

# SkillsUSA Florida Newsletter

## September, 2013



## Meet your 2013-2014 SkillsUSA Florida State Officer Team!

## Stay Connected!



Follow us on twitter!  
[@SkillsUSAFL](https://twitter.com/SkillsUSAFL)



Like us on Facebook!  
[SkillsUSA Florida](https://www.facebook.com/SkillsUSAFlorida)



Check out our website!  
[www.skillsusafll.org](http://www.skillsusafll.org)

Download our Florida  
SkillsUSA App!

During the 2013 State Leadership and Skills Conference, delegates from around the state elected your 2013-2014 State Officer Team! In this issue, their first newsletter, learn more about each officers and what drives them to commit so much hard work and dedication to SkillsUSA.

In October, look forward to the following events:

**Oct. 26-28**      **State Leadership and Training Workshop (SLTW)**  
STLW is made to train local and regional officers in their training within our state lines! Don't miss out and register today!



Your state officers at SkillsUSA's Washington Leadership Training Workshop

## Ever wonder what it takes to be a Florida State Officer? Meet your 2013-2014 State Officer Team!

John Carta, President  
From Region 3

My name is John Carta, I am 17 and I am a 4<sup>th</sup> year automotive student at Lyman High School in Longwood. I am your 2013-2014 State President. I was born and raised in Florida so I enjoy things like surfing, boating, making sandcastles, and long walks on the beach. I've competed in Extemporaneous Speaking, I have witnessed what the leadership roles in this organization do to directly benefit the students, and that is why I have chosen this route in SkillsUSA, I love what the leadership does for all of us and this is my way of contributing to the organization. With the Skills that I have obtained through this organization I have gained employment in every place I have ever applied, and once I got my feet on the ground I was a positive force in the work place. I have jumped around from career path to career path, and haven't settled on anything, my life is without direction. The beautiful thing about this organization is that it surrounds all of us with other individuals that are so passionate about what they do; they are so immersed in their vocation that it radiates from them. This organization really grants direction to those hard working individuals that are serious about doing something they love, and I am honored to represent all of you.

Anna Santiago, Vice President  
From Region 2

My name is Anna Rosa Elia Santiago. I am Mexican and Vietnamese. I represent region 2 as a freshman at the University of North Florida, majoring in criminal justice. I love to dance, just for fun of course, but recently I have enjoyed doing zumba not as an exercise but just for the dancing portion. As our SkillsUSA year progresses I hope to meet many of you, the members. I am a happy person who is usually cheerful and excited, especially when it comes to SkillsUSA. SkillsUSA has merged to become a big portion of my life. I was region two Vice-President; Chapter Vice-President; State Goodwill Ambassador; I have received both a silver medal for Job Interview at the regional level and bronze at the state level. My hope for you as a SkillsUSA member is that you may grow in your chosen field and as the year progresses. I hope that you will have a wonderful experience as a member. Most importantly, I hope that you will have fun and meet new people. SkillsUSA offers an opportunity for you as the members to grow within your field. Thanks to the leadership roles SkillsUSA has offered me I am now unafraid to go up to someone and introduce myself, I can look at someone directly in the eye and hold a conversation, and I have friends all around Florida. This is who I am, a happy and energetic person. I am Anna Santiago, but I am also SkillsUSA.

# Our Florida State Officer works year-round to ensure every SkillsUSA event is planned to perfection!

Darlenne Helena, Secretary  
From Region 3

My name is Darlenne Helena, I'm 18 years old, and I am a multimedia student at Mid-Florida Tech in Orlando, FL. Though sometimes its easier for me to express my thoughts in English, my first language is Spanish and it is sometimes hard for me to communicate using only one or the other. I was born in Altamonte Springs, but as a baby I moved to the Dominican Re- public with my grandparents. I lived with my grandparents because shortly after my birth my mom became very ill, and so my grandmother offered to watch me until I was old enough to start school. My parents suggested I be enrolled in a ballet academy, and I instantly fell in love. I danced there from ages 3-10, mainly ballet, but jazz, flamenco, lyrical, tap, and took a Pilates class on the weekends to aid in my technique. On top of my year- round performances & commercial shoots, My transition into American school wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. I made friends quickly, and they eventually got used to my accent and my made-up "Spanglish" words. We do not speak of middle school. It never happened. It's an embarrassing moment that lasted 3 years. I will say, however, that during those 3 years I was secretary on the Student Council, and active member of my Junior Beta Club, and I participated in the school production of "Annie". I like to think I did well in high school. For the most part, my grades were good. Unfortunately, my Junior year I had to stop dancing because I was too tired all the time and I didn't have enough time. I became a member of many organizations, including NTHS. I was President of my FBLA chapter for 2 consecutive years, an Open House Ambassador for my school, Chairman of our SkillsUSA Ways & Means committee, and I graduated with High Honors. I also had the honor of being Regional Secretary for region 3, and I was in- spired at that point to run for State Secretary. And now here I am. I am content with all the experiences I've had in my life, as they have molded me into the young lady that I am. I'm a little reserved sometimes, but I love a good joke. I love helping others, I love my dogs, and I look forward to working with all of you. My name tag says I am "Darlenne Helena, State Secretary", and it is oh so very nice to meet you.

