

THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG FARMERS OF TEXAS

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

For

THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG FARMERS OF TEXAS

Adopted at the State Convention held in San Antonio July 21, 1954

Amended January 20, 1979	Amended January 12, 1997
Amended January 24, 1987	Amended January 10, 1998
Amended January 21, 1989	Amended January 21, 2000
Amended January 19, 1991	Amended January 12, 2002
Amended January 16, 1993	Amended January 12, 2008
Amended January 14, 1995	Amended January 10, 2015
Amended January 13, 1996	

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name and Purposes

Section A: The name of this organization shall be the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas. Members are hereinafter referred to as the Young Farmers of Texas.

Section B: This Corporation is formed for exclusively educational purposes with particular reference to the fields of agriculture.

Article II – Organization

Section A: The State Association of Young Farmers of Texas is an organization of young men and women who are interested in agriculture. It shall consist of local or county organization chartered by the State Association. Area associations may be organized.

1. Local organizations shall be composed of members from one school district or the area served by that school district.
2. County organizations shall be composed of members from two or more adjoining school districts in the same county. They shall work under the same regulations as a local organization.
3. Area Associations are local and county organizations within an agricultural science teacher area. If an area association is organized, it shall consist of all local and county organizations in the area.

Section B: The fiscal year for this association shall be July 1 through June 30.

Section C: Local or county organizations may become and remain affiliated with the State Association by complying with the procedures outlined in the Bylaws.

Article III – Membership

Section A: The membership of this organization shall be of two kinds (1) Active and (2) Honorary.

Section B: Active membership - Any person not enrolled in high school and over 18 years old is eligible to become an active member of the local or county organization, or a member-at-large of the State Association.

Section C: Honorary membership - Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Young Farmers of Texas and to the general improvement of agricultural conditions may be elected to honorary membership by majority vote of the delegates present at any local, county, or state convention.

Article IV – Officers

Section A: Local or County Officers - The officers of the local or county organization shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter. Other officers may be elected if desired. Officers shall be elected annually.

Section B: State Officers - Each agricultural science area in Texas having at least one active chapter shall select one young farmer to serve as State Officer. State Officers shall serve a term of two years. No State Officer may serve more than two consecutive two-year terms in succession. Each even numbered Area shall elect one State Officer in even numbered years to serve two years, and each odd numbered Area shall elect one State Officer in odd numbered years to serve two years. Each Area shall determine how it's Area Officer is selected. The provisions in this paragraph dealing with the Odd and Even Area elections for State Officers shall not apply to the election of the President-Elect.

If an Area is unrepresented on the State Board, a member in good standing from any Area shall be elected to fill the vacancy as a State Officer at Large. Any such member willing to be a State Officer at Large shall appear before the delegates at the State Convention and be elected by a majority vote. The State Officer at Large shall serve a two year term and may serve no more than two consecutive two year terms. In the event a previously

unrepresented Area obtains a State Officer after the election of a State Officer at Large, then the newly obtained State Officer for that Area shall serve as a State Officer along with the State Officer at Large. No more than two (2) State Officer's at Large may be elected from one (1) particular Area.

- a. President: The President shall serve a one-year term. The President shall have served the previous year as President-Elect. The President shall represent the State Association and not an Area Association. The Area in which the President is elected from shall elect a member to serve as their representative on the State Board.
- b. President-Elect: The assembled delegates at the State Convention shall elect a President-Elect for a one-year term whom has served the previous year as a State Officer. Qualified officers desiring to be considered for President-Elect will be permitted to appear before the delegates at the State Convention. The President-Elect shall represent the State Association and not an Area Association. The Area in which the President-Elect is elected from shall elect a member to serve as their representative on the State Board.
- c. Vice Presidents: The remaining State Officers shall be called Vice Presidents. The State Officers shall elect from the Vice Presidents individuals to serve the duties of Secretary/Treasurer.
- d. Filling Vacancies: If for any reason a State Officer cannot complete his or her term, the Area from which the vacancy occurs shall select a replacement. The chapter, in which the State Officer was a member, providing it is in good standing, shall designate someone to serve until such time as the Area fills the vacancy. In the case of Presidential vacancy, the current President-Elect shall assume the office of President. Any other State Officer vacancy shall be filled according to Article IV, (B).

Section C: Advisor(s) -Local or County Advisors:

- a. The local or county association has the option of electing a(n) advisor(s). The Advisor(s), if elected, shall be a teacher of agricultural science in a public school. The agricultural science teacher cannot be considered for office or apply for awards on the state level. The advisor may act as a voting delegate if he/she is a paid member in good standing.
- b. State Advisor: The Director of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Education 14, Texas Education Agency, Austin, Texas, shall serve as State Advisor.

