

**VT CTSO RECAP OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES**  
for  
**VACTED Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 30, 2021**  
**ZOOM**

**CTSO**

- A 501(c)3 was finally created for Vermont CTSO, Inc.
  - Funds are handled through personnel at Randolph Technical Career Center—so far everything seems to be operating smoothly.
  - Next order of business will be to schedule an annual meeting via ZOOM for officers and board members.
- Last year the cluster meetings were attended by the CTSO Coordinator. Depending upon the cluster, CTSO Executive Directors attended to provide updates and answer questions. This venue provided one of the only ways to connect with groups of people who may be new and/or not involved in a CTSO at their school.
- Kathleen Young and Jessica Enright worked together to establish an active VT HOSA chapter, and they were extremely successful despite COVID restrictions!

**General Impact of COVID on CTSOs**

- CTSO Zoom Meetings with Executive Directors and their Assistants worked out very well last year. Supporting one another during such trying times allowed everyone to share their frustrations as well as their accomplishments. This format will continue this year.
- Virtual conference formats were varied last year. Some worked with Zoom, others with YouTube, and still others with Hopin and Google Meets. State officers managed to work with E.D.s to create impressive both fall and spring conferences.
- No virtual Local Leader Trainings were held due to many local chapter advisors needing time to make major adjustments to their teaching. Since school had been closed at the end of 2020, local officers were not even elected for the ensuing school year. This year seems to hold some potential for virtual Local Leader Trainings through Lauren Traister at UVM Extension Service, but at this point, we are in a holding pattern.
- VT DECA was impacted the most (see information below).
- For 2021-2022, the stipend allocated for VT DECA Executive Director position will be used to provide technical support to CTSOs to again deploy virtual conferences.

**DECA**

- Joyce Kemp and Sue Dana worked with FBLA and HOSA to deliver a very good live virtual Hopin conference in October! Joyce was incredibly instrumental with becoming well-versed in Hopin features.
- All plans were in place for a virtual spring VT DECA Career Development Conference.
  - Virtual testing and judges were secured, a timeframe was established, and a new registration system put into place.
  - Only one DECA chapter registered.
  - Those members “competed” against each other for experience.
  - Other DECA chapters had not felt prepared.

- No members attended the Virtual DECA International Career Development Conference.
- No members campaigned to hold state officer positions.
- Assistant Sue Dana left her position mid-year to seek full-time employment.
- Joyce Kemp decided not to return as Executive Director of VT DECA. No local advisor was interested in leading the state chapter.
- One member expressed interest in being a state officer. (She is now an FBLA state officer. See FBLA below.)
- State membership barely “made the cut” to maintain National standing with 51 members in 2020-2021, down from 115 in 2019-2020. There has been a steady decline over the past few years, especially with South Burlington High School removing DECA upon the retirement of their advisor.
- Projected numbers for 2021-2022 school year indicated Vermont would not be able to maintain its membership in good standing (needed at least 50 members), so the very difficult decision was made to shelve VT DECA.
  - The likelihood of it re-establishing in Vermont is bleak with fewer school stores in existence, business teachers retiring, and another viable CTSO for them (FBLA).
  - Joyce delivered all DECA items to Sue who went through the many boxes of materials.
    - Blazers, pertinent supplies, and items were given to VT FBLA since former DECA advisors will be encouraged to join that CTSO.
    - Supplies specific to DECA are currently with the Coordinator who is trying to donate them to another state chapter for use (e.g. medals, certificates, banner, etc.
    - VT DECA specific materials are being stored with the Coordinator.
  - Funds from VT DECA have been moved to Randolph Technical Career Center to be held with the other state CTSO funds. No decisions have been made as to how to allocate those funds yet.

## **FBLA**

- Krista Chadwick, the new FBLA Executive Director, accomplished incredible feats this year! Although she had been an FBLA member back in the early 80s, she never was an advisor or chaperone or judge at any conference since. She inherited a state officer team that had visions of being “back to normal” in the fall of 2020, and they had to adjust very quickly. Her grit and determination were evident in everything she did!
- Nine VT FBLA chapter had 171 paid members, with Canaan High School and GMTCC activating/reactivating.
- Krista worked with Joyce Kemp and Sue Dana (DECA) and Kathleen and Jessica (HOSA) to create the first VT Virtual Fall Leadership Conference using Hopin as the platform.
  - Prior to the conference, swag items were delivered to all schools so students could wear FLC apparel during the conference.
  - Krista and Joyce and a few state officers were actually in a space in Burlington to work “behind the scenes” facilitating.

- There was a special “speed networking” segment that students and advisors loved!
- Door prizes winners were drawn with prizes being shipped out after the conference.
- 77 FBLA members attended the virtual event.
- VT FBLA Spring Leadership Conference was held virtually over the course of many days.
  - Despite the virtual format, 62 competitive events were offered to 74 members. Over 90% chose to compete in more than one event.
  - New software was used so judges could have access to recorded videos and score them within a week’s time frame. This allowed a very high caliber of judges for many of the events. The Castleton University Business Club provided eight judges for five different events and want to be involved again.
  - Virtual keynote and workshops were live and recorded.
  - Two tracks were offered—leadership and entrepreneurship.
  - Q&A and Voting for candidates was also handled live.
  - Once all competitions were done, awards were packaged up for each school. Certificates, awards, and swag was delivered to each school prior to the virtual awards event.
  - An online awards announcement was live and recorded so chapters could participate in either format.
- Very few Vermont students competed in the virtual FBLA National Leadership Conference.
- An in-person, one-day state officer training was held in St. Johnsbury. All members but one were present. Because the announcement about DECA had just occurred, a former DECA member from Cold Hollow Career Center stepped up to become a VT FBLA state officer but could not make this meeting due to the short notice.
- VT FBLA and VT HOSA once again will work together to create a Fall Leadership Conference combining both national themes: Success Starts Here to Shatter Your Expectations! (Combining both organizations’ national themes.) They plan to use a combination of Canvas and Zoom to provide daily pre-recorded sessions throughout the week with Friday hosting a live event.
- At this point, the SLC will be either a blend of in-person and virtual or totally virtual. That has yet to be determined.

