



## Advisor Update

September 2007

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### Welcome back!

I hope you all had a relaxing summer. Mine was jammed packed with SkillsUSA activities and events but it was all good!

### 2007-2008 Membership Kits

All advisors with members last year should have received the 2007-2008 membership kit in the mail by now. If you did not receive a membership kit, please let me know and I will have one sent to you.

### 2007-2008 Membership Dues

The 2007-2008 membership dues are:

Student: \$14.00 = \$8.00 (national) and \$6.00 (state)

Professional: \$20.00 = \$14.00 (national) and \$6.00 (state)

### 2007-2008 Membership Registration Deadlines

**November 15, 2007** is the deadline for your initial membership registration to be submitted to the National Office to be able to receive all four issues of *Champions Magazine* and free teacher items. All rosters are to be submitted online at [www.skillsusa-register.org](http://www.skillsusa-register.org). Register at least 20 students plus one or more professional members by November 15, 2007 and receive a free 2007 SkillsUSA National Conference Souvenir DVD.

**January 31, 2008** is the deadline for your final membership registration to be submitted to the National Office. All students must be paid members of SkillsUSA Michigan by January 31, 2008 in order to participate in regional, state and national competitions and/or conferences.

All membership registration **MUST** be submitted online at [www.skillsusa-register.org](http://www.skillsusa-register.org). Paper rosters are discouraged. Please make sure that all membership checks are sent directly to the National Office at the new lock box address listed below.

### 2007 Fall Leadership Conference

The Fall Leadership Conference will be Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing. The conference will be a great way to kick off your year and to motivate your members to have a great year with SkillsUSA Michigan. The conference will be a combination of team building activities and breakout sessions on SkillsUSA. The early registration fee is \$30.00 per participant (students and advisors) and includes registration materials, lunch and a conference t-shirt. The early registration deadline is **October 19, 2007**. More information is available at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/flc.html>.



### **National Lock Box Address**

Beginning this membership year, SkillsUSA will be using a “lock box” through Bank of America to manage financial control of all receipts including membership dues and SkillsUSA educational materials. The lock box will help us in cost savings and security and will allow SkillsUSA to consolidate checking and credit cards. All payments will need to go to a P.O. Box in Atlanta instead of coming to P.O. Box 3000, as they have previously.

Payments to SkillsUSA should be addressed as follows:

SkillsUSA  
Attention: Membership Department or Publications Department  
P.O. Box 100491  
Atlanta, Georgia 30384-0491

### **SkillsUSA Michigan Mailing Address**

Please also make sure your school business office has the correct mailing address for SkillsUSA Michigan. We are in Ypsilanti, not Big Rapids. The mailing address is:

SkillsUSA Michigan  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

### **Advisor Manual**

The Advisor Manual is a brand new binder containing all the SkillsUSA Michigan information your school will need for the coming school year. It will be sent to your Lead Advisor this month and will be available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. Your Lead Advisor will receive new inserts annually so they can update your binder from year to year.

### **2008 Intent to Compete**

If your school intends to compete in 2008, please fill out this form! This form is a critical component of the planning and scheduling of regional and state competitions. The deadline is **November 1, 2007**. Failure to return this form by the due date may result in your school not being allowed to compete in some events, or some events not being offered on the regional and/or state level. It is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.

### **Probationary State Contests**

Due to poor participation at the state level, the following state contests will be on probationary status this year. These contests will be held at the 2008 State Conference but if participation does not increase to at least 4 schools this year, then a state contest will not be held in 2009. To continue these state contests, please get more schools (and more students) to participate this year!

- Marine Service Technology
- Principles of Technology
- Technical Computer Applications





### **Job Skill Demonstration Changes for 2008**

Because of all the confusion in the past, the rules for the Job Skill Demonstration contests have changed starting this year. Job Skill Demo B is no longer and has been replaced by Job Skill Demo Open. The major changes for each contest are as follows:

- Job Skill Demo A – Open to active SkillsUSA members enrolled in career and technical programs with career objectives that are included in the SkillsUSA Championships official contests. The “A” classification is based on the program enrollment of the contestant. It is not based on the specific skill to be demonstrated. Any skill may be demonstrated, provided it is a skill related to the occupational program of the contestant.
- Job Skill Demo Open - Open to active SkillsUSA members. Any skill may be demonstrated. The skill does NOT have to relate to the occupational program of the contestant.

### **2007-2008 Theme**

The SkillsUSA competition theme for the 2007-2008 year is **SkillsUSA: Champions at Work**. This is the theme for the Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board contests.

The topic to be addressed by contestants in these events is how our theme SkillsUSA: Champions at Work relates to our national program of work in the area of the **SkillsUSA Championships**.

