SkillsUSA State Officer Report - March 2020

Team Managers: John Fernandez & Brandilyn Steves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President:</th>
<th>Advisor:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aidan Enders</td>
<td>Ms. Toy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March has been a month of ups and downs, not only for SkillsUSA New York but for society. A pandemic that started as a morning news story on the other side of the world has made its way to our front door and consumed our lives. SkillsUSA New York made the difficult decision to cancel our state conference and several regional conferences. The national office just released that NLSC 2020 will not take place. Although the crown jewels of our year have been cancelled there is work that still must be carried on. We will find a way to elect State Officers for 2020-2021. It is during this challenging time that all members of SkillsUSA New York must be leaders in their hometowns and communities to face these troubled times. I have no doubt that SkillsUSA New York will recover from this pandemic stronger than ever. I share great sadness with our seniors who won’t get that chance to compete their senior year. It is my hope that members will still remember all they’ve learned and all the opportunities SkillsUSA New York has given them positively. SkillsUSA prepares our members for the real world and the challenges it presents to us. Now is a perfect time to show the world how SkillsUSA prepares our members to be leaders in not only the workforce, but in society. I encourage our members to go forth into society and do your part to save the world one step at a time no matter your trade or no matter how small. One haircut, one oil change, one patient, one meal, or one building at a time. When the dust settles the members of SkillsUSA New York will be standing ready to serve as the leaders they have become. A favorite quote of mine reminds me of this time and I hope it will motivate our members, “We will not go quietly into the night”. It’s now clear that we will not reconvene as a state again this school year. I wish all members the best of luck in whichever path they choose from here.

Sincerely,
Your President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretary:</th>
<th>Advisor:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miguel Connell</td>
<td>Ms. Torborg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Orange-Ulster BOCES was only in session for two weeks before being closed due to the virus. During this time, the chapter was focused on details of our events and revisiting our SMART goals for the Chapter of Excellence application. We were also preparing for our regional competition originally scheduled for March 12th. The Area 4 Vice President, Giovanni Schovel, and I were putting together a list of activities to do with the delegates after the elections. Now that the school is closed, OUBOCES has moved their curriculum online while the college has extended their spring break to develop a plan. I spend my days accomplishing my homework, updating fellow classmates or cadets, reading, and working out. I am grateful for all those still reaching out to friends and that I was able to see my fellow state officers using Zoom. Thanks again to the state board of directors for their time and effort in working things out. This season will soon pass!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporter</th>
<th>Advisor:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olivia DeVoe</td>
<td>Mrs. Fiorenza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the month of March, my chapter has been preparing their competitions for states. It was very unsettling to hear about our state competition being canceled, however my chapter is very excited for next year. This past month, the state officers along with Mrs. Steves and Mr. Fernandez joined a video conference through Zoom. Seeing my team was bittersweet, knowing we won’t get a proper goodbye as we planned. Thank you to the board and staff for the support you have gave us this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Advisor:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Brooks</td>
<td>Mr. Zwart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The month of March has been an interesting one to say the least. Between Coronavirus and cancelations, this month has been full of hard times. It’s sad that our regional and state competitions have been cancelled, as well as Nationals now, but it will better benefit the health and safety of the upcoming officers and competitors of SkillsUSA. That being said, it’s a sad thing to hear that we can’t see each other at either of our upcoming conferences. SkillsUSA has opened my eyes to many different aspects of the workplace. Such as skills that are required to succeed and even excel; said aspects being categorized into Personal, Workplace, and Technical Skills Grounded in Academics. This experience has also led me to go outside of my comfort zone and try something new. I never would’ve been the person I am today and will be without SkillsUSA. But most importantly to me, SkillsUSA has introduced me to an amazing group of people who I can gladly call my 2nd family. It’s times like these that cause me to take a second and be thankful for the experiences that I have been given in life. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work, and dedication to this past year of SkillsUSA, especially to the advisors and staff. Without you all, the rest of the officers and myself would not know what SkillsUSA was, and would never have even met. So from the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parliamentarian</th>
<th>Advisor:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassandra Mergel</td>
<td>Mrs. Richardson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the month of March,

Over the course of the month I was preparing for regionals and states I was so excited! But then we all found out that they were sadly cancelled due to the coronavirus. I am now getting used to online schooling which is very hard. Not running on a time schedule is very stressful although working from home is also kind of fun. Toward the end of the month us state officers and state officer managers decided to hold a team meeting. We talked about a lot like how we were all devastated about the way everything is being affected. We also just caught up with everyone also. I am so happy to have this state officer team!!
Historian
Luke Stell

