



## Officer/Position

## Report for the Month of: April, 2025



**Abriana Briggs**  
**President**

Advisor:  
Mrs. Petronella

As I submit my final officer report as President of SkillsUSA New York, I am profoundly grateful for all we have accomplished together in the past year. It has been a year of achievements, challenges, and accomplishment that attests to the strength and commitment of our SkillsUSA community across the state. Just recently, we gathered together at the 2025 New York State Leadership and Skills Conference in Syracuse, New York. It was an incredibly inspiring experience. Over 3,000 students, advisors, and industry partners came together to compete, network, and celebrate career and technical achievement. Our students showcase their skills in a range of skilled and leadership contests, demonstrating the best of what SkillsUSA has to offer. As my time comes to an end, I would like to extend my appreciation to our entire officer team, our diligent advisors, and all SkillsUSA New York members. You have made this year unforgettable. You have taught me leadership, service, and resilience in guiding this organization, lessons which I will never forget throughout my life. Thank you for the privilege to serve you this year. It has been a privilege.



**Amira Saleh**  
**Secretary**

Advisor:  
Mrs. Blackman

This year, SkillsUSA has been nothing short of transformative. Although I am no longer at my original BOCES school, the impact and influence I've been able to carry forward have been incredibly meaningful. Serving as the New York State SkillsUSA Secretary throughout the year has allowed me to connect with so many individuals—engaging in thoughtful conversations, forming meaningful friendships, and helping others grow alongside me. These are connections I truly hope will last a lifetime.

This month, one of my biggest priorities was ensuring that every student attending the State Conference was well-prepared and equipped with everything they needed to succeed. I'm proud to share that I encouraged four of my friends to give competing a try, and three of them participated in the Health Knowledge Bowl—bringing home GOLD! Watching them succeed after believing in their potential from the start was a moment of pure joy. Another close friend of mine may not have medaled, but walked away with an unforgettable experience, and I couldn't be more proud of her. Our school also celebrated a SILVER medal finalist in the welding competition. His project was one of the most impressive I saw at the conference, and I'm genuinely thrilled that his hard work was recognized. My personal responsibilities during the conference included leading the Opening Session, Delegate Session, and Closing Session. I was especially excited for the Opening Session, and I believe my fellow state officers and I delivered an amazing performance. We practiced tirelessly, and all that preparation helped me feel confident and proud of our work.

The Delegate Session was another highlight—seeing so many familiar faces from Fall Leadership in November was incredibly special. A few of the newly appointed state officers even came from my very own officer room, "Lightning McQueen"—Kachow! I couldn't be prouder of where everyone has ended up, and I'm so excited to see where their journeys lead next. The Closing Session was, without a doubt, the most memorable part of the entire experience. Handing out medals and witnessing the pure joy on everyone's faces was something I'll never forget. Seeing my closest friends walk across that stage was one of the happiest moments of my life. I am beyond grateful for everything SkillsUSA has given me—the growth, the memories, and the people. I can't wait to see how we all continue to grow together as a team and as an organization.



**Angelina Rodriguez**  
**Parliamentarian**

Advisor:  
Mrs. Brissing

This month at Orange-Ulster BOCES we had four meetings, two in the AM session and two in the PM session. These meetings gave competitors information about states, as well as voting on scholarships. I also attended the SkillsUSA State Conference in Syracuse, New York as my last time as the NYS SkillsUSA Parliamentarian. I helped run the delegate session as well as lead an activity with our Historian, Charlie Stidd, for the delegates. The officers and I also ran the opening and closing ceremony and awarded the NYS SkillsUSA champions, as some (those who won first place) will be headed to Atlanta, Georgia to compete in their trade field. As my time as a state officer comes to an end. I can say with confidence that SkillsUSA is a one of a kind organization. It has truly been an amazing experience, and it's helped me grow as a person and leader and I can't wait to see what else I can do in the organization.