Within this topic, contestants might illustrate or discuss any of the following:

- How the SkillsUSA Championships motivates students to be the best they can be in their technical skill development and personal/ professional development.
- How the SkillsUSA Championships provides an opportunity for students to participate in timed and judged industry-based competitions where they can practice technical skills, teamwork, team building, creativity and management.
- How SkillsUSA increases productivity by cultivating a highly skilled and knowledgeable work force to meet 21st century needs.
- How the SkillsUSA Championships is the national-level competition for public high school and college/postsecondary technical students enrolled in trade, technical, and skilled service profession instructional programs including allied health occupations.
- How SkillsUSA organizes this event, and it is considered the single greatest day of industry volunteerism in America every year at an estimated cost of more than \$32 million.
- How SkillsUSA participation prepares each member for entry into the work force.
- How each SkillsUSA Championships national contestant is a state-level gold medalist, demonstrating excellence in career and technical education.
- How the SkillsUSA Championships has more than 5,000 competitors in more than 85 hands-on skill and leadership contests.
- How SkillsUSA represents 130 different occupational areas affiliated instructional programs.



### **2007 New Advisor Inservice**

SkillsUSA Michigan is pleased to offer assistance in establishing your chapter by holding a New Advisor Inservice on September 26, 2007, at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. This inservice is for teachers who have been a SkillsUSA advisor for 2 years or less. There is a \$40.00 registration fee per participant. The fee will cover lunch, materials and useful resources for new chapters. The registration form is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. Space is limited so please send or fax your registration form ASAP!

### **2008 Design Contest**

The SkillsUSA Michigan 2008 Design Contest is now available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. All SkillsUSA members are encouraged to participate. The three design contest winners will be invited to the State Conference and each will receive a gold medal at the Awards Program.

### **Technical Committee Nomination Form**

Each year we strive to make our state competitions more competitive and even better than the year before. By doing this, we must update our technical committee members and judges for every contest. So, once again, an opportunity is being given to nominate individuals from business and industry to serve in these capacities. If you know of someone who is interested in working on a committee, please complete the enclosed form and send it to the State Office no later than **October 22, 2007**. Each technical committee will meet in late November. We are seeking industry support in every contest. If you know of any industry representatives who would be interested in being part of this great organization, please nominate them on the enclosed form. Each nomination will be reviewed to determine needs and placement. If approved, a letter will be sent to the appointed person and their principal and/or supervisor. The nomination form is available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.

### **2007-2008 School Year Calendar**

A 2007-2008 School Year Calendar listing all SkillsUSA Michigan dates and events is available at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>.

### **Saginaw Career Complex/Lowe's Event – Saturday, September 29, 2007**

Saginaw Career Complex will be sponsoring their SkillsUSA/Lowe's Education Grant event on Saturday, September 29, 2007 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Lowe's store on Tittabawassee Rd. in Saginaw. The event will showcase technical skills and the opportunities at the Saginaw Career Complex. Teams of Career Complex students and their parents will compete in electrical wiring, welding and building construction techniques. The event will include a live radio broadcast, and the public is welcome to see additional demonstrations. Saginaw was one of only 20 SkillsUSA chapters selected by Lowe's Companies throughout the nation (and the only Michigan school) to receive the first SkillsUSA Lowe's Education Grants for innovative projects or program enhancements at their schools.



## Happy Retirement

Happy retirement to the following advisors! I would like to thank them for their time and energy supporting SkillsUSA Michigan over the years. If you know of any other advisors who retired last year, please let me know.

- Bud Swett - Lapeer County Ed Tech Center
- Bill Green - Lapeer County Ed Tech Center
- Bob Hoard - Oakland Schools Technical Center NE Campus
- Earleen Transou - Oakland Schools Technical Center SE Campus

## 2007 Nationals

The SkillsUSA 43<sup>rd</sup> National Leadership and Skills Conference was held on June 25-30, 2007 in Kansas City, Missouri. SkillsUSA Michigan was represented by 238 students, advisors, and guests from our high school and college/postsecondary chapters. We received a total of 20 medals, 13 secondary and 7 postsecondary. Overall, SkillsUSA Michigan had 81 students as one of the top 10 contestants in their contest in the country.