In the month of March, Area 2 had just wrapped up a very successful regional conference. Mathew Rossado was elected to be our 2020 to 2021 Area 2 Vice President. We also gave out awards to very eager contestants who had competed in various competitions. Being able to see just how excited our members were really made my day. Everyone ended up dancing before the award ceremony, people were genuinely happy to be at our conference that we all worked very hard for. Mr. John Stratton won the advisor of the year, being my autotech teacher I was glad to announce it. O-H-M BOCES was actively working on preparing for the State conference at our school. We then were informed that the State Conference was cancelled. With regards to COVID-19, I honestly can’t express how I feel about the state competition being cancelled. I completely understand why, it was for the safety of our members. I am very proud to have been a state officer this year, so many amazing memories have been made with everybody. My school closed 2 weeks ago, so I keep up on my Auto Technology class work, as well as, my other home school class work on line currently. I hope all is well.

Area I Vice President
Andrea Toponak

March has been an unusual month. To help prevent the spread of the Covid 19 virus, our schools have all close, or gone online. Because of the closure of our Boces, we were able to donate some personal protective equipment to local medical staff. Area 1 was lucky enough to host our regional competition before events were canceled. It went really well and I’m so proud of all the candidates who ran, especially Anna Pokoj, the new Vice President. One of the biggest ways the Covid 19 outbreak has impacted me was the cancellation of this year’s annual SkillsUSA New York Competition. While I’m heartbroken that I won’t be able to see our state officer team, the managers, Mr. Potter and everyone else, I respect the decision to cancel it. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy as we get through this together.

Area II Vice President
Mellissa Locke

Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, Broome-Tioga BOCES closed on March 14th. We got the official word the following day that our State Conference, which was scheduled for late April, is cancelled. Although this is very sad and unfortunate, it is in our best interest to keep all of our students safe and healthy. A lot of our CTE teachers have been sending some work home for students during the shutdown. The tentative date for us to return to school is April 14th. I have also been keeping in touch with the other state officers. We recently did a conference video call to update each other on how we’re doing and what’s been going on. It was good to see them all again! I hope everyone stays safe and I look forward to getting back to my senior year!
Area III Vice President
Hannah McFarren

For the month of March, in the beginning I had been helping Lauren Reignholds one of our officer candidates with her speech and just helping her and being there for her in any way needed. Since the Southern Adirondack Education Center had been closed for now things haven’t been going as planned as far as SkillsUSA is concerned. It has definitely been quite the adjustment switching to online classes but I’ve been on track so far. I miss the team and hopefully will be able to see everyone soon enough.

Area IV Vice President
Giovanni Schovel

Area 4:
• All Area 4 schools are working toward completing Documentation for Chapter Excellence Program!
Ulster BOCES:
• All members have been added to the SkillsUSA database
• Members have been registered for Regionals and States.
• Executing fundraising for regionals and states (DoubleGood, Country Meats, Flower Power, and Sponsors)
• Completed Chapter Excellence Program (Level 1) documentation
• Continuing to assist at the Kingston Food Pantry

Area V Vice President
Ritika Talwar

As you all know, the world is going through a global pandemic at the moment which has not only widely impacted our extracurriculars but our daily lives. The area V competition was supposed to be held on March 21, 2020 but was canceled due to the spread of COVID-19. All the members were very heart broken to hear that state’s competition that we all worked really hard for had been canceled. I’m devastated to see that I won’t be seeing my SkillsUSA family one more time and get a chance to say goodbye. At this time, I understand that safety of our members and staff is SkillsUSA’s first priority and I hope whatever we worked so hard for, pays off one way or the other. As a senior, I am sad that I might not even get to walk off the stage after 12 years of hard work, but I’m keeping my hopes high for every one.
Lastly, I want to thank and appreciate all the advisors, my fellow state officers, Mr. Potter and all of SkillsUSA New York to make this year one of the best years of my life. I reminisce all the memories we made together throughout this whole year. I hope we see each other one more time down the roads of our lives. I hope everyone stays safe and positive!

Area VI Vice President
John O'Meara

On March 11th, I was interviewed as one of the winners of the George Farber Outstanding Student award. On March 12th, Ms. Scicolone, Ms. Thalia, and myself did a radio interview for SkillsUSA. It went well and the program is airing in two parts on April 4th and April 11th at 10:30AM. I’m very sad that I will not be seeing all of you for states. I was looking forward to our last conference together. Miss you all! Stay safe and healthy!