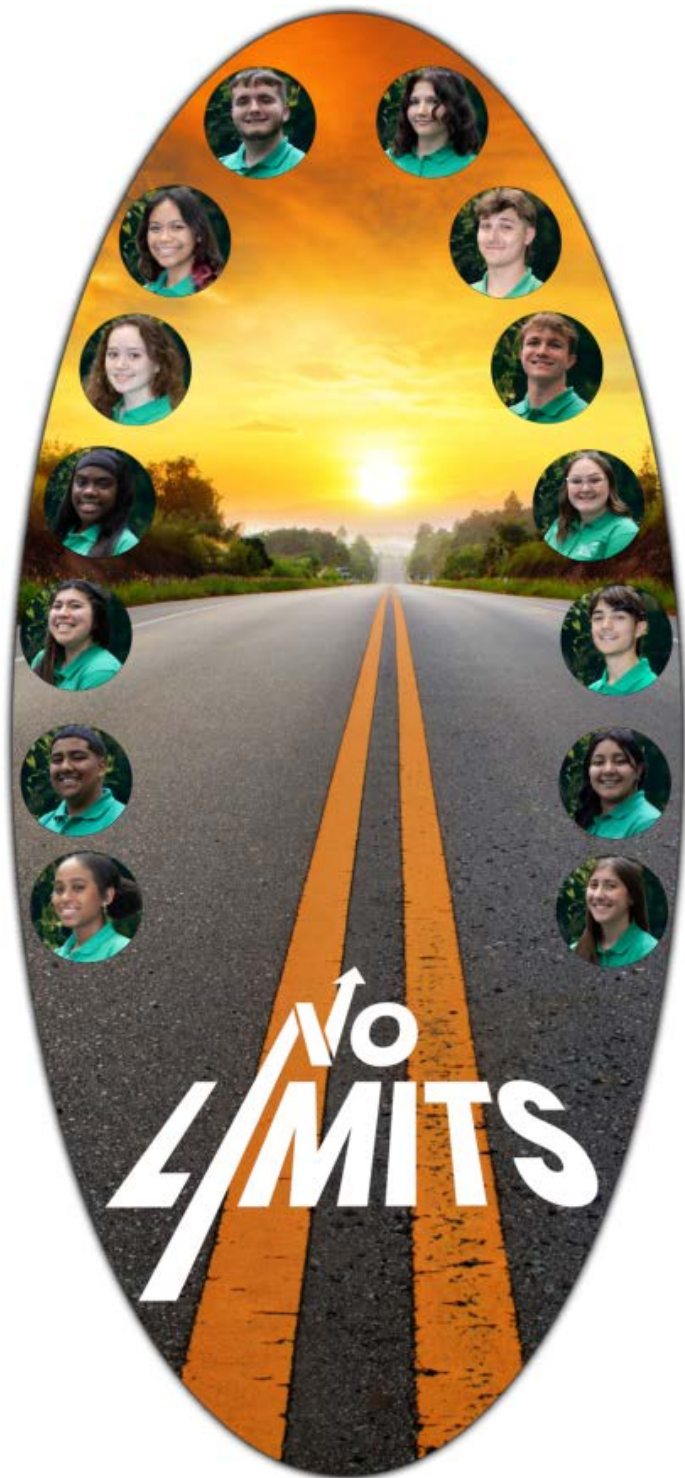


NYS SkillsUSA

State Officer Report

Month of: December 2023





Zachary Kramar

President

Advisor:

Mrs. Zwart

The WSWHE BOCES, Southern Adirondack Education Center Chapter, collaborated with our Key Club and thought of ideas on how we could give back to the community. Using the \$700 profit from the “HomeTown Thanksgiving”, the officers of Key Club and myself discussed how to properly support our community. The Kiwanis Key Club has a program that commemorates the loved ones of the members by decorating Christmas Trees with ornaments in memory of their loved ones. The Key Club, myself, and Mikalya Linehan, the Area Three Vice President decided that we would do our tree in memory of the Alumni of our Culinary Arts and Hospitality Program that have passed. The idea was brought up in a meeting in which we used parliamentary procedure to finalize what the theme of our tree would be. On December 9th, the Key Club Officers and SkillsUSA members went to decorate our tree in the morning. There were over 150 trees that had been decorated. Later that day, there was a tree lighting ceremony in which the tree lights were lit in unison and each sign in front of the tree was read. Another activity our chapter did was a fundraiser in which the Culinary Arts students made cookie boxes which were sold to other students and the community. In short, the WSWHE BOCES Southern Adirondack Education Center chapter has been particularly busy in fundraising and giving back to the community utilizing the SkillsUSA framework.