The 2007 Michigan national medalists are:

Gold:

- Josef Schwarzer, CNC Turning, Secondary, Romeo Engineering & Technology Center
- Amela Mujkic, Graphic Communications, Postsecondary, Ferris State University
- Jon Welser, Precision Machining Technology, Secondary, Saint Clair TEC
- Adam Alexander, Sheet Metal, Secondary, Jackson Area Career Center

Silver:

- Ryan Kowalski, Architectural Drafting, Postsecondary, Macomb Community College
- Vittorio Lovato, Architectural Drafting, Secondary, Adlai Stevenson High School
- Brett Sobolewski, CNC Milling, Secondary, Romeo Engineering & Technology Center
- Kristin Beckstrom, Cosmetology, Secondary, Mecosta Osceola Career Center
- Martin Wolfe II, Electronics Technology, Postsecondary, Ferris State University
- Brandi Thompson, Nail Care, Secondary, Mecosta Osceola Career Center
- Linda Becker, Nail Care, Secondary, Mecosta Osceola Career Center
- Kaitlyn Freeman, Photography, Secondary, Henry Ford II High School
- Andrew Renton, Robotics and Automation Technology, Secondary, Pinckney High School
- Ryan Rogers, Robotics and Automation Technology, Secondary, Pinckney High School
- Jeremy Tabor, Welding, Secondary, Flatrock High School

Bronze:

- Mike Armock, Collision Repair Technology, Postsecondary, Lansing Community College



- Chad Sweesy, Culinary Arts, Postsecondary, Macomb Community College
- Staci Andre, Food and Beverage Service, Postsecondary, Washtenaw Community College
- Brian Heminger, Graphic Communications, Secondary, Newaygo County AVC
- Andrew Snow, Technical Drafting, Postsecondary, Ferris State University

***SkillsUSA Michigan Dates to Remember***

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Where</u></b>
Sept 26, 2007	New Advisor Inservice	Ypsilanti
Oct 12, 2007	Fall Leadership Conference Early Registration Due	State Office
Oct 22, 2007	Technical Committee Nomination Forms Due	State Office
Oct 25, 2007	Fall Leadership Conference Late Registration Due	State Office
Nov 1, 2007	Intent to Compete Due	State Office
Nov 6, 2007	Fall Leadership Conference	Lansing
Nov 15, 2007	Initial Membership Registration Due <a href="http://www.skillsusa-register.org">www.skillsusa-register.org</a>	National Office
Jan 31, 2008	Final Membership Registration Due <a href="http://www.skillsusa-register.org">www.skillsusa-register.org</a>	National Office
Jan 10, 2008	Design Contest Entries Due	State Office
Apr 18-20, 2008	State Conference	Lansing
June 23-28, 2008	National Conference	Kansas City, MO

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***From the National Office –***

**2007 NLSC Souvenir DVD**

The 2007 NLSC Souvenir DVD is now available for purchase at [www.skillsusa.org/store/dvd.html](http://www.skillsusa.org/store/dvd.html). This DVD features an emotional 30-minute documentary covering each exciting day of the biggest and best conference in SkillsUSA history. It is also the first SkillsUSA DVD to feature subtitles for our hearing-impaired students. Extras include a 15-minute slide show with still photos from the conference and a music video for our SkillsUSA theme song.

## 2008 SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards

SkillsUSA will release the 2008 *SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards* this fall. As in past revisions, members will be able to choose a printed manual or a CD-ROM. Both versions will include the latest competition guidelines for more than 80 national leadership and skill events. This latest revision introduces several new features:

### *New packaging for the CD-ROM*

A glossy folder will conveniently house not only the standards but also three bonus items: (1) a matching poster; (2) an extra CD holding the national contest projects for the previous year; and (3) a flier about the SkillsUSA Championships and how to qualify and participate. (To address past confusion, we renamed the *Contest Specifications* CD, and it will now be called the *2007 Contest Projects* CD.) For the first time in the Standards, both the printed and electronic versions will contain full competency statements with criteria, a new 1000-point scoring system, and they will list the basic academic skills embedded into the SkillsUSA Championships in math, language arts and science. These new features are the result of work done through the Kellogg Grant.

*To help students arrive fully prepared for the SkillsUSA Championships and to keep up with the rapidly changing expectations of industry, the contest standards will now be revised annually rather than every three years.* This kind of continuous improvement will help keep instruction current and help national technical committees and state contest organizers run the highest-quality events for the SkillsUSA organization in every technical and leadership area.

### *Release Dates*

With the new additional content, the printed manual will contain approximately 600 or more pages. It has a **September 15, 2007**, projected release date. Like the previous revision, the softcover book will be three-hole drilled for those customers who prefer the convenience of loose pages in a binder. The CD-ROM package is set for a **October 1, 2007** release.

### *Pricing*

Increased demand for the CD-ROM has resulted in fewer orders for the printed version, which continues to expand in size with the number of added contests. To cover the higher cost of materials, the printed manual must be priced \$10 higher than the CD-ROM package.

- The 2008 *SkillsUSA Technical Standards* book will be priced at **\$29.95** for the 600-plus-page volume.
- The 2008 *SkillsUSA Technical Standards* CD-ROM (with pocket folder, poster, flier and bonus projects CD) will be **\$19.95**. We are encouraging the use of the electronic package for better preparation of our students who choose to enter the championships program. We also feel this is a better approach to disseminating information, from an ecological perspective.

