CONSTITUTION ~ BY-LAWS
VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF FFA
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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSES

SECTION A.

The name of this organization shall be "The Vermont Association of FFA". The letters "FFA" may be officially used to designate the organization, its units or members, thereof.

SECTION B.

The objects and purposes of the association, hereinafter referred to as the organization, shall be:

1. To create foster and assist chapters composed of students and former students of agricultural education in the public schools of Vermont which qualify for Federal reimbursements;
2. To develop character, train for useful citizenship and foster patriotism and thereby to develop competent aggressive rural and agricultural leadership;
3. To create and nurture a love of country life by encouraging members to improve the home and its surroundings; to develop organized rural recreational activities and to create more interest in the intelligent choices of agricultural and natural resources occupations;
4. To encourage the practice of thrift;
5. To publish an official magazine and other publications for the members of the organization;
6. To strengthen the confidence of agricultural education students in themselves and their work, to encourage members in the development of agricultural and natural resources occupations and to promote their permanent establishments in such vocations by:

a) encouraging improvement in scholarships;

b) providing prizes and awards to deserving students who have achieved distinction in agricultural education on a local, State or National basis;

c) assisting deserving students financially, through loans or grants, in becoming satisfactorily established in one of the agricultural and natural resources occupations;

7. To cooperate with others, including the State Board of Education, in accomplishing the above purposes: and to engage in such other activities consistent with the foregoing purposes, determined by the governing body to be for the best interests of the organization.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

SECTION A

The Vermont Association of FFA is the State organization for students of agricultural education. It shall consist of chartered local school chapters.

SECTION B.

1. The local chapters shall be grouped into districts upon recommendation of the Board of Student Officers and a two-thirds vote of delegates assembled at a State Convention. Districts may be disbanded in the same manner.

2 A district charter may be issued to any recognized districts in the State.

a) The District shall receive this charter upon submitting to the Board of student Officers a copy of its Constitution and By-laws.

b) The District shall hold at least two organized meetings each year.

c) District Officers shall be elected at the spring district meeting.

c) District advisors shall be elected in rotation for one year with recognition given to seniority of service in the district.

d) The District Officers shall hold at least one planning meeting before each district meeting. The district president and district advisor shall call the planning meeting of district officers.

e) Each chapter shall be represented at district meetings by an equal number of delegates elected at a chapter meeting.

SECTION C.

Active chapters of the FFA for students enrolled in school shall be chartered only in school where systematic instruction in agricultural education of the all-day, day-unit or part-time type is offered under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts.

SECTION D.

Members of active chapters shall meet, organize adopt a constitution not in conflict with the State or National constitution, elect officers, sets up a program of work and then apply to the Executive Secretary for membership in the State Association. Upon receipt of a charter from the State Association, the chapter and the members thereof will be recognized as the FFA.

SECTION E.

Collegiate chapters may be established in two or four year institutions where agricultural courses are taught. Membership shall be open to students enrolled in agricultural courses or who are pursuing career objectives in the industries of agriculture and natural resources. Such chapters shall be primarily designed for training their members in the knowledge and skill of advising and maintaining local FFA chapters.

ARTICLE III. PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS

SECTION A.

A local chapter shall be considered to be in good standing with the State Association when the following general conditions are met:

1. All current State and national dues have been paid by a date to be specified by the board of Student Officers.
2. All reports have been submitted to State FFA Office as requested.
3. No provision of chapter constitution is in conflict with the State and National constitutions or P.L. 740. Activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the National organization.
4. The Board of Student Officers shall have the power to suspend local charters upon receipt of evidence of infringement on the provisions of the State or the National constitutions. A report on all suspensions shall be presented to the next succeeding State Convention.

