



South West District Constitution

CONTEXT

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ARTICLE I - NAME

The official name of this organization shall be the South West District of the Kansas Association of SkillsUSA. Provisions are made for the following divisions: middle school division, secondary division and postsecondary division.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES

The purposes of this association are to:

1. Foster a deep respect for the dignity of work.
2. Unite in common bond without regard to race, sex, creed, or national origin, students enrolled in classes with vocational trade, industrial, technical and health occupations objectives.
3. Provide leadership for the District Organization.
4. Provide a clearing house for information and activities.
5. Provide District recognition and prestige through an association and affiliated organizations.
6. Provide a vehicle, district in scope, for organizations to work articulately with trade, industrial, technical and health occupation student groups.
7. Develop leadership abilities through participation in educational, vocational career and technical, civic, recreational, and social activities.
8. Assist students in establishing realistic occupational goals.
9. Help students attain a purposeful life.
10. Create enthusiasm for learning.
11. Promote high standards in trade ethics, workmanship, scholarship, and safety.
12. Develop the ability of students to plan together, organize, and carry out worthy activities and projects through the use of the democratic processes.
13. Foster a wholesome understanding of the functions of labor and management organizations and recognition of their mutual interdependence.
14. Create among students, faculty members, patrons of the schools, and persons in industry a sincere interest in and esteem for trade, industrial, technical, and health occupations.
15. Develop patriotism through the knowledge of our Nation's heritage and the practice of democracy.

ARTICLE III - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The South West District of Kansas SkillsUSA is an association of local clubs of the State of Kansas operating in accordance with a charter granted by National SkillsUSA.

Section 2. The administration of the South West District of Kansas SkillsUSA shall be vested in the District Advisor as directed by the Board of Directors of Kansas SkillsUSA Incorporated.

Section 3. For administrative purposes, South West District shall be defined as follows:

Kansas Schools in the following Counties:

- Clark
- Comanche
- Edwards
- Finney
- Ford
- Grant
- Gray
- Hamilton
- Haskell
- Hodgeman
- Kearny
- Kiowa
- Meade
- Morton
- Pawnee
- Seward
- Stanton
- Stevens

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership of the South West District of SkillsUSA Kansas shall consist of the total eligible members of the chartered local clubs and members and shall hold the same membership status as in their respective local clubs.

Section 2. A local chapter must have at least seven members and all members of the District Association must be members of the State and National Organizations to qualify for a charter.

Section 3. Each local chapter and the district shall be open for membership to all students regardless of race, sex, color, or national origin.

Section 4. Classes of membership which will be recognized by the District are:

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: full-time preparatory students enrolled in approved vocational trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education meeting the requirements of the State Plan for Vocational Education.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP: persons associated with or participating in the professional development of SkillsUSA as approved by the State Association. Such members shall include club advisors, teacher educators, and supervisors. Professional members will pay dues as established by SkillsUSA but will be ineligible to serve as voting delegates, hold office, or otherwise represent the District Association in State or National SkillsUSA.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: lay persons associated with and contributing to the improvement and development of the organization and vocational trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education. They are not eligible to hold office or vote.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP: individuals who have made significant contributions to the improvement and development of SkillsUSA and vocational trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education whose membership has been approved by the Executive Council upon the recommendation of a local club. Such membership shall not require payment of dues.

Section 5. A membership year shall be from September-1 through August 31, inclusive.

ARTICLE V - DISTRICT OFFICERS

Section 1. The District Officers of the South West District of SkillsUSA Kansas shall be:
Middle school: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, parliamentarian and historian.

High school: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, parliamentarian and historian.

College/Postsecondary: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, reporter, parliamentarian, and historian.

Section 2. The District Officers shall be selected at a District Leadership Conference at least thirty days prior to the State Leadership Conference, and shall serve one full year being in the month of October.

Section 3. District Advisors will evaluate candidate credentials prior to the District Leadership Conference election. Credentials in the form of an Application for District Office must be received by the District SkillsUSA Advisor by the date of the District Leadership Conference.

Section 4. Should the presidency be vacated, the vice-president shall succeed to the office and the vice-presidency filled by one of the local club presidents through appointment by the District SkillsUSA Advisor. Vacancies in any other of the District offices shall be filled by appointment by the President of the South West District of Kansas SkillsUSA.

ARTICLE VI - QUALIFICATIONS FOR DISTRICT OFFICE

Section 1. Candidates for a District office shall have:

- A. Active membership status.
- B. Endorsement of their local chapter.
- C. At least one full school year remaining in a vocational education program.

Section 2. All candidates for a District office must file their candidacy for office with the District SkillsUSA Advisor not later than ten days prior to the date of the District Leadership Conference.

ARTICLE VII - HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Section 1. Official voting delegates from each local chapter shall be those members present and in good standing.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section 1. A District Leadership Conference shall be held in the fall of each year prior to October 1.

Section 2. In order to conduct business at any District meeting, a quorum must be present. A quorum is herein defined as fifty-one percent of delegates being present.

Section 3. The District Advisor and District Officers shall conduct meetings on a regularly scheduled basis with the dates being set at the beginning of the membership year. Special meetings may be called by the District Advisor.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCES

Section 1. District dues may be set annually by delegates at the District House of Delegates Assembly. These dues become effective as designated by the voting delegates.

Section 2. State and national dues will be assessed in accordance with the amount set by the State and National House of Delegates.

Section 3. Sections which have paid membership dues in full on or before February 1 of each school year shall be designated as chapters in good standing. Only chapters in good standing at that time shall be allowed to participate in the Annual Spring Skills and Leadership Conference and Skill Olympics.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended as follows:

- A. A proposed amendment must be presented in writing to the District Advisor thirty days prior to a District meeting.
- B. The amendments shall be reviewed by the District Advisor and District Officers.
- C. Amendments must be submitted to each local club as soon as possible before the House of Delegates meeting held at the District meeting. Amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted upon two-thirds affirmative vote of the House of Delegates. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be adopted by a majority of the House of Delegates.

Section 2. Only such amendments shall be made as are in keeping with the purposes as stated in Article II of this Constitution and the State and National SkillsUSA Constitutions.

ARTICLE XI - BYLAWS AND OPERATING POLICIES

Section 1. Bylaws shall be adopted by a majority vote of the House of Delegates.

Section 2. Such bylaws shall be adopted as are deemed necessary for the proper conduct of this organization.

Section 3. No rules, regulations or bylaws shall be adopted which are contrary to this Constitution or the State or National SkillsUSA Constitutions.

Section 4. In all meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised current edition, shall serve as standard procedure.

Section 5. The use of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs is strictly prohibited at official SkillsUSA functions.

Section 6. A chapter as herein defined shall be all the students and/or sections in a single school.

SW DISTRICT ACTIONS

2016, October 11: Amended Article I, and Article V to add middle school language.

2014, October 14: Amended Article III, Section 3. Defining SW District area from highway borders to counties.

2008, Fall: Amended

2004, July 1: Revised "VICA" and "Vocational Industrial Clubs of America" with SkillsUSA to align district document with national and state organization.