

Alumni Coordinating Committee chair says, 'Thanks, we can't do it without you.'

Every year, since 2008, I set a goal to run a marathon. Last year, injury struck weeks before my fall marathon. I herniated a disk in my back. I ran more than 500 miles training for a race I would never run. To say I felt heartbroken would be an understatement.

After months of physical therapy and time away from the sport I love so much, I am back in my running shoes. With a few spring marathons already under my belt this year, I pause today to share an important lesson learned. The races were awesome! The medals are cherished! The memories will carry with me for a lifetime! But the most important thing I've learned is that sometimes you have to stop running and enjoy your view. I now occasionally pack my iPhone with me on runs to snap a shot of the sunset or sunrise I witness along the trail. Stopping to breathe it all in

reminds me what I'm thankful for and why I run. This year I'm delighted to have finished a few races, but I'm most grateful to be able to put my shoes on and simply know that I'm still running.

With national conference just around the corner, we want to put a few things on your radar. For those who will be joining us for our last year in Kansas City, we have planned a number of events that will provide you with the opportunity to pause and enjoy the view, to remember your own cherished SkillsUSA memories, reacquaint with friends, and snap a picture or two. Use #SkillsUSA50th.

Friends, we are thankful for the work you do for the SkillsUSA organization. And, we're thankful that you're still out there "running" too. We could not do it without you!

— *Bryan Doxford, Executive Chair*



PHOTO: LLOYD WOLF

Mike Rowe will be a featured speaker at the 2014 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Attend sessions, network with industry

Fact or fiction? Alumni can only attend SkillsUSA's national conference if they volunteer to work it. Fiction!

All alumni are invited to attend the National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC). Attend the ceremonies, tour the championships floor and participate in activities just for alumni, such as the Alumni Welcome Reception held at Amigoni Urban Winery, where you can network with business and industry. We also have a fun, casual night out at PowerPlay. You can also attend SkillsUSA University professional sessions, SkillsUSA TECHSPO and the alumni luncheon.

NLSC is a great way to network and reunite with old friends. For details and to register, visit: www.skillsusa.org.

Support alumni, take home a Harley

Friday, June 27, during the Awards Ceremony at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, one lucky winner will take home a custom-painted Harley-Davidson® Dyna Street Bob®. The paint job by Justin Barnes of JB Grafix will feature the SkillsUSA 50th anniversary logo.

Tickets can be purchased online for \$5 each (or five for \$20) plus a \$1 processing charge.



Visit: www.skillsusa.org/events/harley.shtml.

This event is made possible thanks to Harley-Davidson Motor Co. Inc. SkillsUSA alumni are among the beneficiaries of this year's fundraiser.

Regional Updates

Contact regional Alumni Coordinating Committee representatives with alumni news or information from your state. Use the email addresses below or access them through the alumni website: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumni.shtml.



Maria Bender, right, volunteers at the Massachusetts Fall Leadership Conference.

Region 1

Maria Bender

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While alumni have been on board for over 35 years, some never missing a state leadership conference, SkillsUSA **Connecticut** is forming a formal alumni association. Twenty-five alumni judged nine competitions at the **Maine** conference in March. During district conferences in **Massachusetts**, alumni recruited members and put on workshops such as "Life After High School." At the **New Jersey** state conference, alumni served as judges for competitions and site coordinators for competitions.

Region 2

Joey Baker

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Baker attended the SkillsUSA **Georgia** state conference in March, where alumni members facilitated contests and managed registration and ceremonies. During the **Florida** conference, association members recruited for both their alumni association and their executive board. They also focused on Harley-Davidson raffle sales.

Region 3

Loree Hayden

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Alumni served as guest speakers, judges, business and industry representatives, and more at both the SkillsUSA **West Virginia** and **Illinois** conferences.

Region 4

Cody McPherson

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Region 5

Coleen Read

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Region 5 alumni volunteered at their state conferences as courtesy corps representatives, judges, contest chairs, conference coordinators, guest speakers and trainers.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter: SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association Group

Volunteers needed for national conference

SkillsUSA headquarters staff is seeking dedicated individuals to assist with the National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC). Alumni who volunteer daily at the conference may have their conference registration fee waived. See the full online application for details.

Alumni help is needed on the booth team, leadership team, Championships team and special services team. While at conference, alumni volunteers will also have the opportunity to network with partners, members, staff and other alumni, and will get to participate in conference events. This is a great way for alumni members to stay involved and continue the SkillsUSA journey.

This is SkillsUSA's 50th NLSC and our last one in Kansas City. Let's make it great!

The registration deadline to be an alumni volunteer is June 1. Visit: www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumninlsc.shtml

Currently
41,622

SkillsUSA Alumni
Membership Goal:
50,000
by August 2014

Pin Design Winner

Congratulations to SkillsUSA alumni member, Gayle Brodie, winner of the 2014 alumni pin design competition. Brodie was a student at Abram Friedman Occupational Center in Los Angeles, where she is now an instructor and SkillsUSA advisor. Her pin design commemorates SkillsUSA's 50th national conference. This is the only commemorative pin being produced this year and will be sold only at the alumni booth during the national conference.



SkillsUSA's official magazine

If you're reading this newsletter, chances are you're already a member of the SkillsUSA Alumni and Friends Association. Consider joining as a professional member and receive regular SkillsUSA mailings plus four issues of *SkillsUSA Champions* magazine, the organization's official publication. Professional membership is good for one year from the date of registration. Visit: www.skillsusa-register.org. Find free downloadable PDF issues of *SkillsUSA Champions* at: www.skillsusa.org/champions/.

Special thanks to GOJO Industries Inc. for sponsoring the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference Community Service event, Friday, June 27, in Kansas City, Mo.

