Happy 2017, Florida HOSA! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and joyous start to the new year! While January marks the beginning of the new calendar year, your HOSA year continues through June 30th. The State Team and I have been attending your Regional Competitive Event Conferences and are proud to see how dedicated and spirited our members are!

As you may know, the conclusion of Regional Conferences means the State Leadership Conference is just around the corner! From April 6th-9th, over 3,000 members, advisors, and guests will come together at the Marriott Orlando World Center and make history. History? Yes, history! Get ready to join us as Florida HOSA will be celebrating its 40th Annual State Leadership Conference! This hallmark year for our State Association has motivated your State Officers to make sure that this SLC is one that will be memorable for everyone!

To have the best time possible at SLC, I have 3 simple suggestions. First, focus-on and prepare diligently for your competitive event beforehand! Know that whatever the outcome may be, you have positively enhanced your leadership skills in the end. Second, turn any down time at SLC into service time - network with our vendors and sponsors to assist with your personal growth! Lastly, get excited to engage with like-minded members from across our State Association - I challenge you to go beyond just learning their name and school!

Whether this is your first or final State Leadership Conference, get ready to have an un-forty-getable time with Florida HOSA: Future Health Professionals! See you all in April!

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**Camp K: Where Leadership was not a Fantasy, but a Reality!**

At Florida HOSA’s 2016 Fall Leadership Development Academy (FLDA), the leaders chronicled a journey filled with leadership, service, and engagement. The theme of the 2016 FLDA conference was “The Chronicles of Leadership.” We hope that our members obtained new skills through the State Officer Workshops which focused on different aspects of leadership. Throughout the weekend, there were various activities for the members to enjoy such as “Dancing with the State Officers,” the late-night hay ride, and officer skits! After this time together, we hope that all of our members were able to take this knowledge back to their Regions and Chapters to motivate other Florida HOSA members to be leaders in their communities. This was a great opportunity for not only sharpening your leadership skills, but networking with members from across Florida! Knowing how to be a leader means to know how to listen and the best way is learning from other members with similar interests. Some of you even contributed to the Florida HOSA Foundation Scholarship by taking a polaroid picture, shooting some corn-holes, dancing with the State Officers, and wearing the stylish conference t-shirt! We would like to thank everyone that attended our 2016 FLDA conference and made this fantastical weekend a reality! A warm thank you to all the Advisors that joined us for the weekend—we would not be the organization we are today without your constant support and enthusiasm for the future of Florida HOSA. A special thank you to our very own crime fighter Rick Paul, who worked as security. Last, but not least, a huge thank you to the State Office team for making our ideas a reality by helping us plan and organize the 2016 FLDA conference. Now, we cannot wait to see your accomplishments at the State Leadership Conference! We’ll see you at the Marriott Orlando World Center in April!
Hello once again, members of Florida HOSA. As we all know, the annual State Leadership Conference is just around the corner and we are all gearing up for an exciting new year of competitions and events here at Florida HOSA. Along with these events comes the biggest war of all, a Penny War. For those who don’t know the rules of Penny Wars, I will explain. What happens is every region rounds up as many pennies as they can before the SLC. After those are collected, you take them to your nearest bank and get them converted into a check. Next, you take that check to Conference Headquarters before noon by Friday, April 7th. Once the check has been received, that total will be credited to the amount you collect during the State Leadership Conference and the region who collects the most, wins! Remember that you can also throw bills, dimes, nickels, and quarters into your opponents’ bins to lower their total. However, this event is about much more than bragging rights. Every penny earned will be given to this year’s National Service Project, which is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. As Napoleon Hill once said “If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way,” which is exactly the goal of all those little pennies adding up to grand totals. If you still aren’t convinced that you should give as many pennies as possible, just know that last year the total donated was $15,422.38. All that coming from a few pennies is truly doing “small things in a great way.” So, what are you still waiting for? Go out and collect your pennies now!

Greetings again, my Florida HOSA family, and Happy New Year!!

As we commence into the spring semester and graduation time comes near, cost of tuition becomes a growing concern for many of our aspiring healthcare professionals, whether as High School seniors or Postsecondary students. Luckily, Florida HOSA and National HOSA work alongside our members to fundraise throughout the year, therein providing a substantial amount of scholarship opportunities for those eligible. Information on those scholarships can be found at http://www.flhosa.org/resourcespublications/scholarships. The scholarships provided by our state include the Florida HOSA Foundation Scholarship, which is open to any Florida HOSA member who plans to continue on to a Florida postsecondary institution to enroll in a health occupations program. The application for this particular scholarship must be postmarked no later than February 15th. Another scholarship provided by our state is the HOEAF (Health Occupations Educators Association of Florida) Scholarship, which encompasses the same requirements, but also requires the student’s HOSA advisor to be an HOEAF member. The application for this scholarship must be postmarked no later than March 1st. In addition to the foregoing, The National HOSA Scholarship application deadline is April 10th. Upon completion, this application automatically qualifies the student for various other partner scholarships, so apply, as your chances of receiving a scholarship would be more beneficial!

Good luck to all those applying and to those preparing for the State Leadership Conference’s Competitive and Recognition events. I’m excited to be seeing both new and familiar faces in April!
Get Fired-up SLC Competitors!

