



Zachary Kramar
President

Advisor:
Mrs. Zwart

Throughout the month of September, the NYS SkillsUSA State Officer Team has been hard at work. During the beginning of the month, each state officer has done many things through their chapter and a large amount of preparation for the Washington Leadership Training Institute. Specifically, in my chapter, we have done planning for a Hometown Thanksgiving where we donate Thanksgiving meal packages to those in need. We have also been preparing boxed lunches for the Special Olympics, where we make lunches to give away. The team individually did multiple rounds of pre-work leading up to WLTi and while at WLTi the team learned and did many great things about how to lead their Fall Leadership Conference and how they can advocate for SkillsUSA. The National Officers taught State Officers about advocacy, speaking with authenticity, and much more while also preparing us for an interview with SkillsUSA personnel and an interview with a congressperson from our area. The State Officers from Area 3, Mikayla Linehan, Rebekah Hodges, and myself, spoke with a representative of Congressman Paul Tonko about what CTE has done for us and how CTE will continue to affect thousands of students to come. The officer team collectively talked to their congress people about Perkins V Funding and how that helps us individually and as an organization as a whole. Another achievement the team accomplished was receiving our National Statesman. To receive a National Statesman, the person who wishes to receive it must do pre work and take tests about SkillsUSA and pass those tests, and also have an in person interview with SkillsUSA Staff and achieve a certain amount of points after all of that. The New York State SkillsUSA State Officer Team has been hard at work in preparation of WLTi and the Fall Leadership Conference, and were working vigorously in our own chapter and on our own personal, workplace and technical skills grounded in academics.



Emily Wagner
Secretary

Advisor:
Mrs. Essig

For the month of September in my local chapter, we established who all the chapter officers were. I myself went to junior and senior classes to try and get more people interested in SkillsUSA. On September 23 through the 27th myself and the State Officer team attended WLTi. Where we learned ways to facilitate groups, and how to develop our framework stories, as well as the POWER formula and how to be authentic. While we were in Washington on the 26th. We spoke to one of Joe Morelli's representatives about the Perkins Grant trying to gain their support for the funding. At first, I found the idea of talking to congressmen to be hard, but it turned out to go just fine, as I thought I was able to say what I wanted to say without interruptions. While our State Officer team was in Washington DC. We were able to take a tour of the capital. Our state officer team went to many different monuments, such as the Pentagon Memorial, the Korean Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial. I myself learned so much on that trip, one of the most important things being that you can only control your own actions and then you have to keep a positive mindset.



Angelina Vargas

Treasurer

Advisor:

Mrs. Brissing

During our WLTi (Washington Leadership Training Institute) I got to learn so many different things, along with knowing what it means to be an advocate. I got to meet with one of our Legislators Patrick Ryan, and got to talk to him about advocating for CTEC schools, SkillsUSA, the Perkins Grant, what we will do with the additional funding and how it benefits us, and personally thanked him for his continuous support for our schools. In addition, I got to meet so many different people in our huddle rooms where I also prepared my framework story and got to meet our national officers and our National Executive Director Chelle Travis. On our downtime between meals and conferencing, we got to split up into smaller groups between our NYS State Officer team and got to explore the different museums in DC. I chose the Smithsonian Art Museum and got to see many different educational works of art and some abstract ones. During my time in Washington DC, I also got to see several other different landmarks such as Washington, Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Franklin D. Roosevelt memorials. Now that I am back in New York, my BOCES chapter for SkillsUSA is planning on having an informational meeting for students during the school day on what SkillsUSA is and how it can benefit them. My chapter is also preparing for our school's open house and plans to be running an informational table advocating to our stakeholders on what SkillsUSA is.



