

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • March 8, 2019

If you didn't have a chance to come by the Crouse Chapel Road campus Saturday for this year's SkillsUSA South Central Regional Championships, you missed an awe-inspiring display of volunteerism, excellence and teamwork by Pickaway-Ross staff members, students and SkillsUSA advocates.



About 400 SkillsUSA members packed our building to compete in more than 20 contests (six others were held off-site before Saturday's events) with hundreds more here to help run the contests or support the competitors.

Donna Patrick led the event with SkillsUSA co-advisors Chris Cecil, Rex Cockrell and Tea McCaulla, plus five off-campus advisors in the district. Allen Kiger and Jason Vesey also were helpful in planning the event.

Donna said she came to school at 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning ready for, well, troubleshooting.

"With an event this big, you know something can go wrong so you just have to be prepared."

In our case, Donna got to school and learned that a contest coordinator had to cancel. She found a substitute and then everybody involved in that contest had to learn how to conduct it.

"We called a quick meeting with all advisors or teachers involved who answered our questions," said Donna. "It turned out fine."

That's just one example of how well organized the whole event was.

Donna is quick to spread the credit.

"This was an all-volunteer effort," she said. In addition to staff members who came in on a Saturday to help in a multitude of ways, more than a dozen SkillsUSA members who weren't competing volunteered to be on the Courtesy Corps.

"These kids were problem-solvers," Donna said of the students, who were decked out in royal blue T-shirts that identified them as Courtesy Corps members.

"They hung signs, set up rooms and then put

them back after a contest, guided people and answered questions. What a difference they made in the whole day. It's really what leadership is all about."

Pickaway-Ross' SkillsUSA co-advisors had been planning this event for more than a year but they don't get to rest. Each school selected to host a regional conference has a two-year commitment, so we'll get to do this all over again in 2020.

Donna said the school chapter will be ready.

"I don't know if we'll need to change anything. It went pretty well this year."

Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. He can be reached at dennis.franks@pickawayross.com.



ABOVE: Courtesy Corps members greeted guests as they arrived for the SkillsUSA South Central Regional Championships on Saturday.



LEFT: Shawn Salisbury competed in the Residential Electric Wiring contest that was held off-site last Friday. He placed second.