Picture this: Florida HOSA cheering as the crisp medal is clutched in your palm. You excitedly step onto the platform at 2017’s SLC. Finally, all your sleepless nights of rehearsing repeatedly are finally being rewarded. Everything you’ve worked for with your competitive event has come to this very moment. Your mind flashes back to the nervous feeling in the pit of your stomach as you approached the judges. You can still remember what you were doing when you chose your competitive event for that year. In the crowd you can see your region cheering, your chapter jumping around, and your advisor looking proud as ever. Now back to present time: SLC seems so far from now, but I can assure you - it will be here soon.

Keep up the hard work as you practice your speeches, edit your videos, and memorize your terminology. No matter if it’s bronze, silver, or gold, your hard work has brought you this far and that dedication will continue to grow. The Florida HOSA State Team wishes you the best of luck as you finally cross that finish line and gain the recognition each and every one of you deserve. No matter the points scored, you are all winners in the heart of Florida HOSA!

Hello Florida HOSA Members,

I hope all of you had a great experience at your Winter Leadership Conferences. With the regional conferences behind us, it’s time to prepare for the State Leadership Conference in April.

Every year, many scholarships are given out to the members of Florida HOSA at the SLC. In our efforts to serve you, your State Officers have been conducting fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for the scholarships. At the SLC itself, we will also be doing fundraisers to raise money for the scholarships.

First, we will be playing everyone’s favorite backyard activity; the one and only Cornhole! You can challenge any State Officer to play you in a game of Cornhole for the low price of only $2! If you beat one of us, you will be presented with a signed certificate to prove you de-throned us!

Next, we will be selling Florida HOSA vinyl stickers. If you want to show people how much you love Florida HOSA, you can buy a sticker to put on your laptop, phone, or however you want to use it!

Finally, we will be selling lollipops at Conference Headquarters for the sweet price of $1; make sure to stop by. By purchasing a lollipop, you have a chance at winning a gift card, a HOSA Boutique item, or a free lollipop!

In preparation for the SLC, I urge all of you to bring money to help support the Florida HOSA scholarships. Thank you and good luck preparing for the SLC; we can’t wait to see you all there!

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”
—John F. Kennedy
Dress Code at SLC

With all of the Winter Regional Conferences flying by so quickly, the Florida HOSA State Leadership Conference will be here much faster than we may think! Florida HOSA wishes nothing but an exciting and rewarding experience for each and every member and advisor. With that being said, we must maintain the professionalism that we are known for while making some of our most cherished memories for the year! Throughout the conference, dress code will be strictly enforced. During official functions (such as general meetings), the official HOSA attire must be worn. Official HOSA attire is as follows: a black or navy blue blazer, black or navy blue pants for men, black or navy blue skirt (must be knee length) or slacks for women, a white collared shirt (must be tucked in) and black or navy blue closed-toed shoes. The color of the blazer and the skirt/slacks/pants that one chooses to wear MUST match (navy blue with navy blue & black with black)! Men are required to wear a maroon or navy tie and women may wear the official HOSA bowtie. Dress codes for competitive events can range from scrubs, a polo with khakis to official HOSA attire. This varies depending on the competition so all competitors should refer to their guidelines to find out what they are required to wear for each round of their event and make sure to pack accordingly. An organization is ultimately a representation of the people that make it up so be sure to dress appropriately and be on your best behavior to represent Florida HOSA to the best of your ability! I look forward to seeing you all soon at the State Leadership Conference in Orlando’s beautiful Marriott World Center!

Hebah Khan
State Parliamentarian

SLC 2017 Pin & T-shirt Winning Design

Auriela Carrasco from Robert Morgan Education Center

Congratulations!

This winning artist will be presented with two t-shirts and ten HOSA pins during the Recognition Session at the State Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL. Thank you for your outstanding work!

A huge thank you to all the artists that submitted designs; everyone did a fantastic job!
Region 9 had a very strong start to the new school year, beginning with the Fall Leadership Conference that took place on September 22, 2016 at Jupiter High School. To start things off, we had multiple guest speakers from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to tell the students a little more about HOSA’s National Service Project. One speech from a Region 9 high school student about her own struggle with mental illness moved the crowd to tears. After the incredible stories from NAMI, Irfan Khan, Florida HOSA State Southern Vice-President, PS/C, gave an inspirational speech on HOSA’s 2016-2017 theme, Leadership-Service-Engagement.

After these amazing speeches, it was time to elect the new Region 9 officer team. Region 9 members voted for Co-Presidents Samantha Scott and Joshua Hanlon, Vice President Brenda Gomes, Secretary Rachel Fletcher, Historian Shania Lalmansingh, Parliamentarian Aleck “Scotty” Solomon, and Treasurer Gianna DiBartolo.

Shortly after Region 9’s Fall Leadership Conference was the Fall Leadership Development Academy, which is one of the highlights of the year. Not only did the Region 9 team bond at Camp Kulaqua, but they met other HOSA members from different regions all across the state who had a plethora of ideas to share. Among these great ideas, our regional officers also went to a number of workshops and learned many great tips and skills to take back to their schools and Region 9.

The Region 9 officer team worked very hard in preparation for our Regional Competitions, which took place January 27, 2017 at Keiser University. We were all very excited and could not wait for competitions to take place!
Like us on Facebook!

FLDA 2016!