Emily Wagner

Secretary

Advisor:

Mrs. Essig

For the month of December we had a pie sale which was a success to kick off the season of Thanksgiving while approaching Christmas. The state Officer team is fast approaching our training for states which I am extremely grateful and excited for. The state officers are relaxing for the holidays after the fall leadership conference that was a success and I am grateful for all the memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. Our next adventure is training for states in Syracuse. I am very excited to see the team and prepare for the election of new officers.



Angelina Vargas

Treasurer

Advisor:

Mrs. Brissing

Throughout the month of December my local chapter has been collecting new and unused toys for a Toys for Tots drive, food for our local food pantry, and a pajama drive for our youth. We are also coming up with ideas with our chapter members to fundraise for our regional competitions and how to run it smoothly. As my chapter's President, I hold biweekly meetings to keep everyone up to date on business throughout our chapter. In these meetings we also inform our members on what SkillsUSA is and our mission on becoming the future's skilled workforce. We discuss the framework and things we can better in our community for the future; along with getting our competitors ready to become champions. We are continuing to work hard to better our chapter and SkillsUSA members.



Skylar Albin
Reporter

Advisor:
Mr. Stratton

At Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES in December, the chapter officers and I focused on expanding the knowledge of the members on their workplace skills. During December we hosted three chapter meetings, two of them were open to members and one was closed for only chapter officers. The first meeting was facilitated to focus on communication, decision-making, teamwork, and leadership skills. The next meeting focused on Multicultural Sensitivity and Awareness and planning, organization and management. As decided in the previous month, this month's fundraiser would consist of the culinary students baking cookies and Skills USA selling them to donate the overall profits to the House of the Good Shepherd. Our last meeting discussed the success of this month's fundraiser as well as the other things we had on our list to talk about.



Alexander Galfo
Parliamentarian

Advisor:
Mr. Valentine

During December as a state officer we held SkillsUSA meetings to prepare for our area competition. We also are coming to the end of our fundraisers. During November we did meat sticks, and then in December we did candy bars to help kids go to area competitions. Also inside my CTE program we made rocket stoves with the metal and fabrication team that will be competing and those stoves will be sold. Then the money from those will go towards competitions and SkillsUSA related things. Jake, the other state officer, and I went in front of the juniors one more time to represent SkillsUSA and give them all the reasons on why they should join whether to be a state officer or competing. We shared personal experiences that have helped us grow from the beginning to where we are now.



Jacob Szumigala

Historian

Advisor:

Mr. Valentine

December was a rather slow month for our local SkillsUSA chapter. At my home school we worked on finishing up “Pinwheel rocket stoves” that you can cook on. The plan is to raffle and or sell off 5 of the 6 grills our class built. The funds will then go towards state competition. Aside from fundraising I find a lot of people more and more that are getting to know SkillsUSA and I’ve noticed an uptick in the amount of elevator speeches I’ve been doing and people are eager to learn. I’ve even helped talk to a few state officer prospects for the spring that want to do it. So I’ve been coaching a little. All in all, December has been great, but also quiet for SkillsUSA in my life. From making the grills to coaching a little here and there for success, it’s been a good month.



Kayla Waddell-Martin

Area I VP

Advisor:

Ms. Probst

During the month of December, we had an incredible month filled with meaningful community service and festive celebrations. First off, our chapter successfully planned and executed a community service project with the Salvation Army. On December 20th, some of our dedicated chapter officers went shopping for families in need, while others stocked tables to ensure everything was ready. It was a heartwarming experience to support those in our community during the holiday season. In addition to our community service, we also organized a fantastic winter festival. The festival was a blast, and everyone had an amazing time. We enjoyed various activities, delicious food, and spreading joy and cheer among our chapter members. Looking ahead, I’m so excited to see the state officers and learn from their experiences. It’s going to be an inspiring opportunity to connect with the other leaders and continue making a positive impact in our community.