## **FFA**

- FFA’s conference schedule varies greatly from other CTSOs. Their National Convention is held in the end of October. Because of COVID, this was 100% virtual. The state chapter picked up the cost for members to attend since their cost structure is done as groups.
- The Soil Competition which is usually held at Vermont Tech was not held.
- The Vermont Farm Show with FFA Day was not held.
- VT FFA connected with 4-H to offer virtual competitions throughout the spring.
- Both AnnaJo Smith and Johnathon Mason, the Co-Executive Directors, worked with their two state officers to keep VT FFA alive in the classrooms. Very few advisors took

advantage of their many attempts to virtually connect with students. Instead, local advisors continued to incorporate FFA into their classrooms on their own.

- The VT FFA State Convention was held virtually through pre-recorded sessions and shown through YouTube. Every attempt was made to recreate the feel of actual FFA meetings.
- Officer candidates were interviewed virtually and positions assigned.
- New state officers have participated in many officer trainings so far. National FFA offers a State Officer Continuum—three-step workshop program coordinated by National FFA consisting of three, three-day trainings. These have been a combination of virtual and in-person trainings.
- VT FFA has been busy fundraising! Addison Field Days has historically been the location for this. Members worked the Dairy Bar (approximately \$1,800 profit) and also held a Silent Auction (approximately \$800 profit).
- Plans are being made for the VT FFA state officers and Co-Executive Directors to attend the National Convention in Indianapolis October 27-30. Both in-person and virtual options will be available for members.
- AnnaJo and Johnathon have been in contact with Vermont Tech to work with them on hosting the Spring Convention. These are in the early stages with their being very aware of COVID challenges.

## **HOSA**

- Kathleen Young and Jessica Enright worked as Co-Executive Directors to develop VT HOSA as a viable CTSO.
- NH/VT HOSA deposited some funds into the newly formed VT HOSA accounts housed at RTCC. This represented the portion of funds that Vermont members had deposited before breaking off into its own state chapter.
- Additionally, there was a small portion of HOSA Incentive Funds that were part of the three-year plan to get VT HOSA up and running. Those funds were used for creation of a website and promotional materials to get students and advisors interested in HOSA.
- The Fall Leadership Conference was a very successful joint effort of DECA, FBLA, and HOSA with 34 members attending.
- Three state officers were very active in planning both the FLC and SLC.
- The HOSA SLC was 100% virtual and ran during the week of April 5-9.
  - Monday and Tuesday 38 competitive events were offered with 14 events running.
  - Wednesday and Thursday pre-recorded videos were sent out to take the place of the usual breakout sessions.
  - Friday was the live virtual conference from 10-2:00 via Hopin. Six chapters with 69 registered members attended!
- Jessica presented virtually to three chapters and all three schools joined! The previous year Vermont had 93 members as part of the NH/VT HOSA, and this year VT HOSA had 94 members. This accomplishment was recognized at Nationals as one of only three states who increased their membership in 2020-2021!
- Five state officers were chosen at the end of the school year.
- Kathleen accomplished her goal of helping VT HOSA get up and running. Her dedication in this is definitely evident by the successful first year of the program!

Although she will no longer be a Co-Executive Director, she will remain a vital resource as VT HOSA continues to expand.

## **SkillsUSA**

- SkillsUSA Vermont had 233 participants at their free virtual Fall Leadership Conference in early December. Hopin and Google Meets were the platforms used for this one-day event.
- The Spring Leadership Conference and Skills Competitions were held virtually during the week of April 5-8.
  - 190+ competitors were involved in 34 events.
  - Zoom and Google Meets were used to connect with the more than 50 industry partners as judges and contest managers during the event and also via recorded performances.
  - A live awards ceremony via YouTube awarded more than 120 gold, silver, and bronze medals.
- Vermont “sent” 35 members to the virtual National Leadership and Skills Conference.
  - They were in 25 competitions.
  - Gold Medalist--Nima Mehregan, Culinary Arts, PAHCC
  - Gold Medalist—Eve Codling, Commercial Baking, St. Johnsbury Academy
  - Silver Medalist—Emmitt White, Advertising Design, GMTCC
  - Silver Medalists—Team Abigail Dixson-Bole & Elias Gillen, Digital Cinema, GMTCC
  - Bronze Medalist—Gabriel Lloyd, Job Skill Demonstration Open, RVTC
  - All 24 local advisors had the opportunity to participate in up to 20 hours of professional development, but only one advisor enrolled.
- The SkillsUSA Vermont leadership team relied heavily on the using the funds in the account to encourage participation in the virtual environment.
  - There was NO cost to members for the Fall Leadership Conference.
  - The yearly membership fee was also dropped from \$13/person to \$5/person to encourage membership.
  - The Spring Conference registration was reduced from \$55/person to \$10/person.
  - These offerings were a one-time-only pandemic situation. The SkillsUSA treasury was impacted greatly and prices will be going back to student costs similar to the 2017-2018 school year.
- Final membership was 488—404 students and 84 professionals, down 54% from previous year.
- This year, Chris Gray and Linda Randall are Co-Executive Directors.
- State Officer Applications are currently being accepted and due by Friday, October 1, 2021. Please encourage your members to seriously consider taking on a leadership role!