**Abigayle Wright**  
**Treasurer**

Advisor:  
Mr. Rozewski

Over the past month, the state officer team and I traveled to Syracuse, NY for our state conference, which was our biggest one to date. During this trip, we had the incredible honor of running the House of Delegates session, guiding the delegates through the process of electing the next state officer team. It was a bittersweet experience, knowing it would be the last time we would stand together as a team. This past year has been filled with so many amazing moments and memories. I did not just make new friends; I found a family. I have had the incredible opportunity to learn and grow so much, both as a leader and as a person. As my time as a NYS SkillsUSA State Officer comes to an end, I leave with a heart overflowing with gratitude, love, and memories that will stay with me for a lifetime.



**Payal Gajmer**  
**Reporter**

Advisor:  
Mrs. Probst

As my journey as a state officer comes to an end I am very grateful for all the memories and leadership skills I have learned from SkillsUSA. I would like to thank the state director Mrs. Midge McClosky, Mrs. Fiorenza, Mrs. Petronella and Chef Zwart. Who helps the officer team and encourages us to live up to our full potential. For the month of April, we had our last conference as state officers which was held in Syracuse. The conference went really well, it was hard to say goodbye to all the officers since we were more than team members. We were one big family, as we had laughed together, encouraged each other and at the end we also cried together. I am very thankful for the officer team, I am also very excited to welcome the new Officer team of SkillsUSA 2025-2026. I wish them good luck and I hope they will represent SkillsUSA with their full potential. As for my local chapter, we received a gold chapter of distinction and we also got a model of excellence which was very exciting. From my chapter there are 10 students who are going to nationals, there are students going from plumbing, dental, state officer, Teamworks and action skills basic. I am very happy for them and I wish them good luck. To celebrate our chapter at the end of the year we are planning to go to Seabreeze, which I am looking forward to. I would like to give a big thank you to my dental teacher and advisor Mrs Probst and also Mr Payne for being a great mentor to me and Savannah. And for being like a second parent to us. I will miss every single moment I have spent with them listening to Mr Payne dad jokes to Mrs Probst always motivating me and being always there for me. Once again I would like to thank SkillsUSA for everything.



**Savannah Wehner**  
**Area I VP**

Advisor:  
Mr. Payne

SkillsUSA New York came together for the States and the New York State fairgrounds in Syracuse. The state officer team was in charge of running a delegate session where 22 candidates ran for an officer position for the 2025-2026 upcoming year. The house of delegates were in charge of selecting 10 candidates to fill the officer positions and it was a success. Other SkillsUSA members who participated in the numerous competitions representing their skills did an outstanding job. Congratulations to all the competitors and their hard work. My time as your 2024-2025 New York State SkillsUSA Area 1 Vice President was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. I couldn't have asked for a better state officer team and advisors. SkillsUSA left me with many new friendships and a family. I will forever cherish each moment and memory made with these incredible people. I want to wish the new incoming State Officers good luck on their new journey and to ignite your potential.



**Matthew Byrne**  
**Area II VP**

Advisor:  
Mrs. Harke

This is my last report as a NYS SkillsUSA officer, and I have very mixed emotions. The past year has kept me very busy, and I'm looking forward to moving on to the next chapter of my life.. But while I'm looking forward to that, I will say that I wouldn't trade the opportunity of being a state officer for anything. I have learned so much from being in this role, and I have had experiences that I never would have had otherwise. I am so grateful to Mrs. McCloskey, Mrs. Fiorenza, Mrs. Petronella, and Mr. Zwart, as well as my fellow state officers, Mrs. Hardke, and the other state officer advisors. These people have made a real difference in my life.

I would like to use this report as a chance to list some of things I have learned this year: 1 - Being a leader in a group of leaders is not easy. I quickly learned that we all had ideas that we thought were great, and I had to learn how to accept and respect other ideas. I also learned that just because someone didn't like my ideas didn't mean they didn't like me. But if they didn't like me, I had to accept that and not get too upset about it, and I still had to stay respectful. 2 - I come from a small, rural community without a lot of diversity. My role as a Skills advisor gave me the chance to interact with people who are different from me. I learned how important it is to respect these differences, but also that we have more things in common that we realize! 3 - I am learning how important it is to honor my commitments, because if I don't follow through, I will let people down and disappoint them. 4 - I have experienced "highs" and "lows" during my time as an officer. I know this is something that I will experience throughout my life, and Skills has taught me how to handle this. I need to learn from my lows, and during my highs, I need to remember to not get overconfident and to stay humble and kind. Now that my term as a NYS Skills officer is almost over, I want to say that I will never forget all the opportunities given to me, the personal growth that happened this past year, and the people who made it all possible. Thank you all so much!



