

Area III FFA Association Constitution

ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Area III FFA Association of the Texas FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.

Section B. The mission and strategies for this association are as follows:

FFA makes a **positive difference** in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth** and **career success** through **agricultural education**.

1. Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
5. Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
6. Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
7. Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
8. Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
9. Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
10. Promotes healthy lifestyles.
11. Encourages excellence in scholarship.

ARTICLE II - Organization

Section A. The Area III FFA Association is an administrative subdivision unit of the Texas Association of FFA, which is affiliated with the National FFA Organization.

Section B. This Area Association accepts in full the provisions in the constitution, bylaws, policies and regulations of the Texas Association of FFA and the National FFA Organization.

Section C. All districts within the bounds of the Area III FFA Association are defined by the Texas FFA office. The Area III Association is composed of the FFA Chapters that have been chartered by the Texas FFA Association, and said chapters are considered in good standing with the Area III FFA Association when they meet the general conditions as established by the Texas and National Constitution and By-Laws of the FFA Organization.

Section D. Each chapter shall be represented in the Area III Association by the delegation count established by the Texas FFA. The delegates will be seated after proper credentials are presented and they are checked-in in compliance with Area III procedures. The delegates will be entitled to one vote each on all matters that are presented in proper form before the Area III Association. The Area III Association will be represented in the State & National meetings as recommended by the State and National association and organization. Only active members are eligible to vote in the Area III Association of FFA meetings.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section A. Membership in this association shall be of one kind: Active; as defined by the National and Texas FFA Constitutions and by Texas FFA Association membership policies.

Section B. The regular activities of this association shall be carried on by the active membership.

Section C. Active Membership: To be eligible for active membership in this association, a student must meet

the membership eligibility requirements of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association. An active member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agriculture, food and natural resources course, as defined in Texas FFA Association membership policies, during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study. Either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agriculture, food and natural resources career.
2. Shows an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership, and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pays all current local, district, area, state and national dues by the date determined by the Texas FFA Association.
4. Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization, Texas FFA Association and with the school district's code of student conduct.
5. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this area's bylaws and policies.

Section D. Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the association through the Texas FFA roster management system in compliance with the Texas FFA policies and procedures.

Section E. Full District, Area, State, and National dues shall be paid by November 1st and March 1st for the spring in order to participate in all Area III FFA activities. Late dues shall be accepted with a \$25.00 late fee per chapter per occurrence paid to the Area III FFA.

Section F. The membership year for the Area III FFA Association shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of each year.

ARTICLE IV - Emblems

Section A. The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the association.

Section B. Emblems used by the members shall be designated by the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE V - Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership

Section A. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: (1) Discovery FFA Degree, (2) Greenhand FFA Degree, (3) Chapter FFA Degree, (4) State FFA Degree and (5) American FFA Degree. All Discovery FFA members are entitled to wear the regulation bronze and blue emblem pin. All Greenhands are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin. All members holding the Chapter FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem pin. All members holding the State FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm. All members holding the American FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

Section B. Area III shall follow the FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election as outlined by the Texas FFA and National FFA Constitutions, as well as the policies established for conferring such degrees.

ARTICLE VI – Officers and Board of Officers

- Section A.** There will be 10 Area Officers representing Area III, with 2 coming from each of the districts. The top two candidates in the election process will serve as President and Vice-President, respectively. The remaining positions will serve as Vice-Presidents. Area officers shall be elected annually and may only serve one term.
- Section B.** The advisor(s) of the Area President shall serve as the Area Co-Advisor(s). An Area Advisor shall be elected by the Area III governing body in accordance with Area III policy.
- Section C.** Pursuant to the provisions of the national and state constitutions, all area officers shall have attained the chapter FFA degree; and be concluding their junior year of high school when their respective district association nominates them.
- Section D.** Area officer candidates shall have an opportunity to demonstrate FFA, agricultural education, parliamentary procedure and agricultural industry knowledge via a written exam and writing exercise, present their qualifications to a selection committee and appear before the area convention body delegates and deliver a campaign speech and be elected in accordance with the Area III Officer Selection Policy.
- Section E.** Each District may elect two Area officer candidates each year. The Area officer shall be elected by the election policies explained in the Area III Officer Selection Policies and Procedures Guidelines.
- Section F.** Area Officers are required to comply with the Area III Officer Guidelines during their year of service. Each area officer candidate must submit an Area III FFA Officer Contract prior to running for office; this form shall be turned in at the time the candidate submits their application.
- Section G.** Officers shall serve from the end of the area convention meeting at which they are installed to the end of the next area convention at which officers are installed.
- Section H.** The elected officers of the area, the advisors of the area officers and the area Advisor shall constitute the Board of Area III Officers which shall convene to plan the activities of the area. Telephone conferences of the executive committee may be called and considered meetings provided that all participating members may participate and be heard simultaneously.
- Section I.** If for any reason a student office becomes vacant, the district from which the vacancy occurs will be represented by a replacement from that district in accordance with the Area III Officer Selection Policy. If for any reason the office of President should become vacant, the student officer who received the next highest score in the election for President shall become President.
- Section J.** Area III State Officer candidate(s) will be selected in accordance with the Texas FFA Constitution, State Officer Selection Policies and procedures. Candidates for state office shall hold the state degree at the time of the state election.
- Section K.** Area III National Officer candidate(s) will be selected in accordance with the Texas FFA and National FFA Constitution, policies and procedures. National office shall hold the American Degree at the time of their election to office.