Skylar Albin

Reporter

Advisor:

Mr. Stratton

On the 11th of September at Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES our chapter President, Historian and I, chapter Vice President had a meeting with the Principal on our itinerary for the upcoming year. Reviewing and double checking and getting approval for our fundraising, chapter meetings and more. As well as on the 14th of September Gianna Spartano State Officer at Large and I had a meeting with the Principal concerning the Perkins Grant as a part for our national statesmen work. On Monday the 18th at O-H-M BOCES the senior chapter officer group hosted a presentation. This presentation consisted of the previous year's national competition, information on volunteering and other requirements as well as the benefits of joining SkillsUSA and scholarship opportunities that exist. I also put together an additional presentation for our advisors at OHM to share with the 9th through 11th grade, consisting of the same information with the addition of the SkillsUSA colors, motto, mission statement and the benefits of running for state officer.

On September 23rd through September 25th the state officer team and I went to the Washington Leadership Training Institution. While there we were taught about a graph that helps you better understand and visualize your knowledge on the SkillsUSA framework. We were taught on how to make and improve on our framework stories. We also spent a good majority of time preparing to talk to the congressmen and their representatives. During our working lunch they even brought in speakers to help us prepare for our congressional visits.



Not submitted

Alexander Galfo
Parliamentarian

Advisor:

Mr. Valentine



Jacob Szumigala
Historian

Advisor:

Mr. Valentine

September was a crazy month with football and school and SkillsUSA. It has been very busy. That being said, SkillsUSA was a big part of my month. From organizing our chapter Chicken BBQ fundraiser, and preparing and participating in WLTi. September has been eventful in SkillsUSA. Our chicken BBQ event went very well and we are set to send kids to FLC with the proceeds. WLTi was absolutely amazing. The monuments and the training were very impactful. I've taken things from WLTi back here to my chapter and plan to integrate them at home. Speaking to our local politician was important and influential as well. I feel as though we all did a great job with that interview. All in all, September was a wild and wonderful month that was stressful but nice at the same time.



Kayla Waddell-Martin

Area I VP

Advisor:

Ms. Probst

During the month of September our WEMOCO chapter has been working on our schedule of events and our chapter of excellence activities for this upcoming school year. Our first event this year will be an open house, Thursday, September 27th. We will also be doing a WEMOCO plate fundraiser, to help students earn their membership as a SkillsUSA member. I also attended WLTi to get my nationals statement and advocate for the Perkins grant funding. The first day of WLTi was very calm and fun. We all were split into different huddle rooms where we got the chance to meet and speak with the national officers. Every few hours, and every day we changed rooms so we were never with the same national officer which I like a lot. I met with a total of four different national officers and they all had different backgrounds and were so nice! I got the chance to get to know a little bit more about each and every national officer. During this event I also got the wonderful chance to see loads of historical landmarks such as the MLK memorial, the Vietnam and Korean War memorials and the Lincoln memorial and so much more. I loved being in downtown DC because of the great structured buildings, the busy streets, the historical monuments and all the different street vendors. Another thing I liked a lot was meeting with a representative from team Morelle, my area congressman from Rochester, his name was Jordan Jabolonski. He was really nice and seemed interested in SkillsUSA Overall, being in DC was a life changing experience and I am so happy I got the chance to do so.



Delayna DeVoe

Area II VP

Advisor:

Mrs. Fiorenza

In the month of September that state officer team visited the capitol of the United States attending Washington Leadership Training Institute to further our knowledge about new and upcoming SkillsUSA ideas. In addition we advocated for Career and Technical Education by meeting with a staff member in our congressmen's office. Although I did not meet with one directly, I did have the opportunity to meet with the Legislative Executive for Brandon Williams and tell him CTE is a building block for many students. During this time I learned more about advocacy and speaking as a representative for others. At the end of the meeting we invited both the congressmen and Samuel Havard to join us at our regional and state competitions in hopes that they will come and see how the Perkins IV grant is helping us so much and preparing us for the world of work. Before going to Washington I did prework in order to earn my National Statesman's pin, the last step was the one on one interview that was onsite. I truly enjoyed my time in Washington and learned so much. In addition my local chapter has started a fundraiser to earn funds for both the regional and state competitions. With this money we will pay for entry fees, hotel rooms and cords for the seniors!