**Charity Lupo**  
**Area III VP**  
Advisor:  
Mrs. Citro

Moving into the beginning of the month of April we had prepared ourselves for the state competitions. We helped several competitors in their preparations while also preparing ourselves by practicing our speeches and working out any kinks before the delegate session. During the state competition, we had run through all the campaigns and asked them their problematic questions while also listening to their speeches. The state officers and I had prepared ourselves for the stage and handed out awards to all participants who deserve them. Overall, this was my last SkillsUSA activity. It was an honor to be your New York State area three Skills USA vice president. I wish the new SkillsUSA officers the best of luck in their endeavors.



**Bryce Buntyn**  
**Area IV VP**  
Advisor:  
Ms. Dickerson

Unfortunately I missed the states trip due to some family issues. I hope everyone had a great time on our final trip. While I was away, Ulster BOCES sent a ton of students to compete and to be delegates at the states. I hope our school did well and showed what Ulster Boces can do.





**Darshveer Singh**  
**Area V VP**  
 Advisor:  
 Ms. Olfana

April was a month full of celebration, hard work, and bittersweet reflection. We began with our Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th, a fun event that brought together children and families from the community. Through games, snacks, and activities, we created a joyful day while sharing the importance of the trades and our SkillsUSA mission. Throughout the rest of the month, we saw the culmination of eight months of dedication from every chapter member. From late nights spent building engineering projects to early mornings selling coffee to teachers to raise funds, every effort came together at the New York State SkillsUSA Conference. Recognizing this as a rebuilding year, we entered a larger number of sophomores and juniors into competitions, setting a strong foundation for the years ahead. Despite the changes, our chapter found remarkable success: 49 competitors brought home 23 medals across 8 contests, including 16 golds in 4 contests. Beyond the awards, this conference was a learning experience for all of us. Students explored trades not available at our school, made friendships across the state, and found the courage to step outside their comfort zones. As a state officer, I had the honor of helping to run the delegate session to elect the 2025–2026 New York State officer team. I am proud of all the new officers and excited to see what they accomplish. As this conference marked the final one for the 2024–2025 officers, it was a bittersweet goodbye. However, we are already looking ahead: officer applications for our chapter will open at our next general meeting, and we look forward to welcoming new leaders who will continue to move our chapter forward. To everyone reading this, thank you. It is your participation—whether competing, volunteering, or advising—that makes SkillsUSA so special. To the underclassmen, I hope this experience inspires you to aim even higher next year, and to the seniors, I wish you nothing but success in the journeys ahead. That's all for this month. For the last time, good morning, good afternoon, or good evening, New York State SkillsUSA.



**Toryn Snyder**  
**Office At Large**  
Advisor:  
Mrs. Petronella

I don't know where to start, it has been an amazing year as a State Officer. I have had so many fun memories and made a new family along the way. I can't thank the advisors enough for all of their unwavering support and help throughout the year, also being there for you if you need them. Also I cannot express the joy and love I have for the rest of the state officers, they are amazing and were always there for anyone who needed help. I am truly going to miss hanging out with them and playing games with them. States was amazing even though I cried like a little baby, I had a blast hanging out with the state officers and enjoying our last time being officers together. I know the new State Officers will do a great job as officers. I thank you all for listening to me talk throughout the year. I'm Toryn Snyder and for the last time I'm your New York State Officer at Large Community Service.



**Nolan Wall**  
**Office At Large**  
Advisor:  
Mr. Ferris

In April we had the state conference for everyone. At this conference my home school got two third places, which I am very proud of. Now that the state is over, my duties as a state officer are done and I wanted to reflect on that time. I wanted to say thank you to my friends and family for supporting me through everything and making me who I am right now. I would like to say thank you to all of the officers who made being an officer so much fun. I loved getting to spend time with all of them. Thank you to my amazing advisor Mr. Ferris who has challenged me to be the best version of myself. Finally thank you to Chef Z and Mrs. P for allowing me the opportunity to be a state officer and spread as much joy and knowledge as I can. To the new state officers I hope you have fun and learn everything you can.