Hello Everyone! Welcome to 2019! We hope that you had a great holiday season and are gearing up for the fast approaching competition season!

I would like to take a moment and review the 2017-2018 year as we had some amazing changes happen in the organization. For starters, thank you for helping us reach the highest membership total in 10 years with 31,632 total members, including 17 new chapters! We had the highest attendance ever at our 2018 SkillsUSA Ohio State Championships with over 6,000 in attendance. This year also marked the first year of the Leadership Exploration Experience and VIP Event at the Championships.

June marked some exciting changes in the organization itself. The Board of Directors adopted a new Code of Regulations that transitioned the board from an advisory board to a governing board. The board also appointed Jackie Walker as the new SkillsUSA Ohio State Director and named the Assistant Director of Trade and Industrial Education (Frits Rizor and now Robert Kornack - Congratulations Robert!) as the Board President, creating a stronger partnership with the Ohio Department of Education. Also, in June we brought home 53 national medals from the 2018 National Leadership and Skills Conference (largest amount of high school medals).

I had the privilege of traveling to 27 schools across Ohio this year during our fall membership drive. In October, we tied with last year with the largest number of advisors attending the Deer Creek Advisor Training. For the first time, this event also included business and industry hosting sessions. Fall Leadership Conference received a complete face lift with new programming and a new stage design, along with a record number of industry panelists! 2017-2018 also marked the first year of electing officers as a slate and not by individual office. We have added 2 new industry board members to the Board of Directors, 6 new State Advisors, and 8 new State Staff Members this year, along with 20+ new industry partners. Thank you for helping to make this such a great organization!

Moving forward:

**Regional contests are right around the corner! We would like to thank all the host sites for their hard work in preparing for these events. Registration opened January 3, 2019.

**As a reminder the membership deadline for all those competing at the Regional Level is January 28, 2019. This date will be enforced.

**Please don’t forget to submit nominations for the Advisor of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Nomination forms are on the homepage of our website.

**We are still looking for Contest Coordinators for Basic Healthcare, Nurse Assisting, Auto Maintenance & Light Repair and Cyber Security. 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 coordinator 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.

We hope all our chapters will participate in the Chapter Excellence Program this year. This is an opportunity for school and student recognition for all 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!)

As mentioned previously, our website is ever evolving. Please make sure to check frequently for updates and news. Some new additions - We have updated our home page and added some additional opportunities for students and advisors. We will be keeping this updated as a quick reference.

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.

Competition season is right around the corner and we hope you are ready! Regional pages will be coming live on the website soon! We want to make the registration process as clear and easy as possible. In trying to accomplish this, we have created a quick reference guide (located on the home page of the website) for registering students for contests. We also want everyone to pay close attention to deadlines, the calendar and the program guidelines as all of these will be enforced this year.

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

---

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

Please make sure to have your students participate in this exciting event. As mentioned last year, this contest now has 2 parts. **There is no limit to the number of designs a school can submit in January.** All designs are to be submitted by January 11. 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 worn and traded in Louisville, KY.

---

**Advisor of the Year**

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 national conference each year. Please submit your application by January 9 to tamyra.plotts@education.ohio.gov.

Click here for the application.
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 sure 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://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ed3945_a7623d66520b43f18aee5efc9e3a2ae6.pdf

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

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

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/.

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:
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](http://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!

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](http://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/skillsusa-week)

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

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-](http://skillsusa.org/membership-)

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