



Executive Update

11.20.07

TO: Advisors
Board of Directors
Technical Committee Chairs
Championships Management Team
State Officers

FROM: Scott Soldat, Director

Arizona Update

➤ Director's Report

- Fall Leadership Conference
- Teacher Training Seminars
- Leadership Training Camp
- Regional Skills Conferences
- Membership Changes

National Update

- ### ➤ Comments from Tim Lawrence, SkillsUSA, Executive Director

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Date	Event	Reg. Deadline	Location
February 2	Region 4 Skills Conference	January 25, 2008	Flagstaff
February 8	Region 6 Skills Conference	January 18, 2008	Tucson
February 15	Region 2 Skills Conference	January 25, 2008	Phoenix
March 7	Region 1 Skills Conference	visit www.azskillsusa.org	Yuma
March 13	Region 5 Skills Conference	February 22, 2008	Peoria
TBD	Region 3 Skills Conference	TBD	TBD

DEADLINES

- ### ➤ NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: February 1, 2008

ARIZONA UPDATE

Director's Report

Fall Leadership Conference

On Monday, October 15, 2007, we had our Fall Leadership Conference at the Phoenix Convention Center in downtown Phoenix. This event attracted 800 students and teachers from schools throughout Arizona. The conference highlights included best selling author Ryan Jason Dorsey (National Conference opening session speaker). The student attendees were very inspired by the speeches Jason presented at the Fall Conference. Regional elections went well and allowed each region to select the best candidates for office.

Teacher Training Seminars

On Friday and Saturday, October 26-27, 2007, new and experienced advisors attended the two day SkillsUSA Teacher Training seminar here in Phoenix. The two training seminars: Chapter Management Institute and Professional Development Program, lead by Marsha Daves, of National SkillsUSA, provided instructors with the tools they need to run a SkillsUSA chapter, and how to teacher their students employability skills.

Leadership Training Camp

This year's Leadership Training Camp featured new workshops for new and returning students. Second-year campers used the Real Choices program that help build upon the lessons from 2006 Real Colors. New Campers experienced the awesome Real Colors program. Other workshops included:

- Out of the Box
- Not Your Grandparents Parli Pro
- Get to Know Your Group
- Critical Thinking
- Public Speaking
- Conquer Your Fears
- Local Advocacy

Advisor sessions included:

- SkillsUSA Update and Feedback
- Advisor Teambuilding
- Best Practices
- Jump-Start Your New SkillsUSA Program
- Innovative Ideas for Established Programs

The conference was a success.

Regional Skills Conferences

Attend the Regional Skills Conference in your area, in February and March of 2008. Your students will have the opportunity to showcase their skills by competing against others students of the same trade, in their region. Online registration will open in December of 2007. Please check the website at www.azskillsusa.org

Membership Changes

In order to adapt the new State of Arizona, Career and Technical Education, CTE Delivery System, we have made the following changes:

- The new Career Exploration programs will replace level 1 programs and SkillsUSA will continue to offer "Arizona only" membership and competitions to Career Exploration programs.
- Level 2 programs will move to Career Preparation programs (along with the old Level 3 programs). Level 2 membership has now been eliminated and replaced by Career Preparation membership. All Career Preparation students and teachers must now join national SkillsUSA as a requirement of membership. Arizona will still offer "basic" level competitions for beginning Career Preparation students/

More information is available online at www.azskillsusa.org/join.htm or call our office at 602.542.5565 for clarification.

NATIONAL UPDATE

by Tim Lawrence, Executive Director, SkillsUSA

The WorldSkills Competition

As you know, SkillsUSA fields the team representing the United States at the WorldSkills Competition. The 39th WorldSkills Competition, held in Japan's Numazu City, Shizuoka Prefecture, started yesterday and runs through the 21st of November. This year, we have six members of TeamUSA competing in Japan. They are:

- Phillip Lord (Autobody Repair) of Granger, Indiana
- Chance Hendrix (Car Painting) of Claremore, Oklahoma
- Elisa Graybill (Hairdressing) of Freeburg, Pennsylvania
- David Moreno (Plumbing) of Houston, Texas
- Doug Lavin (Refrigeration) of Westmont, Illinois
- Chance Pollo (Welding) of Glenrock, Wyoming

Technical Experts for TeamUSA are: Terry Angell(Autobody Repair), instructor at Warren Occupational Technical Center in Lakewood, Colorado; Rodney Bolton (Car Painting), instructor at the Center of Applied Technology North of Severn, Maryland; Manuel Rodriguez (Hairdressing), trainer for Pivot-Point International in Chicago, Illinois; Phil Campbell (Plumbing), apprenticeship instructor for the UA in Washington, DC; Steve Allen (Refrigeration), apprenticeship instructor for the UA in Washington, DC; and, Edward Bohnart (Welding), Welding Education and Consulting in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Officials for TeamUSA are: Mark Claypool (Team Leader), VP of Operations, Verifacts Automotive in St. Charles, Illinois; Pete Care (Official Delegate), State Association Director for New Jersey; and, Don Hatton (Technical Delegate), President, Hatton Enterprise in Tampa, Florida.

Organizations supporting United States' participation in the WorldSkills Competition include: American Welding Society; Atlas Welding Accessories, Inc.; Bosch Power Tools; ESAB Welding and Cutting Products; Farouk; Fibre-Metal Products; G.A.L. Gage Company; Hobart Institute of Welding Technology; Hobart Welding Products; Hornell Speedglass; HydMech; IRWIN Tools; LAPCO Electric Manufacturing Company; Lincoln Electric Company; Miller Electric Manufacturing Co.,Inc.; National Auto Body Council (member companies and individuals); Northrop Grumman Ship Systems; Phoenix International Inc; Pivot Point International, Inc.; Servo Robot Corporation; Snap-on; Torit Products-Donaldson Company; Triangle Engineering; United Association Local 27; United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada; Welding Education and Consulting.

Also attending the event with the team are: George Bliss, Chairman, World Plumbing Council; Jerry Utrachi, President, American Welding Society; Crystal Gutshall, Cosmetology instructor at Sun Area Technical Center in New Berlin, Pennsylvania; and, Russell Pontarolo, Welding instructor at Eastern Wyoming College in Casper, Wyoming.

The team was with us for orientation and training at the national center and toured Washington, D.C. on Friday afternoon before leaving for Japan on Saturday. For more information about TeamUSA and daily updates and photos go to <http://skillsusa.org/compete/teamusa.shtml>. Go TeamUSA!!

Please Call or Write Your Senators and Representatives Now!

The FY2008 Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Bill (H.R.3043) recently approved by the House and Senate conference committee included a \$25 million increase in funding over last year for the basic state grants under Perkins IV. That was a nice increase for CTE and a step toward increased support in the future. But, the administration opposed the increase in funding, and the president vetoed the bill (H.R. 3043) on November 13. Congress will vote to override the president's veto either late this week or after Thanksgiving recess. If the veto is over-ridden, the funding passes. If the veto is sustained, negotiations will take place between congressional leaders and the president and the outcome is far less certain. Quick action is necessary. Please call or write your Senators and Representatives now and ask them to vote to override the president's veto of H.R. 3043. Contact information and a sample letter appear on the SkillsUSA Advocacy Site <http://capwiz.com/skillsusa/home/>.

That's all it for now. Until next time, thank you for all you do for the great students and teachers we serve.