognition for all of the 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 were 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
contests. Graphic Arts is in danger of not running if we cannot find support and competitors for this contest. We are still 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

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 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!

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.

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 continue to 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 with, 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.

Membership

We do have some changes. 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.

Straight to State Competitors will still have until the March 1 Deadline
Nationals

We have secured new hotels!! We will be moving to the Drury Inn Northeast and Hilton Garden Northeast outside of Louisville. These new hotels have a lot to offer in the way of food options and activities for students within walking distance. We will be working with Travelyme again this year to book all Ohio hotel rooms (this is mandatory), and we will have package information available at the State Championships.

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 it as 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/

Calling All Members! National Membership
Deadline is March 1st.

Register yourself and your students as SkillsUSA members by the March 1 deadline to receive valuable benefits. Students must meet both state and national deadlines to be eligible for national competition, serve as voting delegates or run for national office. If you have questions or need assistance with online membership registration, hotline operators can help. Call 844-875-4557 between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. EST Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. EST Tuesday and Thursday, or email operators@skillsusa.org.

Attention Advisors in Building Trades!
SkillsUSA Launching National Signing Day

We are excited to announce that May 8 will be SkillsUSA National Signing Day, presented by Klein Tools.

This day will celebrate and publicly acknowledge high school seniors who are committing to careers in the building and construction trades. Whether they are starting an apprenticeship, entering a more focused technical education or entering the field directly, we want to reinforce our support for their decision to help close the skills gap and promote positivity for the trades.

In partnership with Klein Tools, SkillsUSA will host National Signing Day events at approximately 500 schools throughout the country - but we need to hear from you first!

We are looking for Class of 2019 students who are committing to careers or continuing education in:

- Residential Wiring
- Building Trades and Renovations
- HVAC
- Plumbing

If you have graduating high-school seniors who fit these criteria,
please use the link below to start the conversation with the National Signing Day team.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION

Participation will be limited to the first 500 eligible programs to express interest.

All submissions must be in by March 1 for consideration - don't delay!

GAERF Announces Student Design Competition

The 11th annual Student Design Competition has been launched by the Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation (GAERF), in conjunction with its managing organization, the Association for PRINT Technologies. All students are invited to enter who are attending recognized secondary or postsecondary institutions in the continental United States and studying graphic communications/printing, advertising, graphic design or interactive media.

The GAERF 2019 Student Design Competition, themed "GREETINGS!", challenges students to design and produce a printed greeting card for the occasion of their choice. One secondary- and one postsecondary-school winner will be identified for each of the first-, second- and third-place awards. The first-place award is $2,000 plus a two-day all-expenses-paid trip for the student and instructor to attend PRINT 19 in Chicago Oct. 3-5. The second-place award is $1,500, and the third-place award is $1,000. Entry deadline is June 7.

For more information about the contest, go to:
www.printtechnologies.org/GAERF-SDC.

Face-Lift for February Bundle Offered for Only $27.95

Give your classroom a face-lift for February with the Quotes to Results Poster series and a fun and engaging way to develop career readiness with your students. Save $7 on the February bundle-duo through Feb. 28.

STOCK NO. / BFeb2019 $27.95

- From Quotes to Results 2: SkillsUSA Framework Poster Series (P122)

If you've loved the Quotes to Results Poster Series, then you will love the new SkillsUSA Framework version even more. The poster set includes 34 quotes that are related to the 17 essential elements of the framework. Each essential element is highlighted with two quotes complemented by ideas for activities and discussions that help students take meaning from their learning. The accompanying teacher's guide makes using this resource seamless to the classroom environment. These 11"x17" posters are the ideal way to
Searching for ways to promote and acknowledge SkillsUSA Framework development in your students? The Results to Honor 2: SkillsUSA Framework Cards are a turn-key teaching tool to reinforce the personal, workplace and technical skills that students need to develop to reach career readiness. The set consists of 17 different cards, based on the essential elements of the SkillsUSA Framework. The 2"x3.5" cards complement and reinforce From Quotes to Results 2: SkillsUSA Framework Poster Series. A one-pager on ideas for implementation is included with each set of 136 cards.

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**Washington Leadership Training Institute**

**Do You Want Your Students To Grow In Their Professionalism, Communication And Leadership Skills?**

Consider budgeting for you and your student leaders to attend the Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTI) held in the nation's capital Sept. 21-25. This conference offers advanced training for students and advisors that focuses on professionalism, communication and leadership. During the conference, participants will demonstrate the use of these key essential elements while advocating for SkillsUSA and career and technical education. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to tour Washington, visit the SkillsUSA National Leadership Center and watch the changing of the guards along with a wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Conference registration opens Aug. 1 and is $450 per participant. Visit the following website for additional information: [https://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/washington-leadership-training-institute/](https://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/washington-leadership-training-institute/)

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**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](mailto:operators@skillsusa.org) or chat with them online at the membership registration site.