Delayna DeVoe

Area II VP

Advisor:

Mrs. Fiorenza

During the month of December, the Adirondack High School’s Chapter held the monthly meeting. Over the time period of the meeting we reviewed some competitions that students will be working to participate in this coming new year. They each gave a little speech and provided pictures for me to show the group. In the speech they were to include, what the competition was, the significance of it, why they chose that specific competition and how this competition could help them in the future. We also spoke about what being a SkillsUSA member means and how this organization directly benefits our community. With help from other teachers and such, I was able to put the Area II Community Service project in place. Area II will be doing Feed Our Vets for our Community Service Project for the 2023-2024 school year. We will be collecting non-perishables and health items until the regional competition that is held in February. In addition, each year our school has the Winter Olympics, when you walk into our gymnasium you receive a ticket and they do raffles and drawings throughout the day. If any student, not just SkillsUSA members, were to bring in a non-perishable food item, they would receive an extra ticket.



Mikayla Linehan

Area III VP

Advisor:

Mrs. Choppa

During the month of December my local chapter, WSWHE BOCES Southern Adirondack Education Center, got involved in helping the community. In the beginning of the month, we partnered with our key club and brainstormed an idea to bring back to the community. We had the profit of \$700 dollars that we raised through the "HomeTown Thanksgiving." On December 4th the officers and I discussed what event would be best. That event was Spirit in the Trees. Spirit in the Trees is part of the Kiwanis Club and commemorates loved ones. This event encourages the public to honor those who've passed away by lighting and decorating the trees. For our idea we thought we would have our tree be in the memory of Our Alumni and Family who've passed in the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Industry. Once we had all of our information that we needed to propose the idea, on December 6th we held a full running meeting with our classmates. During this we ran through parliamentary procedure to see if this was something everyone seemed interested in. Coming to order we talked about who the tree was for, the cost of the tree being \$75 dollars. Then the class came to an agreement on what would be the pricing of ornaments. Some of the ornaments were painted in our class to allow them to show their respects. All of the officers made one with our names signed on it. December 9th was the day that the Key Club and SkillsUSA members went in the morning to decorate our tree and see many other people decorate their own as well. There were over 150 trees that people had decorated. Later the same day in the evening there was the opening ceremony for this charitable event by reading all of the signs by the trees and who they were in memory of. At 5:30 PM they did a count down to have all the lights displayed at once. This year's turnout was better than years in the past.



Dante Rosario

Area V

Advisor:

Mrs. Olfano

This month has been extremely eventful and fun. First up was our December general meeting which was extremely fun. In order to develop our members essential skills and embody the holiday spirit we had them split into groups and work together in order to create the best outfit made of wrapping paper and other holiday essentials. They had to display their final product in a fashion show style catwalk and let their peers vote who did it best. Second, we had our winter dance fundraiser. We sold snacks, watched movies, had games and of course we can't forget the DJ. We also had a chance for students to pie a teacher in the face. Our ping pong table attracted a pretty popular crowd with some friendly competition, courtesy of our construction skills team that made it. Once the night came closer to an end the music was booming and everybody was dancing, not to mention we just so happened to have a birthday of one of our most prominent skills members. Following last month's fall leadership area 5 New York City held our very own winter leadership. Along with the theme of the holiday spirits we decided to focus on a theme of holiday and winter themed movies. Area 5 winter leadership was extremely fun and informational. This event has once again showed me you won't find a group of kids as lively and vibrant as the students of Area 5. We got to end our day with a fun social event. I was almost overwhelmed with the amount of life and excitement that was so clearly present during our winter leadership. Overall December shaped up to be an amazing month and I really can't wait to see what the new year turns out to be!



Willem Weston

Area IV VP

Advisor:

Dr. Landers

In December I solicited reports from the chapters in our Area. I received reports from Ulster and Rockland. I am looking forward to collecting more information about the great things happening at each of the chapters in Area 4, as the year progresses.

