



Advisor Update

October 2007

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. 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. 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 12, 2007**. (NOTE - The previously listed early registration deadline date of October 19, 2007 was incorrect.) All registrations received after October 12, 2007 will not be able to request a t-shirt size and will receive an XL t-shirt. More information is available at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/flc.html>.

2008 Technical Standards

The new 2008 Technical Standards are finally available this month! Make sure your students are prepared for the contests. You will need to purchase a copy of the 2008 Technical Standards, as the 2005-2007 version does will not apply any longer. Ordering details are available in the *From the National Office* section below.

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

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>.

Forgot Entrepreneurship!

Oops! Entrepreneurship was inadvertently left off the 2008 Intent to Compete Form! A corrected 2008 Intent to Compete form is available on the web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html> If you are interested in competing in Entrepreneurship, please submit the correct form or write it in at the bottom of the old form. If you have already submitted your form, please send me an email indicating your interest and I will add it.

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.

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 New Advisor Inservice

The New Advisor Inservice was a huge success! We had 14 new advisors from 8 schools in attendance and are looking forward to their participation. Thanks to all the new advisors who attended.

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 has been sent to your Lead Advisor and is also available on our web site at <http://www.miskillsusa.org/forms.html>. Please give me your feedback as you use the binder this year. I will incorporate your suggestions and/or comments into next year's version.

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

The Saginaw Career Complex's SkillsUSA/Lowe's Education Grant event on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at the Lowe's store on Tittabawassee Rd. in Saginaw was a huge success. 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. Teams of Career Complex students and their parents competed in electrical wiring, welding and building construction techniques. The event included a live radio broadcast, and was open to the public. Pictures of the event will be available on our web site at www.miskillsusa.org.



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. Sorry I missed them last month. If you know of any other advisors who retired last year, please let me know.

- John Hood – Randolph Career and Technical Center
- Ray Previ – Frederick V. Pankow Center

SkillsUSA Michigan Dates to Remember

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Where</u>
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 www.skillsusa-register.org	National Office
Dec 11, 2007	Region 5 Advisors Meeting TBA Career Center REMC Interactive Room 9:30 am to 12:00 noon	Traverse City
Jan 31, 2008	Final Membership Registration Due www.skillsusa-register.org	National Office
Jan 10, 2008	Design Contest Entries Due	State Office
Feb 9, 2008	Region 5 Conference & Skills Contests Snow Date – March 1, 2008	Various Locations
Apr 18-20, 2008	State Conference	Lansing
June 23-28, 2008	National Conference	Kansas City, MO

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. 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. The Technical Standards CD can be purchased at <http://www.skillsusa.org/store/>. 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. 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.



Timberland PRO Community Service Grant

Timberland PRO, the sponsor of the Community Service Project at Nationals, will be offering several grants for local SkillsUSA chapters to conduct their own community service project. Grant details and the application are being finalized and will be posted soon on the National web site at <http://www.skillsusa.org/>. *The grant application will probably be due within the next month, so please check the web site more information.*

Carhartt Fundraiser

Grilling for Dollars is a great way for your chapter to raise money. Carhartt will connect your chapter with a local Carhartt retailer. Your chapter just needs to provide the grill and the food and Carhartt will supply t-shirts, advertisements, a banner, and \$250 towards for the BBQ (for food, supplies, etc). The Carhartt retailer will provide the space.

If interested in pursuing this opportunity, call or e-mail Lindsay Sanford, retail marketing coordinator, at Carhartt, Inc. at 313-749-6657 or Sanford@carhartt.com.

