Change (verb) - to alter, to tamper with, to modify.
Change (noun) - quarters, nickels, dimes, dollars...pennies.

If there is one thing that Florida HOSA knows, it is that change is good in both definitions. Members, the Penny Wars are commencing. Therefore, it is time to begin collecting your artillery. We wage for change to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, HOSA's National Service Project for 2014-2016. At the 2016 State Leadership Conference (SLC), be sure to bring your Ziploc bags, pillow cases, suitcases, or even buses full of pennies and other change to ensure that this year, Florida HOSA goes beyond last year's total of $17,940.48! Checks can be brought to SLC if prior fundraising has been done.

The rules to the war are simple and should be followed carefully:
• Quarters, nickels, dimes, paper money, and of course pennies, are accepted.
• Pennies add 1 point value to your region's jar.
• Silver coins and all denominations of dollar bills deduct their value from a jar's total (ex. A nickel is placed into an opposing region's jar and 5 points are deducted from that region's total. Or a 5 dollar bill is placed in another region's jar to deduct 500 points!)
• The jar with the highest total after deductions (silver coins and paper money) will be declared the winner of Penny Wars.

With that being said, the purpose of Penny Wars is to ignite the support of our National Service Project, so let's make this year inspire forthcoming years! Last year, Region 9 took the first place spot by raising $9,663.77! We encourage you, the members and leaders of Florida HOSA, to innovate new ways of fundraising for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In addition, your chapter could be potentially recognized at the state and national conferences by competing in the National Service Project Recognition Event. Make sure to visit this event’s guidelines posted on the national HOSA website (www.hosa.org).
Hello again, members of Florida HOSA, it’s that time of year again! Even though your fall conferences may have already happened, winter/spring competitive events conferences are not too far behind, meaning that now it is time for our members to, once again, buckle down and prepare for their competitive events. Every year our best and brightest members of HOSA practice their specific events to go head to head with other members and develop useful skills for their future careers. There are a ton of amazing competitive events from which to choose, ranging from Nursing Assistant all the way to Job Seeking Skills. Whether your skill is Parliamentary Procedure or Biomedical Debate, our members must practice hard to be ready for the fierce competition that awaits them. Those who study hard enough and score well at Regional Conferences get to move on to the State Leadership Conference and perform at an even higher level competing against even more members from all across Florida. With enough hard work and determination, though, you can move on to the amazing experience of the National Leadership Conference, where you will get the chance to converse with, and compete against, members from all over the United States! But the only way you can get to experience all of these incredible opportunities is by studying hard and properly getting ready for the intense competition. So students, pay those dues, turn in those papers, and hit those books, so we can make this year our best and put some friendly competition back in our conferences and in our members.

Don’t wait for the perfect moment, take the moment and make it perfect.

—Unknown

BARBARA SANCHEZ - STATE NORTHERN VP, PS/C

We are getting closer and closer to hosting our 2015 Fall Leadership Development Academy (FLDA) at Camp K! Your State Officers and staff have been hard at work planning for this conference. An important part about the conference is fundraising. This year we have great things in store so the members can enjoy their time at camp, as well as aid in raising money for the Florida HOSA Foundation Scholarship. We know you love our fabulous FLDA long sleeve t-shirts! We sincerely appreciate all of you who pre-ordered one; this was the only way to assure you will get one! There will also be just a few extra on sale at the FLDA while supplies last in case you missed the pre-order.

Another classic fundraiser is Dancing with the State Officers. Students, advisors, and guests will be able to dance on stage with the State Officers to a song (or multiple songs)! Each song will be $3 per person, so if you want to dance to two songs, the price would be $6.

Our third fundraiser is new to FLDA this year. You will have an opportunity to take official photos with your State Officer team….and they will be in costume with various props! Each picture will be $2 per person and the only limit is how many people can fit in the picture frame. Please remember to bring some extra cash for these fundraisers. We look forward to welcoming you at Camp K in November!
By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.

- Benjamin Franklin

BRITTNEY JEAN-BAPTISTE - STATE SOUTHERN VP, SEC.

We, the students of the United States of America, are making history, where voices are heard and the impossible is dreamed. The Florida HOSA State Officer Team had the chance to attend HOSA - Future Health Professional’s 9th Annual Washington Leadership Academy. We learned Community connection skills, acknowledged our Accountability as HOSA advocates, practiced skills that insure positive Relationships at all levels, and strived for Excellence with integrity and intellectual curiosity. That’s right, fellow HOSA members, we learned to CARE! Through every workshop and activity, we grew closer to the vision of the future of the health care industry. We were honored to have COL Deydre Teyhen, our keynote speaker, share with state and local leaders, advisors, and guests the importance of health, focusing on sleep, exercise and nutrition to promote the quality of life. We also heard from the esteemed author and educator, Byron Garrett who believed “if the mind can conceive it and the heart can believe it, then the hands can achieve it.” He inspired each HOSA member to blaze new trails as we transform the medical field to new heights. Our time in Washington, D.C. gave us the tools we will need to lead our state. We will care for and serve each HOSA member to the best of our abilities and be mindful of each HOSA members’ heart as we work together for the future of our society. Thank you all for this amazing opportunity and for allowing us to represent Florida HOSA!