- c. Executive Administrator: The Executive Director of VATAT shall serve as the Executive Administrator
- d. Area Young Farmer Coordinators: Agricultural science teachers shall serve as Area Young Farmer Coordinators of area associations.

Section D: Executive Secretary - The Executive Administrator, in conference with the State Advisor, may appoint a person to serve as Executive Secretary to the State Association. Preference will be given to a retired or former agriculture science teacher that has been active in the Young Farmer Association. The State Executive Board will have the authority to confirm the appointment. The Executive Secretary will be paid a salary and allocated an expense account as agreed upon by the Board. The salary will be paid from the General Funds of the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas.

Article V - Executive Committee

Section A: Composition of the State Executive Committee - The State Executive Committee shall be composed of the state officers, one current Agricultural Science Teacher of a Young Farmer chapter as appointed by the Executive Administrator (preferably the Advisor of the State President) and one Area Coordinator of a Young Farmer chapter as appointed annually by the Executive Administrator. One of the two advisor appointments shall also be a current member of the VATAT Board of Directors.

Section B: Ex Officio Members - Ex Officio members of the executive committee shall be composed of the following:

- i. Executive Administrator
- ii. Executive Secretary
- iii. Two staff members representing separate departments of agricultural education in vocational agriculture teacher training institutions appointed by the Executive Administrator after consultation with their respective department heads.
- iv. The immediate past president.
- v. Ex officio members shall not have the right to vote.

Section C: The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the State Association, subject to such regulations, bylaws, and state programs of work as have been adopted by delegates.

Section D: A voting quorum for the Executive Committee shall consist of at least four voting members of the committee. A quorum must be present at any meeting at which business is transacted or a vote taken making recommendations to the Association.

Section E: Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held not less than three (3) times per year including the convention meeting. The president and/or the advisor shall determine the meeting time and place.

Article VI – Meetings

Section A: A convention of the Young Farmers of Texas shall be held annually at a time and at a place to be determined by the State Executive Committee.

Section B: Each chapter may send two delegates to the State Convention.

Section C: Parliamentary procedure at all meetings of this Association shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VII – Dues

Section A: The voting delegates present at the state convention shall set annual membership dues of the State Association.

Section B: The membership year shall be from September 1 through August 31.

Section C: The dues of any local or county chapter shall be fixed by the chapter executive committee, subject to approval of a majority vote of the active members of the chapter or county.

Article VIII - Emblem and Colors

Section A: The emblem shall be round with the words, "The State Association of Young Farmers of Texas", printed around the circle. The outline of the map of Texas shall fit into the circle. The map shall be cross-fenced with a Hereford bull's head on one side of the fence, and a tractor in a cultivated field shall be on the other side of the fence.

Section B: Emblems shall be uniform in all chapters in the State.

Section C: The colors of the Young Farmers of Texas shall be corn gold and national blue.

Section D: The colors for the local or county chapters shall be the same as those adopted by the State Association.

Article IX - Amendments

Proposed amendments to the state constitution or bylaws must be submitted in writing 30 days prior to the fall executive committee meeting by authorized representatives of a local or county chapter to the State Executive Committee. The committee will review the amendments and, together with their recommendations, submit them to the delegates at the state convention. When this procedure is followed, amendments to the state constitution or bylaws may be adopted at any state convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

Article X - Dissolution of Assets

In event of dissolution, assets of the corporation shall be turned over to the Texas FFA to be utilized exclusively for charitable or educational purposes. If that organization is unable or unwilling to accept the assets at the time of the dissolution, the assets shall be utilized exclusively for charitable or educational purposes.

BYLAWS

Article I - Duties of Officers

Section A: Presidents

1. State President: It shall be the duty of the Young Farmers of Texas President to preside at all meetings of the State Association of the Young Farmers of Texas and to serve as chairperson of the State Executive Committee. The president shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex officio member of these committees. The president shall be present at the audit exit interview. The president shall call a state convention each year at the time and place selected by the Executive Committee. The President shall represent the State Association as a whole and not any particular Area.
2. Local, County and Area Presidents: Local, county and area presidents shall perform the duties and have the responsibilities customarily delegated to presidents.

Section B: President-Elect

It shall be the duty of the President-Elect to preside at all meetings of the association in the absence of the President and assist the President at all times in carrying out the work of the association. It shall also be the duty of the President-Elect to use the time in this office to familiarize him or herself with the office and duties of the President in order to better serve the association.

Section C: Vice Presidents

Local or County and Area Vice Presidents: It shall be the duty of the local or county and area vice presidents to perform the duties customarily assigned to vice presidents.

