Hello!! I hope everyone is doing well! Our New York State SkillsUSA team has been very busy this month. Between our last couple Leverage Trainings and Summer Leadership! Although not everyone could be in person at our Summer Leadership we still made it work with zoom meetings for those who could not be there physically. We all arrived in Syracuse on Monday August 3, Monday we went over safety protocols along with professionalism training led by our advisors. On Tuesday for most of the day we all presented our own team building activities, everyone was to have three ready to present. Whether it was online presented or in person presented I believe our team did a very good job coming up with all the activities that were brought and also presented very well. Tuesday night we worked on our Opening Ceremony parts until they were nailed!! Our last and final day was Wednesday where we figured out what activities we were going to use for our Fall Leadership and what activities were going to be used for New York State SkillsUSA week. Although both are unfortunately going to be online virtually I still believe our team is going to nail it!! We also had our last two Zoom meetings for Leverage Training 2020. We officially have all completed Leverage Training 2020, with our last meeting hosted on Thursday August 17 at 6:30pm. Next on our list for projects is our video we are creating for our Fall Leadership. We all have to video our parts of the opening ceremony along with the activities we are assigned to eventually put a Fall Leadership 2020 video together. I hope everyone is doing well and safe!

For the month of August I got the pleasure to go to Syracuse for our conference. I was so excited to go and I got the pleasure to meet Riley, Matthew, Anna, Jensyn, Alayana. We had a lot of fun but we were sad due to our other peers not being able to come. We did our team building activities and it was very fun because we got to interact with our whole team in person and virtually. We practiced our opening speeches which helped us learn our parts more. I am very excited for Fall Leadership but sad that I won’t be able to be with my team. But we will make it an amazing time!! Sadly we had our last Leverage training. I had a great time at those meetings and learned new information which will help me in the future as a leader and as an officer for SkillsUSA. Hopefully I get to meet everyone in person for that is my wish!! My goal is to better say the pledge for Skills and for that I will practice every day till I get it right!! Hopefully the pandemic comes to a stop so I can be reunited with my whole team and experience more amazing memories with my amazing team!! I would like to thank our trainer for taking the time to grow us better as leaders by teaching us important skills and lessons to improve in life and as an officer!!
### Reporter:
**Jensyn Milliron**

During the month of August 2020 as a SkillsUSA officer, we had to complete a module on leverage 2020. Then afterwards we joined a zoom call to discuss the module and what we learned and then discussed the closing of our leverage training. We talked about what we learned most during leverage and how we’ve grown as officers.

We also attended summer leadership. Six officers and their advisors were able to attend in person and the other six joined us for each of our sessions on Zoom. We all came prepared to lead 3 Framework activities to the rest of the group which we could potentially use for Fall Leadership. Officers on Zoom lead activities that the whole group could participate in. Some of the in-person activities involved everyone, and others required the Zoomers to watch and make suggestions or recommendations. We also practiced our Opening Ceremony and helped Mrs. Steves re-write the ceremony to fit the needs of the pandemic. I also took a lot of pictures as the Reporter to be posted on the NYS SkillsUSA website and Facebook page.

I am excited about starting up school and being able to show the skills I have learned through Leverage and Summer Leadership to my class and my school.

### Treasurer:
**Leslie Patino**

**No Report Submitted**

### Parliamentarian:
**Benjamin Majao**

Hello everyone! This month was quite eventful, we started out with our summer leadership conference in which we created a well-developed plan for our fall leadership conference. We held the conference from the third to the fifth where we brainstormed approaches on how to still host a fall leadership during this difficult time. This really challenged us and helped us unite as a team to decide which approach we wanted to take. After fall leadership was over I felt very proud of what the team and I had accomplished and can’t wait for what’s to come for us. We then had the remainder of our leverage training to finish up in which we learned the value of facilitation skills and how to properly use them when facilitating. The facilitation unit quite honestly showed me some new tactics on how to better facilitate smaller or larger groups and to take into consideration the audience and the environment. Then we wrapped it all up by reviewing everything we’ve learned from the leverage training, my personal favorites were the four pillars, the value of high quality communication and the proper facilitation procedures and skills. These all helped me better understand what it takes to serve as a SkillsUSA officer but also prepare me in my endeavors in life but also in the SkillsUSA family. With school starting up soon my school (Glens Falls High school) has multiple options to suit everyone’s needs. They have a hybrid schedule in which you can go a few days and they also include an option for all virtual classes. I chose the hybrid schedule because I’m just more of an in person learner, this entails two days of in school learning and two days of virtual learning. For my CTE program they’ve opted for an every other day schedule or virtual learning if you choose to do so. So one week I’ll have three days of CTE and then the following week I’ll have two days of CTE and then we will have virtual assignments to follow these days. Overall I think schools and CTE schools have done an amazing job at creating flexible schedules for families to choose for whatever fits their needs. That’s all I have for this month, thank you!
**Historian:**
Kaitlynn Chapman