Sydney Shea Van Alstyne, Historian  
From Region 6

This is Sydney Shea Van Alstyne, but please call her Shea. She is the 2013- 2014 SkillsUSA Florida state Historian. Born in Boston, Shea grew up in New England and lived in a small town named Duxbury near Plymouth and Cape Cod. Shea has also lived in Kennebunk, Maine and Exeter, New Hampshire. Shea moved to Florida when she was seven years old having spent the last 10 years living in Bradenton, a Gulf coast city about an hour south of Tampa. Shea has been involved with SkillsUSA since her sophomore year at Manatee High School. She competed in Job Interview, won states and went on to compete at Nationals in 2012. Her favorite part of SkillsUSA is "Getting to meet so many interesting people." Shea has competed in many sports including, soccer, swimming, gymnastics, figure skating, lacrosse, cheerleading, and most recently rowing. One of her favorite activities is singing and participates in the Manatee HS Ensemble and Singers groups. She spends her summers in New York and New England visiting family and friends. She loves to travel and has visited Canada, England and many states in the U.S. She also plans on touring Europe either next summer or in college. She works at the Anna Maria Island Publix as a cashier and bakery clerk. Shea is looking forward to this upcoming year and is excited to be serving as your 2013-2014 SkillsUSA Florida State Historian.

# Six of Florida SkillsUSA's state officers represented the state this September at The Washington Leadership and Training Workshop.

John Cuneo, Sergeant-At-Arms  
From Region 2

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is John Cuneo, Florida SkillsUSA State Sergeant-At-Arms and silver medalist at the National Leadership and Skills Conference for Telecommunications Cabling. I was born in Tennessee and raised mostly right here in Florida. I enjoy computers, learning, hanging out with some friends, and a good game of tic-tac-toe. Who doesn't? I have a passion and a mission. My passion is progression, and my mission is to inspire those around me with my passion. Settling for the current situation just isn't part of who I am. I am a man who constantly seeks improvement; improvement in myself, others, and my situation. Where some see a B in a class as mission accomplished, I see a respectable achievement AND room to grow. Life is too short to not do anything with it, but also too long to be content with the minimum. Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Galileo Galilei, Nicolaus Copernicus, Francis Bacon and Michael Servetus; all of these men were Renaissance men, polymaths. They constantly sought improvement and mastery in multiple fields of art and science. Leon Battista Alberti said, "a man can do all things if he will;" and he is right. There are those of us who accept defeat in the face of hardship, or think of failure as a finite circumstance. Then there are those like myself and the great men mentioned above who strive for progress; who do not know the meaning of "failure", only setbacks to learn from. After all, Thomas Edison "failed" a thousand times before successfully crafting a functioning light bulb. Fellow Renaissance men are few and far between, but fortunately many have come to SkillsUSA to hone one or more skills. SkillsUSA, the perfect catalyst for growth and development, is where I turned to enhance myself as a person. Now it is my turn to inspire others to make progress toward their goals in life, and then to exceed those goals. I will show them the levels of success they can achieve, even coming from little old Middleburg High School. Ladies and gentlemen, I am a passionate person. I expect myself to constantly improve in all areas of life, then to aid others improve themselves. I have found that the best way to learn is by teaching others what I have already learned; and if I do not look back to

Ruby Uzzell, Reporter  
From Region 6

To start off, I am a patient person. I have to be. I'm a server at Steak and Shake and every time I say My Name's Ruby I get some person singing Kenny Rodger's "Ruby don't take your love to town" when I never said I was leaving, I just wanted their drink order. But in any case, I'm Ruby Uzzell and I'm going to serve as your 2013-2014 State Reporter. I'm 17, a senior at Bayshore High School, and a sophomore at the State College of Florida. I intend on following a path towards a business major of some sort once I graduate from Bayshore next June. I have lived in Bradenton, FL for the past two years and I've been in Skills ever since. Last year I was Parliamentarian so I'm pretty happy with the switch to my new position as State Reporter. I'm looking forward to capturing our state's greatest moments in the newsletters produced this year. As for fun, I can't swim, but I make a great doggy paddler. My driving is pretty good seeing as I haven't run over any snow birds or ran any red lights. I have the best four month old kitten ever. She not only believes she is a dog and steals my 110 pound Rottweiler's bone, but has traumatized my neighbors into believing that a little black cat is the family pet they should fear. I like a vast majority of music and I enjoy helping people in any way I can. I'm usually pretty quiet, and I like my box when people let me stay within it, but I'm open to a year of fun experiences with you guys and I hope this year goes as well as the last.

