

2011 SKILLS USA WELDING COMMITTEE REPORT

On Sunday June 19, 2011, 17 members of the Skills USA Welding Committee , and 4 members of the National Education Team, entered Bartle Hall to begin preparations to conduct the Skills USA 2011 Welding Contest. In three hours, the members of the committee had set up a 48 station welding shop in Bartle Hall. (We have done it before) The shop consisted of 16 FCAW/GMAW booths, 16 SMAW/GTAW booths, 8 burning stations and 8 Visual Inspection stations. A fume extraction system was installed to ventilate the welding booths. The booths were constructed with orange protective see through curtains and contained a welding table with an adjustable clamp, and a ventilation tube. The power supplies, all brand new, were placed just outside the welding booths. The burning stations contained 8 cutting tables and used Acetylene as the fuel gas. The visual inspection area also consisted of 8 work stations using American Welding Society weld replicas and inspection tool kits. All the stations were hooked up electrically by Bartle Hall Electricians on Tuesday.

On Tuesday June 22 it was time for the Welding Committee to meet the eighty four contestants and vice versa. The Chairman of the Welding Committee, Eugene G. Hornberger introduced the members of the Committee and a special guest, John Mendoza, President of the American Welding Society and his wife Nora. President Mendoza welcomed the students to the competition and praised them for their choice of a Welding Vocation. He told them of bright future for welders and explained to them what the American Welding Society has to offer them.

Following President Mendoza's talk the roll was called to verify the contestants name and contestant number. This was followed by a question and answer period. After the question and answer period the Advisors were adjourned to another meeting room for a presentation by representatives from the American Welding Society. The Welding Contestants were given a 50 question mental test written to test their knowledge of safety and the welding and cutting processes they will be using. The score on the test is included in the final score. After they completed the mental test they lined up to make a presentation on why they chose welding as an occupation to one of two panels each consisting of three lady judges. One panel judged high school contestants and one judged College/Post Secondary contestants. These scores are also included in the final score.

Skills USA publishes a document entitled "Skills USA Championships, Technical Standards" defining minimum skill competencies in all the contest areas. These competencies are written by the Skills USA Technical Committees. The Welding Committee wrote the competencies for welding. The Technical Standards for welding defines the requirements for the welding contest. It requires that drawings , welding terms and definitions and welding and non destructive symbols are in conformance the latest editions of American Welding Society standards

Wednesday, the College/Post Secondary Contestants came to compete in their welding Contest . They were greeted by twenty one Committee members, fifty judges, and ten Iron Worker Apprentices from Kansas City Local 10. While the same processes are used in both College/Post Secondary and High School contests the projects are not the same . The contestants were broken up into three groups and provided with escorts to move them along in the contest. One group of contestants was taken to the

FCAW/GMAW area, another was taken to the SMAW/GTAW, and the final group was taken to the OFC/Visual Inspection area. In all the contest areas the contestants were given the material needed to complete the project, drawings and Welding Procedure Specifications. All contest materials are provided by the Welding Committee. Each portion of the contest is one hour long. After one hour the contestants start a different project. This year in the FCAW/GMAW area there was one FCAW projects and one GMAW project. In the SMAW/GTAW area, the SMAW project was completed first and the power supply changed over to GTA weld Aluminum. In the OFC area the contestants were given a steel plate and a drawing. They were required to layout the plate and make the required cuts. In the Visual Inspection area the contestants were provided an American Welding Society tool kit and used them to measure plastic weld replicas used in the Certified Welding Inspector, Visual Inspection class. They are given a twenty question test to answer using the replicas and tool kits. After one hour OFC contestants came to Visual Inspection area and the Visual Inspection group went to the OFC area.

All competitors are judged by in process Judges while they are laying out and welding or cutting their projects. These same Judges also pay close attention to safety violations. Final judging is done behind curtains by Certified Welding Inspectors. After final Judging the projects are placed on display for the general public to view. All Competitors are judge by 15 different judges, some of who never see the competitor.

The competitors rotate through the welding stations every two and one half hours. Fifteen minute changeover breaks are scheduled after every one hour segment of the contest. Contestants enter the contest at 8:30 AM and leave at 4:00 PM.

In response to a comment from a Welding Advisor at an exit critique several years ago, we hired a videographer to film our contest and put together a video that teachers could use at their home schools to show the students what they could expect if they got to the Skills USA competition. It has been completed and covers all aspects of the contest from the Contestant orientation to the finish of the projects. It has been put on a CD and is be available from Skills USA and the American Welding Society, at no cost.

Thursday the entire routine repeats itself with the High School Students. Again the projects for the High School students are different from that for the College/Post Secondary students. The scoring is done via computers . The Welding Contest was the first to score the contest with computers having started 25 years ago.

On Friday a critique of the contest was held for students and advisors. After the Critique Miller Electric Equipment Company gave a y presentation.

Friday evening was the awards ceremony. Winners were as follows:

High School
First Place
Tim Saxton
Minnesota

Second Place
Kaleb Parsch
Michigan

Third Place
Evan Mogler
Indiana

College/Post Secondary

First Place
Spartak Matvyeyenko
California

Second Place (third place last year)
Blake Parks
Wyoming

Third Place
Micah Hoover
Pennsylvania