This month was definitely an interesting one, we had to learn how to all get into the many zooms that were held for the summer leadership, with this pandemic still rising and falling, only a few officers were able to attend summer leadership in person, while we all wish we could have been there, it was still an amazing experience just being able to have the advisors supporting us the whole way, even though we weren’t all together, it made us all closer, we were able to communicate and use each other’s ideas to form a great plan for the upcoming fall leadership and skills week. We had a lot of fun just figuring things out about our teammates. I learned a lot about my team and just SkillsUSA in general. We are also finishing up our E-Modules and we will soon go back to school, either in school or virtual, we will work our hardest to make sure every individual involved with SkillsUSA can get the most out of the experience of being part of this amazing organization.

**Officer At Large:**
Lauren Sulaiman

Hello everyone! For the month of August, the officer team and I participated in our Summer Leadership training, which consisted of three days packed with material that will help us for the remainder of our service. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the officers and advisors who could not physically attend the training, were given the opportunity to participate virtually through the Zoom platform. For the first day, we were welcomed and introduced to the health/safety rules that were required due to the pandemic. Those who were physically there had to follow the rules at all times, and those who were following along through Zoom, were expected to be doing the same whenever it was necessary. The officers were then reminded of our duties and responsibilities, which included being on time to meetings, wearing the proper attire, and how to present yourself in front of an audience. After that discussion, we did one round of speeches, where the officers presented their pre-made speech that highlighted their individual stories and passions. This allowed us to all have a better understanding of one another and would be helpful when working as a team. After dinner, we had another meeting which included a second round of speeches, this time we focused on projecting our voice and reading at a balanced pace. We then entered our professionalism workshop which was hosted by the advisors. Each advisor presented a topic that centered on the element of professionalism such as, how to compose an email, juggling responsibilities, and online etiquette. This workshop was extremely beneficial to not only our time as state officers, but also through our school and work life. Before ending day one, we did a few read-throughs of the Opening Ceremony, just so the officers would know what to expect. The following day, we had a plethora of activities planned. We started off by hearing some of the activities that officer had in mind for our Fall Leadership Conference. Due to the pandemic, the idea of hosting a conference this year was not guaranteed, but we still wanted SkillsUSA officers statewide to have as much of the experience as possible. So each officer discussed their ideas, and we narrowed it down to about twelve activities in total. It was surprising how well this section of the meeting went because all of the officers were organized, prepared, and had something to share during the discussion. Furthermore, after Mr. Fernandez, one of our state managers, went over the parliamentary procedures, we concluded day two with a deeper reading of the opening ceremony. This time we made edits to the script in order for all officers to be included. Day three, which was the final day of our Summer Leadership training, consisted of once more rehearsing the opening ceremony. As a team, we read it several times, and each officer made edits to their parts if needed. We included sections that discussed the purpose of the framework, as well and introductions for each officer so our state would have a better understanding of who we are. Moreover, our officer team also reached a milestone in our training. We completed our 2020 Leverage Program! This program allowed us to experience personal and team growth by teaching us techniques or strategies that would be beneficial as state officers. After wrapping up our final two modules, which focused on engaging in high-quality conversations and developing our facilitation skills, we had meetings with our facilitator to go over what we learned. Our final meeting was very memorable because we said our farewells and thanks to our facilitator, who was always passionate and dedicated to SkillsUSA, and believed that it helped prepare our students for a successful future.
Area I Vice President:  
Anna Pokoj  

Advisor:  
Mr. Rozewski

At the beginning of August from the third to the fifth, 6 of the officer team counting myself had the opportunity to meet in person for summer leadership in Syracuse NY. I arrived just in time for our first meeting at 2 pm at the Embassy hotel, I got to meet Paula our secretary, Alayna our president, Matthew the area 2 VP, Riley the area 4 VP, and Jensyn the reporter in person! The rest of our team was online for the duration of the conference. The first item on the agenda was our personal speeches, we took turns introducing ourselves and giving a speech about who we are. I learned a lot about my team from that activity and it brought us closer. The rest of our meeting time on the first day was used for a second round of speeches and starting to practice the opening ceremony as a group. On the second day of the conference, we got to dive into planning for fall leadership which we found out was going to be virtual. Instead of just a 3-day conference fall leadership will now be a month-long virtual conference full of fun activities and learning more about SkillsUSA through videos. Throughout the second day, each person from the team shared activities for us to consider for use in the fall leadership conference. These activities were all very fun and helped to break the ice between us a little more. Mr. Fernandez taught us about the parliamentary procedure that day as well. The team and I got to have some fun teambuilding time and we got to go to the pool which was a nice break from meetings. On the final day of summer leadership, our team figured what activities we wanted to include in fall leadership and also for SkillsUSA week. Each officer got one or more activities to give directions for in our fall leadership videos. Overall, summer leadership was an amazing opportunity, and getting to know my team better was a blessing. On August 20th we had our final Leverage training with our wonderful facilitator Bri. I feel as though I learned so much more on my responsibilities as an officer and Leverage taught me many new tools such as the POWERR formula, how to have a meaningful conversation, how to effectively facilitate, the pillars of leadership, and that we all contribute something different to the team. I am very excited to get back to my CTE program in September, right now my schedule looks like I will be going to LoGuidice for my CTE program on Mon-Tues, Wednesdays are remote learning and on Thurs-Fridays I go to my home school for regular courses. I begin attending my CTE program in person on September 14th. I am hoping for a safe and successful school year for everyone this year.