Ulster BOCES

At Ulster - we have full membership at our school, so members have been visiting classrooms educating our young professionals about being an active member of SkillsUSA. Additionally, one of our members, Jacob Holt created a [fabulous website](#) where we will add any updates to the competitions moving forward. Our community service team members have continued their volunteer work at the Happy to Help Food Pantry, and they also held a coat drive to support efforts at Peoples Plan to keep our community warm. We have also been getting ready for our Area 4 competition at Orange Ulster on February 10th. After the successful food drive that Rockland BOCES SkillsUSA hosted, the club proceeded to have a bake sale in order to raise money for Toys for Tots. The bake sale had cupcakes, cookies, brownies, cinnamon rolls, and other sweet treats that were made by our very own SkillsUSA members. We raised \$1,500 which was an amazing amount that we could purchase toys for this fundraiser. Rockland BOCES SkillsUSA AM President Naomi Ramirez-Payes is pictured purchasing toys with money that was raised from the previous bake sale. Our goal was to spend the entirety of the money and purchase as many toys as possible. SkillsUSA held one of its monthly meetings to thank the students who baked for the bake sale and awarded certificates to acknowledge their contribution. The officers also thanked SkillsUSA members for their help in running the bake sale or buying treats which contributed to buying toys for Toys for Tots. After expressing gratitude to our members, there was time for members to socialize and eat together! Members from AM and PM SkillsUSA, pictured with the toys that were bought with funds from the bake sale. It's fantastic that we were able to collect a large amount of toys! We're eagerly looking forward to giving these toys to Toys for Tots. We greatly appreciate all members who contributed to raising money to purchase these toys for others!





Gianna Spartano
Officer-At-Large

Advisor:

Mrs. Petronella



At the beginning of this month my chapter and I had a meeting revolving around workplace skills. The president of our chapter and I created an activity to focus on the importance of teamwork. The activity involved one big tarp that would have everyone on it. The students on it would attempt to flip the tarp without stepping off of it. Through this activity a lot of teamwork and critical thinking skills were used. Some people even thought outside the box by carrying people to create a bigger space. The following Monday our chapter officers and I had a meeting where we talked about our community service project for this month, getting people to come in and talk to prospective students about careers, and getting activities ready for next month. The community service project the president and I chose was to raise money for the Spirit of Josh fund for the House of Good Shepherd. This fund would raise money for recreational and outdoor activities for children which is extremely important. This project lasted for one week selling over 600 cookies as well as candy canes for \$1 each. This was a fantastic project earning this great fund lots of money. The next week we had our last chapter meeting of the month where the president and I ran an activity involving multicultural sensitivity and awareness. The activity involved everyone getting a piece of paper, crayons, and drawing what the holiday looked like to them. What we found was that most people celebrate Christmas either at their house or a grandparents house. Other people watched Christmas movies like the Polar express while some celebrated Hanukkah instead. This showed different backgrounds of people. After this activity we made sure everyone's dues were turned in so people could get ready for competition mode and bought everyone some donuts to celebrate the new year.



Rebekah Hodges
Officer-At-Large

Advisor:

Mrs. Bitzer

This month it took quite a bit of thought about what I have done. Then it occurred to me that the skills I have learned in SkillsUSA have been taking place in my life through different situations. For example I have started my Basketball season. I didn't make captain as I was gone during the voting process for captain. Which was very sad, but I took it as a chance to connect with other players and just keep making self improvement. One of our recent games, we lost one of our captains, who went down and the other one was too overwhelmed to be there. Our team gathered without the captains and continued on. As the oldest on the team I took it upon myself to step up for the captains to keep the mood up and to encourage my teammates. I encouraged them and told them they did amazing that we pushed through when the unexpected was thrown at us. I later got a compliment from my coaches saying "your leadership skills were amazing, thank you for stepping up." I then realized that because of SkillsUSA, I was able to confidently step up and lead my team when they needed someone. Besides that we also had a pep rally for SkillsUSA. It gave awareness to students on the local competition that is coming up and what you can compete in. As far as SkillsUSA goes I hope to keep improving in the skills and also bringing more people to SkillsUSA.



Kayla Flores
Officer-At-Large

Advisor:

Mrs. Brissing

During the month of December, we have had two fundraisers at our BOCES campus. We were able to raise funds towards the purchase of pajamas and toys for children this month during the holidays. We also had a scheduled meeting with members run by our local chapter officer team. We kept them informed by giving them news about our plans as a local chapter and old news about what has been going on during the month of December. We also used this to get ideas for future fundraisers so we can have more money to send people off to competitions if students want to compete with some left over.