MICHAEL RILEY - STATE SOUTHERN VP, PS/C

Hello, Florida HOSA!!! I hope the beginning of the school year has been very informative and amazing so far. With the HOSA year starting off, we must live in the present. However, we must also plan for the future. Since most of you out there are planning on becoming future health professionals, I assume you will be attending some sort of postsecondary institution - for our members in those institutions already, this applies to you as well. Funding for your education is a top priority and that is why we are thrilled to be able to offer you a wide variety of scholarships. The top scholarship Florida HOSA offers is the Florida HOSA Foundation Scholarship. This is a scholarship available to Florida HOSA members only. It is open to seniors in high school or any postsecondary member, who are Florida HOSA members. The Foundation Selection Committee will award multiple scholarships to some of our outstanding members, ranging from $700 - $1,000. For more details and to apply simply go to www.flhosa.org. Under the Resources/Publications tab is the Scholarship Page where you can find out more information and all the forms.

In addition, another scholarship that is available is the Health Occupation Educators Association of Florida (HOEAF). This scholarship is only available to those students whose advisors are affiliated HOEAF members. This form can also be found on the Florida HOSA Scholarship Page. You can also find numerous other non-HOSA scholarship links on the Student Member Resources Page of our website.

The final scholarship I want to discuss is the National HOSA Scholarship. This one application can put you in the running for a wide variety of scholarships offered by National HOSA. Remember to look at each application for individual deadlines; some may be coming up as early as February 2016. So get on the site, do your research and remember to ignite the passion for education, Florida HOSA! I can't wait to see all of you around the state this coming year at our State and Regional Conferences. I wish you all the best of luck with your future endeavors! GO, Florida HOSA!!!
Every year HOSA chapters across the nation designate one week to be HOSA Week; a week to celebrate the rich history of HOSA and spread awareness about the mission of HOSA both in-school and in the community. Traditionally, HOSA Week has been the first full week of November, which this year is from November 1st to November 7th. However, HOSA Week can be celebrated by chapters during any week of their choosing. HOSA Week can have a diverse range of activities - anything from hosting an informative community health fair to having a canned goods drive. The following is a link where many HOSA Week ideas can be found: www.hosa.org/node/122. There is also a national competitive event, HOSA Chapter Reflection, which incorporates HOSA Week. If you visit www.hosa.org and go to the competitive event guidelines found under the Resources tab, you can find the event and a HOSA Week Proclamation. As many of you are aware, HOSA is experiencing a very exciting transition right now by becoming international. The impact of HOSA now has no borders, which should really be expressed when informing the community about HOSA. Informing others about HOSA can be done effectively by sharing your HOSA story; how HOSA has impacted you and those around you. I hope you have an exciting HOSA Week, one that is both engaging and informative!

Vida Volunteer Program Scholarship

Apply for our 2016 HOSA Student Scholarship!
Join us in Central America for an experience of a lifetime!

Vida Volunteer is a humanitarian non-profit organization that provides free basic medical, dental, and veterinary care to needy communities in Central America, while providing volunteers with a hands-on service learning experience.

Vida Volunteer provides services to over 65 underserved communities in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala. Our local bilingual health care professionals and international volunteers partner together with the Ministry of Health to do community outreach.

99% of Vida Volunteers recommend our programs
97% of Volunteers say that Vida’s programs help them DEFINE their career

Vida Volunteer has hosted over 7,000 volunteers from the USA, Canada, and Great Britain since the organization was founded in 2007 and provided care to over 77,000 patients and over 45,000 animal patients.

Vision: Healthier Communities
Mission: To positively impact the quality of life in underserved communities while offering a life changing experience.

Vida Volunteer is not only the best service learning experience, but also the safest. After completion of our program, Volunteers will have had interactive shadowing experiences, hands-on learning experiences, opportunities to define career choices, and cultural immersion experiences. These medical mission experiences allow for self-reflection, personal growth and opportunities to strengthen leadership skills.

Please email Sondra Elizondo at sondra@vidavolunteer.org for scholarship requirements. Please apply at the link below.

HOSA Scholarship 2016
Region 9’s journey into a new successful year began on Friday, October 2, 2015 with our Fall Leadership Conference hosted at Palm Beach Gardens High School. Hundreds of students met to listen to the remarkable story of a lymphoma survivor, Dr. Colon. Her inspirational story served as a great motivation for our Region 9 members to raise even more money for this year’s National Service Project, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). The LLS is a prestigious association dedicated to funding research, finding cures, and ensuring access to treatments for blood cancer patients. Last year, our region raised an outstanding $12,000 for the LLS, more than any other region in the state of Florida. This year, we are excited to try to surpass that amount.

After many inspirational speeches, our Regional Officers were elected and the Regional Officer team was formed. Region 9 is now being represented by; President Hector Sanchez, Vice President Samantha Scott, Secretary Leticia Lenkiu, Treasurer Lily Folds, and Parliamentarian Brenda Gomes. They are looking forward to attending the Florida Leadership Development Academy in November and to start the beginning of an amazing year filled with achievements and new experiences.

Last year, many students from Region 9 were recognized on stage at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California. Nine secondary students were recognized including; 6th place team in HOSA Bowl, Palm Beach Gardens High School; 1st and 3rd place in Life Support Skills, Boca Raton Community High School; 7th in Medical Reading, Jupiter High School; 3rd in Personal Care, Boca Raton Community High School; 3rd in Veterinary Science, Palm Beach Gardens High School; and 4th in Interviewing Skills, West Boca Raton High School. In addition, Region 9 had five postsecondary NLC winners from Keiser University and several Barbara James Service Awards.

We hope to have more students representing Region 9 this year at the National Leadership Conference, as our region is growing significantly. Hopefully that will include some of our middle school students as well, since many of them placed in the top 5 at SLC last spring and they can now compete at the national level!

We look forward to our Regional Competition at Keiser University on February 5, 2016. Good luck to all competitors!