Area II Vice President:  
Matthew Rosado  

Advisor:  
Mrs. Petronella

This month I had the pleasure of participating in summer leadership in Syracuse New York. While at summer leadership I learned more about my team and how this year will work with the quarantine. One of the things I enjoyed was doing the activities me and the other state officers came up with. Also, during this month the other officers and I completed our leverage training which was a lot of fun and very informative.

Area III Vice President:  
Lauren Reynolds  

Advisor:  
Mr. Zwart

The month of August has been incredibly busy, we had our very first leadership conference for SkillsUSA. While we had some challenges due to the current world situations, the conference was very productive and we accomplished quite a lot during our time together. Although some of our team members could not attend in person, (myself included), we all got to experience what a conference is like and I believe that we all grew closer as a team as a result of this meeting. During the conference we discussed what we are doing for fall leadership, as well as we participated in learning exercises to help us better understand our roles as leaders. We also finished our very last module for Leverage Training and I am so happy with how well our team has done. I can definitely tell that our team loves to learn, and that we all look forward to what this year will be like. I hope that throughout the coming year, we will all be able to get together in person and truly experience everything SkillsUSA has to offer. I am so proud of each of us. I know we have already grown closer together and I can’t wait to see our team turn into a family.
At the beginning of this month I had the opportunity to attend Summer Leadership with my fellow officers. I was lucky in that I along with five other officers got to attend in person while the other six officers attended the conference via zoom. It was so nice to finally meet some of the officers in person, because while we have all been talking over the internet it is just not the same as meeting in person. At the conference we had the opportunity to test out all of the possible team building activities we might use at our Fall Leadership conference this year. We got to practice the opening ceremony and we chose what activities we would be doing. This month we also had the last two zoom meetings to complete the Leverage course we all began in June. I am really glad that we all had the opportunity to go through this course, it not only taught us a lot about leadership and what our roles entail but it also allowed all of us to bond despite our current circumstances. I don’t know about all of you but I will be starting school next week at Orange Ulster BOCES. Currently I am only going every other day, but I am excited for the day that everything gets back to normal.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continues to force us to adapt to the conditions of our current reality. Despite this, SkillsUSA as a whole is continuing to stay true to its framework and should serve as an inspiration to other organizations who have been forced to survive under the same conditions. The most notable events of the past month are the conclusion of both Summer Leadership and Leverage Training. Although Leverage Training was held online instead of in person, I feel that it was either just as, if not even more, helpful than in years past. This is because all the key takeaways that State Officers are supposed to gain from Leverage Training were still presented in a way that was interesting and entertaining. For example, the bonding of the State Officer team was developed by activities that required teamwork such as “Guess that Song” among others. These games served as excellent examples for activities that could be utilized during this year’s rapidly approaching Fall Leadership. To coincide with the bonding, multiple key pieces of advice were provided during the multiple sessions. One of my favorites being “Leadership requires listening skills even more so than speaking skills.” Another event that occurred during this month was Summer Leadership which also looked somewhat different this year. Due to the separate regions of New York State being in different phases of reopening, only some of the State Officers were able to attend in-person. This was just another challenge that had to be faced by our team, and it was overcome beautifully. Similar to Leverage Training, Summer Leadership proved to be just as effective despite its altered setting. This time was used to both supplement our Leverage Training, and to begin to plan out the basics of what Fall Leadership will look like this year. All of the State Officers went around and shared, as well as demonstrated, several activities that could be utilized during this year’s Fall Leadership. Despite Covid-19 still being on the forefront of all of our minds, we are learning how to live with it while still remaining safe and healthy. Personally, I believe that schools nationwide should take a look at how SkillsUSA is handling it. This is because sessions such as Summer Leadership could be very easily adapted to better suit a school’s need of a reopening model.