In case any local chapter is not in good standing with the State Association at the time of the opening of a State Convention, the delegates in the State Convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of the Board of Student Officers, to withdraw the charter and refuse such chapter official representation at the State Convention. When such action is taken the chapter in question and members thereof shall be denied the regular privileges of the State Association. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing, a chapter may be reinstated by action of the Board of Student Officers not earlier than ten days after the closing day of the State Convention during which it was not in good standing In case a local department of agricultural education in which a chartered chapter of FFA is located is discontinued, the chapter so involved may be permitted to operate officially for a period not to exceed 36 months from date of the discontinuance of the department, providing proper supervision and guidance can be given to the chapter work by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the State Advisor. Local chapter charters must be surrendered to the State Advisor at the end of the 36- month period if a local department of agricultural education is not again in operation in the school at that time.

SECTION B.

An active member shall be considered in good standing when:

1. They attend local chapter meetings while enrolled in the school where the local chapter is established.
2. They show an interest in, and take part in, the affairs of the chapter.
3. They pay their dues regularly and conduct themselves in a manner becoming members of the organization.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A.

Membership in this organization shall be of four kinds (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Honorary; (4) Collegiate.

SECTION B.

Active Membership. Any student in grades 7 - 12 who is enrolled in an all-day or day-unit class in agricultural education is entitled to become an active member of any chartered FFA chapter. They may retain active membership continuously throughout their entire high school career and until November 30,

following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduation from High School. A member who is in good standing at the time he/she is inducted into the armed forces of the United States of America shall be in good standing during the period of his/her induction without further payment of dues or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the armed forces shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period of three years after the first national convention following graduation from high school or leaving high school Members making use of this waiver of service time for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application for advanced degrees must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from service, indicating such a desire by payment of dues and attendance at meetings. No individual, however, may retain his/her active membership beyond his/her 23rd birthday.

SECTION C.

Alumni Membership. Following the termination of active membership status, a member automatically becomes an Alumnus. Upon payment of dues to the Alumni Association, an Alumnus becomes a member of the Alumni Association.

SECTION D.

Honorary Membership. Supervisors, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, instructors, teachers of agriculture, businessmen, farmers and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention. Honorary membership shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree in the local chapter and the Honorary State FFA Degree in the State Association.

SECTION E.

Collegiate Membership. Collegiate members are students enrolled in agricultural courses at a two or four year institution having a collegiate chapter. Active members of local chapters attending these institutions may elect to join collegiate chapters and maintain all rights and privileges of active membership. This is with the exception of competition in judging activities among the local high school chapters. Collegiate chapters may, however, participate with other collegiate chapters in contests and judging activities. The State Association will charter collegiate chapters.

ARTICLE V. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

SECTION A.

There shall be only four degrees of active membership based upon achievement. These are:
(1) Greenhand FFA; (2) Chapter FFA; (3) Green Mountain FFA and (4) American FFA Degrees. The national organization shall set the standards for the several degrees.

SECTION B.

Greenhand FFA Degree Standards.

1. Be regularly enrolled in an agricultural education class and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a program of supervised agriculture experience.
2. Be familiar with the purposes of the FFA and the program of work of the local chapter.
3. Recite the Creed of the FFA.
4. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of a local chapter of the FFA.

SECTION C.

Chapter FFA Degree Standards.

1. Must have held the degree of Greenhand proceeding election to the Chapter FFA Degree and have a record of satisfactory participation in at least three official functions in the chapter program of activities.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised experience program and be regularly enrolled in an agricultural education course.
3. Be familiar with the purposes and programs of work of the State Association and National organizations.
4. Be familiar with the provisions of the constitution of the local chapter.
5. Be able to demonstrate five parliamentary procedures.
6. Be able to lead a group discussion for fifteen minutes.

7. Have earned and productively invested at least $150 by the member's own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
8. Receive a majority vote of the members present at a regular local chapter meeting.
9. Demonstrate progress towards achievement of Agriculture Proficiency on the local level.
10. Have a satisfactory scholastic record in an agricultural course.
11. Submit application for the degree for chapter records.

SECTION D.