Mikayla Linehan

Area III VP

Advisor:

Mrs. Choppa

During the first week of school, our chapter discussed SkillsUSA through different Framework activities. On September 7th, all the juniors and seniors came into one room together to discuss the SkillsUSA framework, from the 17 essential elements to the Personal Skills, Workplace Skills, and Technical Skills grounded in academics. On Friday, September 8th, Chef Zwart allowed me to practice my communication and leadership skills by leading a team-building activity with both classes. This gave me the experience to feel what it would be like as a facilitator. It was scary at first, with all the new eyes on me, I do not know, but once the ball was rolling, it felt better, and it became more comfortable. Our next event was the Washington Leadership Training Institute from September 23-27th. During the time being at this conference, we were in huddle rooms. The huddle rooms consisted of improving our Framework Stories, talking about the POWERR formula, and taking further steps to prepare us for the world of work. The National Officers were the ones who facilitated all the states who came on this trip. Each huddle room was around 1 hour and 30 minutes. Once we were all done with training, we did some site visits. Some of the sites we visited around Washington were the Lincoln Memorial, the US Capitol, The Washington Monument, and The White House. These were super cool to take a step back and reflect. Coming down, we had to do our pre-work. In order to receive our National Statesman pin we had to have all our pre work done. We all had interviews with representatives from National SkillsUSA, we each had our own. This interview reviewed our knowledge of SkillsUSA and what we have been doing in our local chapters. The exciting news was that 100% of the State Officer team completed their work, and each of us earned our national statesman pin. Another big event during WLTl was we had a meeting in our Congressman's office. My group and I had yet to hear back from anyone the day before the meetings happened. We were fortunate to have the meeting at 1pm on Tuesday, September 26th. Our Congressman, Mr. Tonko, was not in his office, so we talked to his representative, Conner Giltz. We talked about our CTE program leading into our Framework story and how it has impacted our lives. We also talked about the Perkins V Funding because the Perkins funding helps support students to attend these big trips like WLTl. Mr. Giltz took down information on what we had to say and reported it to Mr. Tonko, and we gave him our dates for our Regional conference on March 18th and our State Conference at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse. Everything sounds promising that if Mr. Tonko is not busy, he will make an appearance.



Willem Weston

Area IV VP

Advisor:

Dr. Landers

We attended Washington Leadership Training Institute in Washington, D.C., in September. I spent a lot of time preparing for the trip, completing pre-work, and preparing for the National Statesman Award. When we arrived, we met with our New York State Officer team and continued our preparation for Fall Leadership. We focused on our "No Limits" theme at the leadership training and used the POWERR formula to develop our communication skills. We visited many monuments, such as Arlington National Cemetery, the White House, several monuments and memorials. The high point of the trip was meeting with Congressman Patrick Ryan. We asked for his continued support of Career and Technical Education and invited him to future events in our area. Lastly, I represented my school and area well by completing my National Statesman interview and earning my National Statesman Award!



Dante Rosario

Area V

Advisor:

Mrs. Olfano

The beginning of the month my chapter spent time getting our chapter affairs in order. We mainly discussed our upcoming events, as well as prepared for our freshman push in's. We ended up being very successful in our recruitment. Our officer team also looked at the committee applications we sent out at the end of last year. We then held 2 officer meetings where we decided 2 members per committee (with 6 in total). After chapter responsibilities I went to WTLI and learned a lot. I was able to build important leadership aspects as well as practice the POWERR formula. With the SkillUSA leadership training I received, I was also able to represent SkillsUSA discussing continued support for Perkins V funding by talking to congressman Patrick Ryan. I also had the opportunity to visit the Smithsonian Air and Space museum which was amazing because of my interest in space as a future career. At the end of the trip I had my national statesman interview where I had to be interviewed about myself and SkillsUSA. I was able to get through the interview and receive my national statesman pin. WTLI was an amazing trip. I absolutely loved it and I felt like I gained a lot, especially forging a stronger relationship with my team.



