

# CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

## ***DELAWARE Association of SkillsUSA***

### **article I - name**

The official name of this organization shall be "Delaware Association of SkillsUSA".

### **article II – purposes**

1. To unite in a common bond, without regard to race, creed, or national origin, full-time students enrolled in approved Delaware career & technical classes within the Trade and Industrial Curriculum.
2. To provide leadership for the local chapters.
3. To provide a clearinghouse for information and activities.
4. To provide recognition and prestige through an association of local chapters.
5. To develop leadership abilities through participation in educational, vocational, civic, recreational, and social activities.
6. To foster a deep respect for the DIGNITY OF WORK.
7. To assist students in establishing realistic vocational goals.
8. To help students attain a purposeful life.
9. To create enthusiasm for learning.
10. To promote high standards in trade ethics, quality of work, scholarship and safety.
11. To develop the ability of students to plan together, organize, and carry out worthy activities and projects through the use of the democratic process.
12. To foster a wholesome understanding of the functions of labor and management organizations and recognition of their mutual interdependence.
13. To create among students, faculty members, patrons of the school, and persons in industry, a sincere interest in and esteem for trade and industrial education.
14. To develop patriotism through knowledge of our Nation's heritage and the practice of DEMOCRACY.

### **article III – organization**

- Section 1* Delaware SkillsUSA is an association of local chapters of the state of Delaware operating in accordance with a charter granted by the National SkillsUSA.
- Section 2* The administration of Delaware SkillsUSA shall be vested in the state Executive Council comprised of one Executive Advisor from each school, the Assistant State Director, and the State Director.
- Section 3* Advise and consent, as well as administration of the activities not germane to the state Executive Council, shall be vested in the state Advisory Board.
- A. The Advisory Board voting membership shall be comprised of two advisors chosen by their peers from each school. Also serving as voting members on the Advisory Board are any of the student State Officers, with voting rights of one vote per county represented. The Delaware State Director and Assistant State Director shall serve as ex-officio members of the Board.
  - B. The Advisory Board shall choose such officers as deemed necessary for the conducting of their business.
  - C. The Advisory Board shall be vested with the responsibility of providing counsel and assistance to the student activities, and advising the state competitive activities program and such other activities pertinent to the execution of the SkillsUSA program of work.

- Section 4* Charters shall be issued to local chapters by the Executive Council of the Delaware SkillsUSA.
- Section 5* State Technical Committees composed of leaders from education, business, and labor shall be appointed by the State Director to provide counsel, advice, and assistance to the state association in carrying out competitions.
- Section 6* The Delaware Department of Education will select the State Director by adding this duty to the work plan of a Department of Education representative. The State Director may delegate duties to members of the State Staff, as becomes necessary.

#### **article IV – membership**

- Section 1* Membership of Delaware SkillsUSA shall consist of the total eligible members of the chartered local chapters and members shall hold the same membership status as in their respective local chapters.
- Section 2* A local chapters must have at least four members.
- Section 3* Each local chapter and state association shall be open for membership to all vocational students regardless of race, color, or national origin.
- Section 4* Classes of membership which will be recognized by Delaware SkillsUSA are:
- 1) *Active Membership* – Full time students enrolled in secondary vocational courses offered in trade and industrial education meeting the requirements of the state plan for vocational education.
  - 2) *Professional Membership* – Persons associated with or participating in the professional development of SkillsUSA as approved by the state association. Such members shall include chapter advisors, teacher-educators, and supervisors.
  - 3) *Associate Membership* – Cooperative employers and/or training station sponsors, advisory council members and lay persons associated with and contributing to the improvement and development of the organization and vocational trade and industrial education. These members are not eligible to hold office or vote.
  - 4) *Honorary Life Membership* – Individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of Delaware SkillsUSA and vocational, trade and industrial education, whose membership has been approved by the Executive Council upon the recommendation of the state association.
- Section 5* A membership year shall be from September 1 through August 31, inclusive.

#### **article V – voting delegates**

- Section 1* The Delaware SkillsUSA member shall exercise his/her franchise through voting delegates at state and national meetings.
- Section 2* Voting delegates must be active members of Delaware SkillsUSA.
- Section 3* Voting delegates to the state meetings shall be chosen by their school. The number of delegates allotted to each school shall be based on the number of State Members as determined by the State Director.
- Section 4* The official school delegation of voting delegates shall be allowed to cast as many votes as allotted to the voting delegate's school without regard to the total number of voting delegates.

#### **article VI – meetings**

- Section 1* A state leadership conference shall be held each year and this shall serve as one of the official annual meetings of Delaware SkillsUSA.
- Section 2* Meetings of the state Executive Council will be scheduled by the State Director; however, the state Executive Council shall be empowered to call special meetings.

## **article VII – officers**

*Section 1* The student officers of Delaware SkillsUSA State Officer Team shall be president, secretary and treasurer. Other officers shall be the office of vice-president from each of the respective vocational schools in the state. Further, there shall be one vice-president elected at-large from any/all chapters that are not located in the vocational schools. These

officers shall be elected by the delegates of that respective school as part of the annual elections of the State Association.

*Section 2* Student Officer Team shall elect one member to act as president in the temporary absence of the president.

*Section 3* Replacements for vacancy of offices of vice-president shall be filled by the school's Executive Advisor. If a vacancy occurs in the office of president, secretary, or treasurer, it may be filled from within the State Officer Team by election of one of the State Officers to the position, with each active officer present entitled to one vote. The president's or acting president's vote will be cast only in the event of a tie. Vacancies created by this election will be filled through the appropriate procedure, as previously outlined.

*Section 4* The president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected by a plurality vote of the voting delegates at the annual state leadership conference.

*Section 5* Officers shall serve for a term of one year. With the recommendation of the State Director, officers are eligible to seek office for more than one year.

*Section 6* Any officer who misses more than two meetings without a valid excuse is found to have displayed a serious breach of proper conduct unbecoming a state officer, has unsatisfactory grades or experiences discipline problems within the school, will be removed from office upon a majority vote of the Executive Council.

## **article VIII – emblem and colors**

The emblem of the Delaware SkillsUSA, and its colors, shall be the same as those adopted by National SkillsUSA.

## **article IX – audit**

The accounts of the state treasurer shall be audited each year by an auditor appointed by the Delaware Career and Technical Student Organization (DE-CTSO) Council.