ARTICLE VII – The Governing Body

- Section A.** The Governing Body of the Area III FFA Association shall be the Agriculture Science Teachers/FFA Advisors of Area III. The governing body may appoint/elect committee members to state level committees, in accordance with state and area policy as well as establish committees for the betterment of the Area III Association membership.
- Section B.** The governing body shall meet at least twice a year; at the annual VATAT Conference and

the Mid-Winter Conference.

Section C. The Governing body is responsible for electing members of the Agriculture Teacher Executive Board in accordance with the Area III policy.

Section D. A quorum shall exist when at least one Area III Agriculture Teacher/FFA Advisor from each of the registered schools/chapters is present and more than 50% of the schools/chapters registered for the convention are present.

Section E. The governing body shall review decisions and proposals as they affect the Area III FFA Student Membership. The governing body shall have final authority in all matters pertaining to the Area III FFA Association without violating the Area III, Texas and/or National FFA Constitution and Bylaws.

Section F. The governing body is responsible for adopting and reviewing Area III FFA Policy.

Section G. Members of the governing body shall cooperate with the Agriculture Teachers Executive Board, serve in an advisory capacity, and assist with the administrative and functional activities of the Area.

ARTICLE VIII – The Agriculture Teacher Executive Board

Section A. The Agriculture Teacher Executive Board shall consist of the Area III Coordinator, President, Secretary, Treasurer and Advisor which shall have the power to transact items of business on behalf of the Area III FFA Association in accordance with the Area III FFA Constitution and policies adopted by the governing body.

Section B. Duties, responsibilities and terms shall be outlined in the Area III Policy Handbook.

Section C. The Agriculture Teacher Executive board shall be elected by the governing body of Area III Agriculture Teachers/FFA Advisors at the Area III Agriculture Teachers Meeting during the Annual VATAT Conference, in compliance with established policy.

Section D. The Agriculture Teacher Executive Board shall have the power to approve or disapprove the action(s) of Area Officers and the Board of Area Officers.

Section E. The Agriculture Teacher Executive Board shall have the power to establish special committees to present findings and suggest direction to the governing body.

Section F. The Agriculture Teacher Executive Board shall cooperate and serve in an advisory capacity, assist with the administrative direction of the association and interpret the Area III FFA Constitution and established policies.

ARTICLE IX - Dues

Section A. Dues for the Area III FFA Association shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at the spring meeting.

Section B. Full district, area, state and national dues shall be paid by chartered chapters. All annual Area dues are to be paid to the Area III FFA Association by November 1 for the Fall semester and March 1 for the Spring Semester. Late dues shall be accepted with a \$25.00 late fee per chapter per occurrence paid to the Area III FFA. All chapters shall submit a copy of their roster to the Agriculture Teacher Executive Board Treasurer with their dues.

Section C. No member or chapter shall be considered as active and in good standing unless full local, district, area, state and national FFA dues are paid.

ARTICLE X – Meetings and Conventions

- Section A.** Except in case of an extreme emergency declared by the Area III Agriculture Teacher Executive Board a convention of the Area III FFA Association shall be held annually. The time and place of the convention shall be determined by the Agriculture Teacher Executive Board.
- Section B.** At the Area Convention or Meetings, each local chapter shall be entitled to send one delegate or multiple delegates from its active membership, in accordance with the state delegate allocation schedule.
- Section C.** A quorum shall exist when delegates representing more than 50% of the chapters registered for the convention or meeting are present.
- Section D.** Except in cases of extreme emergency, Area conventions shall be held annually prior to the State Convention at a time selected by the Area III Agriculture Teacher Executive Board.
- Section E.** The Area III Agriculture Teacher Executive Board may call meetings to conduct business as deemed necessary for the operation of the association; chapters must be notified 30 days in advanced of such meetings.
- Section F.** Cumulative and proxy voting are prohibited.

ARTICLE XI - Amendments

- Section A.** Amendments to the Area III FFA Constitution may be submitted by a District FFA Association, the Area Board of Officers, the Governing Body, a special committee or the Agriculture Teachers Executive Board.
- Section B.** Proposed amendments to the Area III FFA Constitution from a District, Board of Officers, special committee and/or governing body must be submitted in writing to the Area coordinator at least 30 days prior to the next Area FFA Convention/meeting for review by the Area Agriculture Teachers Executive Board or designated committee and the Board of Officers.
- Section C.** All proposed amendments to the Area III FFA Constitution must be submitted by the Area Coordinator to the local chapters at least 14 days prior to the next Area FFA Convention/meeting in which the amendment will be taken up by the delegation. Chapter shall be notified by mail, or electronic mail.
- Section D.** The Area III FFA Officers shall present the amendments to the delegates at the Area Convention/Meeting. An amendment to the Area III FFA Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by the official delegates at the Area III Convention/Meeting.
- Section F.** This constitution may be amended or changed at any regular or special area meeting by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by a quorum of delegates present providing it is not in conflict with the National FFA Organization or Texas FFA Association constitution, bylaws or policies.

ARTICLE XII – Parliamentary Procedure

- Section A.** The *Parliamentary Guide for FFA* by Jarrell D. Gray shall be used as a guide for all Area meetings. The latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order* shall be the final authority in governing the actions of all Area meetings.