Gianna Spartano

Officer-At-Large

Advisor:

Mrs. Petronella

During the beginning of September at my local BOCES I was given an opportunity to speak in front of numerous teachers in our building. I introduced myself as chapter Historian and New York State Officer at Large. I talked about how I was introduced to SkillsUSA, how I have grown from this experience, and I talked about our upcoming trip to Fall Leadership. I showed the teachers the importance of SkillsUSA and how they should present SkillsUSA in their classrooms. Most importantly I showed teachers that getting students ready to compete could be beneficial towards them potentially getting a job in the future. A couple weeks later my chapter and I had two assemblies to get more enrollment in our chapter. What I knew would be difficult is that talking to seniors they were not as interested until you brought up competition because opportunities are not the same as if you were a junior. We talked with the students about our experiences, community service ideas, and about what SkillsUSA does. This information got a lot of students interested and they started asking questions. These assemblies gave us a good idea of what the students were looking for. A couple days later my chapter and I had our first membership meeting. This month's meeting was run by my friend Ava and I. We based this month on workplace skills and focused on communication. We created an activity where we could use communication and learn different things about each other. We talked about our community services project we are focused on this month and try to get volunteers for it. We also answered many different questions involving community service and competitions. Finally, at the end of the month me and my fellow state officers went to WLTl in Washington D.C., to get our national statesman and advocate for SkillsUSA. We visited several memorials including Lincoln, Vietnam, and the Korean war memorial. Another spot we also went to was the White House which was amazing. We went to the Capitol building where we had a meeting with a representative from Congressman Williams' office. We talked about Perkins funding and advocated for Career Technical Education. Following our meeting, we were provided a tour of the capitol. During our training from the National Officers, we learned about career development, the career model, and working on our framework story's. We visited museums and learned about incredible things I didn't even realize were in Washington. At the end of our trip we ended up passing our interviews and gaining our national statesman. This was an incredible experience that I will never forget.



Rebekah Hodges
Officer-At-Large

Advisor:
Mrs. Bitzer

This past September, I was given a chance to go to Washington to advocate for SkillsUSA and Career and Technical Education. Washington, D.C. was amazing in itself especially since I have never been there. Just the views and the monuments and all the history that lies in one area is amazing. It makes you see how amazing and super incredible leaders impact our world. Thanks to SkillsUSA, we get to have a chance to learn leadership skills and bring those out into our everyday lives. During WLTl we learn a lot about advocating for the opportunities we get through SkillsUSA and Career and Technical Education. We learned the importance of advocating to different groups of people as well as being authentic in our story, and making them personal to really make an impact and difference through our advocating. After learning and going through lessons we had a chance to speak with our congressman or representative of New York State in our area to advocate for SkillsUSA and Career and Technical Education. My team got to speak with an assistant of Darien Harbeck and it was amazing getting to voice and speak about something I love so much. Overall this trip was amazing and very important to my growth.



Kayla Flores
Officer-At-Large

Advisor:
Mrs. Bissing

During September I attended the WLTl conference in Washington. During the conference, we learned how to advocate and use our leadership skills to advocate for CTE programs by talking to our congressman about the Perkins Grant. We also learned how to improve our framework stories, and how to use the POWERR formula. After all that work, we were able to enjoy ourselves by going on multiple tours. That was also a learning experience, we were able to learn the history about historical monuments in Washington DC. We were also able to get a jumpstart on our fall leadership conference by talking to our group members that are in our room. We made a plan for the activities and schedule in our rooms to be prepared. WLTl was a very educational trip and I very much enjoyed it. We ended the conference by earning our National Statesman pin. In my local chapter we were able to reach out to our members and we're going to have our first SkillsUSA meeting at the beginning of October in our local chapter in Orange Ulster BOCES.