Section D: Secretaries

1. State Secretary: It shall be the duty of the state vice president appointed secretary to see that minutes of the state organization and executive committee are kept, properly distributed, and permanently filed. The secretary shall perform other duties normally pertaining to the office of secretary.
2. Local or County and Area Secretaries: The local or county and area secretaries shall perform the duties normally associated with the office of secretary and other duties as may be prescribed by their respective organizations.

Section E: Treasurers

1. State Treasurer: The state treasurer shall monitor all financial transactions of the State Association. The treasurer shall serve as the chairperson of the Budget Committee and serve as an ex officio member of the Audit Committee. The treasurer shall be present for the audit exit interview. The treasurer shall present to the State Association at the state convention an annual financial statement on the condition of the state treasury.
2. Local or County and Area Treasurers: The local or county and area treasurer shall perform the duties of the office as prescribed by their respective organizations.

Section F: Reporters - It shall be the duty of the reporters to report promptly and correctly items of local, state, or national interest relating to Young Farmer work to radio, television, newspapers, and other publications.

Section G: Executive Administrator

1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Administrator to serve as ex officio member of the Executive Committee and all other committees. It is the Executive Administrator's duty to advise the officers and members of the organization, executive committee, and other committees on matters of policy and on matters regarding the welfare of the Association.
2. The Executive Administrator shall advise and assist in setting up and carrying out the program of work and all other activities sponsored or participated in by the Association.
3. The Executive Administrator shall have authority to designate an individual (preferably a retired agricultural science teacher familiar with the Young Farmer Association) to serve as Executive Secretary of the State Association.
4. The Executive Administrator shall see that all legal matters regarding the organization are in order.
5. The Executive Administrator shall be responsible for maintaining a permanent record of the minutes of organizational and executive committee meetings, charters, membership, and other business of a statewide nature.

Section H: Executive Secretary - The Executive Secretary shall serve as ex officio member of the Executive Committee and all other committees. He or she shall perform such duties as prescribed by the Executive Administrator, or by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Executive Administrator. The Executive Secretary, in general, shall carry out the details of the state programs directed by the Executive Administrator and under his or her supervision and authority.

Section I: Area Coordinators - Area Coordinators shall serve under the supervision of the Executive Administrator. They shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Administrator in promoting and carrying out Young Farmer programs in their respective areas.

Article II – Committees

Section A: The President of the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas shall appoint two committees annually: The Audit Committee and Program of Work Committee.

Section B: The Audit Committee shall examine annually the books as maintained by the Budget and Finance Coordinator of the Texas FFA Association as pertaining to the Texas Young Farmer Association.

Section C: The Program of Work Committee shall set up the objectives and goals of the State Association and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

Article III – Procedures

Section A: Issuing Charters to Organizations - Local or County organizations of the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas shall apply to the Executive Secretary for affiliation with the State Association. The local or county Young Farmer organization president and secretary shall sign such application. A chapter must have a minimum of eight members to be eligible for a charter. The following material must accompany the application for a charter:

1. A copy of the proposed constitution and bylaws
2. A copy of the annual program of work
3. A list of active membership with a minimum of eight members
4. A list of chapter officers with physical and email addresses of each

The Executive Secretary, with the approval of the Executive Administrator, shall grant a charter provided the proposed constitution is

not in conflict with the constitution of the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas and that it otherwise meets the standards established for the Young Farmers of Texas. The State President, the State Secretary, the Executive Secretary, and the Executive Administrator of the Young Farmers of Texas will sign the charter. The voting delegates at any state convention shall have the power to suspend chapter or county charters upon receipt of evidence of infringement on provisions of the state constitution.

- Section B: Determining Standing of Chapters - A local or county chapter of Young Farmers shall be considered in good standing with the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas provided the following general conditions are met:
1. The local chapter constitution is not in conflict with the state constitution.
 2. The activities of the chapter are in harmony with the purposes of the State Association.
 3. All current reports are submitted to the state president as requested.
 4. Membership dues are paid. (Minimum of eight members)

In the event a chapter is not in good standing at the time of the opening of the state convention, the delegates in the convention shall have the power, on the recommendation of the State Executive Committee, to withdraw or suspend its charter and refuse such chapter official representation at the annual state convention. When, and if, such action is taken, the members of the chapter in question shall be denied the regular privileges of the Association. By meeting the requirements of good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the State Executive Committee not earlier than 10 days after the close of the state convention during which it was not in good standing

- Section C: Determining Standing of Members - An active member is considered in good standing provided he or she:
1. Attends meetings regularly. (Except members in military service)
 2. Shows an interest and takes part in the affairs of the chapter.
 3. Pays dues regularly.

Article IV - Special Meetings

- Section A: Special meetings of the State Executive Committee shall be held at such time and place as determined by the state president or advisor, or three voting members of the Executive committee.

Section B: Special meetings of the State Association may be called at any time by the state president with approval of the Executive Committee.

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