# Every Florida state officer that attended WLTJ received the National Statesman Award.

Gianna de Lannoy, Goodwill Ambassador  
From Region 5

My name is Gianna de Lannoy and I will serve as your 2013-2014 Goodwill Ambassador. In order for anyone to truly understand me you must understand my determination to change the world. In life we are all trying to beat the odds, leave a legacy, climb to the top, stand out above the rest. Whether it's from overpowering family members, friends, or school staff, we've all heard it; do not be ordinary. I am ordinary. Quite simply, my entire life is hanging off of one possibility, the possibility that maybe, just maybe, I will change the world. I may be ordinary but give me a camera and I will change the world. That camera was first presented to me during my freshman year in high school when I took Television Production 1, after just 90 minutes in that class, I knew. In the words of Picasso, "My mother said to me, 'If you are a soldier, you will become a general. If you are a monk, you will become the pope.' Instead I was a painter, and became Picasso." Well I am a journalist and I; I will become Gianna. I knew. Broadcast Journalism was MY secret to changing the world. I spent my high school career taking every opportunity that I was presented with. From directing 2 of the largest community service projects organized by students, to becoming a senior producer, today, I preside as president of Cypress Bay High School's SkillsUSA and Key Club Chapters. This camera has proven to be the secret to breaking barriers within Cypress Bay, within Region 5, and now, with my camera in hand, and with your help, we will break barriers within SkillsUSA Florida. So, as your 2013-2014 Goodwill Ambassador, I say that yes, I am ordinary, in an age where ordinary has become extraordinary.

Kanarius Lovett, Parliamentarian  
From Region 4

Hi, my name is Kanarius Lovett. I am 29 years of age. I am from St. Petersburg, Florida where I was born and raised. I have been involved in SkillsUSA for the last 2 years as a chapter parliamentarian and then as chapter president, which was a very exciting learning experience and continues to be very exciting as we go. Being in SkillsUSA has brought me to a point in my life where I feel I can do anything to get better. The strive I need to keep going. This organization has taught me skills I never had. I have also competed at the regional level as a plumber, and the team build competition, at state level for also the team build competition, and at national levels career pathways business management. I am also a second year plumbers apprentice. Yeah, we get the messy end of the stick but it pays. As a hobby most of the time I'm usually on the court playing basketball. I haven't always traveled down the right road, I haven't always been a positive person but it takes a strong minded person to instill in their minds and change. And SkillsUSA has assisted me in wanting that change. I was always told that I wouldn't make it so I strive for the better. Determination and will is my fuel so I keep on going. Success is my goal and one day I will be there. That's why SkillsUSA isn't just an organization, it's a family of friends that cherish every moment of success. So my goal is to climb the ladder, leave a mark, and make people realize that anyone can do it. Anything is possible. Thank you.

# All of the Florida state officers have received the Florida Statesman Award.

Trey Tibbs, Technology Coordinator  
From Region 1

Hello, my name is Trey Tibbs. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> semester freshman at Pensacola State College studying to earn my Associates Degree in Business and Culinary. I was born and raised in Pensacola, Florida. I explode with passion when it comes to Business and Culinary. Here is why; my passion from culinary stems from working with food. The pure science and art of making pastries and dishes is beautiful and artistic. On the business side I plan to utilize my culinary skills by owning a restaurant. A business degree will help me succeed in any endeavor. I take true delight in serving the public. Their needs and wants are motivations and that's why I choose to work at Pensacola State College. As a student assistant/admissions office clerk I enjoy answering student's questions and directing individuals to specific locations. It gives me a sense of giving back to my community. Finally, for personal enjoyment I love to read, cook, hunt, fish, and shop, play soccer, tennis and do gymnastics.

Pamela Portee, Education Coordinator  
From Region 6

My name is Pamela Portee. I am 19 and I was born in South Carolina. I graduated a Patient Care Technician program in June of 2013 and am currently employed as a PCT at Sarasota Memorial. I plan to continue my education to become a RN, I start class in January. I'm very passionate about the profession that I am in, I love helping others, seeing the positive results of my hard work and making a difference in their lives. My grandmother graduated with her bachelor's degree in nursing and I wanted to follow in her footsteps. I came to realize the importance of healthcare providers when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, striking a cord, this motivated me even more. As a team, I want to help make a difference to other members of SkillsUSA, striking a cord, motivating them to better themselves and make a difference in the lives of others. Joining SkillsUSA is a privilege, taking in as much as possible to better myself personally and professional.



## Thank you!

A note from your state officer  
team:

Make sure you're all preparing for  
regional competitions!

Competitions will be held  
throughout January and February  
with exact dates TBD. We hope to  
meet you all!