Green Mountain FFA Degree Standards.
1. Must have held the Chapter FFA Degree proceeding election to the Green Mountain Degree, have been an active member of the FFA for at least two years, or at least two semesters if enrolled in an "all-day" program and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities of the local chapter.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least two years or a minimum of 720 hours of instruction in agricultural education, have been in operation an outstanding program of supervised agricultural experience and be regularly enrolled in an agricultural education class or have completed all the agricultural education offered in the school last attended.
3. Be familiar with the provisions of the constitutions of the State Association and National organization.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in ten parliamentary activities.
5. Be able to give a five-minute speech.
6. Have earned and productively invested at least $1,000 or worked at least three hundred hours in excess of scheduled class time or a combination, thereof in a supervised agricultural experience program.
7. Serve as an officer and/or committee chairman or a participating member of a major committee.
8. Must have participated in an outstanding way in activities for community improvement and the development of agriculture.
9. Participated in five (5) FFA activities above chapter level.
10. Have a satisfactory scholastic record certified by a local superintendent or principal.
11. Written records of achievement verified by the local advisor shall be submitted to the State Advisor by the local chapter's governing body at least one month prior to the State Convention. The State Advisor will then review the records, prepare briefs and submit his/her recommendations to the Board of Student Officers. This body will nominate at the regular State convention the candidates who have been found worthy to receive the honor. Briefs of the records shall be made available to the delegates when the candidates are nominated. The delegates shall then proceed to elect to the Green Mountain Degree the candidates found worthy.

SECTION E.

American FFA Degree Standards.
A candidate seeking his/her American FFA Degree must meet the standards established by the National FFA Organization as stated in the most current National FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE VI. EMBLEM

SECTION A.

The emblem of the FFA shall be made up of five symbols, namely:
1. the plow, representing tillage of the soil, the basis of modern agriculture;
2. the owl, representing wisdom;
3. the rising sun, representing common agricultural interests, since corn is native to America and is grown in every state; an 4. an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn indicating the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also carry the three letters `'FFA" and the words "Agricultural Education".

SECTION B.

Emblems shall be uniform in all State Associations and recognized units thereof. All members are entitled to wear the emblems.

SECTION C.

"Greenhand FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem degree pin; "Chapter FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem degree pin; "Green

Mountain FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm; and "American FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key

SECTION D.

"Honorary Chapter FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear either the regulation silver emblem degree pin or a similar pin in gold: "Honorary State FFA Degree" recipients are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm; Honorary America FFA Degree" holders are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

SECTION A.

The officers of the Vermont Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Executive Secretary and Advisor. There shall be one executive member elected from past officers of previous years. The six student officers and one executive member shall comprise the Board of Student Officers. The State Supervisor of Agricultural Education shall assume the responsibilities of the State Advisor. All officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at a regular state convention of the Vermont Association of the FFA.

SECTION B.

Honorary members shall not vote nor shall they hold any office except that of Advisor in the local chapter, that of Executive Secretary and Advisor in the State Association.

SECTION C.

All State Officers shall have attained the Green Mountain FFA Degree. Officers in the local chapters must not rank lower than the grade of Chapter FFA after the chapter has been established in any given school for one year or longer.

SECTION D.

In the conduct of the business of the Annual State Convention, each qualified delegate shall have one vote.

ARTICLE VIII. DUTIES OF THE STATE OFFICERS

SECTION A.

The President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over State Conventions of the FFA and over all meetings of the Board of Student Officers. The President shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees. The President shall attend the Washington Leadership Conference (one week) as well as attending other meetings listed in Section J.

SECTION B.

Vice President. It shall be the duty of the Vice President acting under the direction of the President, to look after the welfare of the FFA organization in all districts of the State, plus other responsibilities as listed in Section J. In case the office of the President becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the Vice President shall assume the President's duties.

SECTION C.

The Secretary. The Secretary shall perform the duties common to such an office, such as keeping an accurate record of the sessions of the State Convention and of the meetings of the Board of Student Officers. One copy of each record shall be given to the Executive Secretary for the permanent files and one copy for their own files. He/she shall perform such other duties as directed to perform by the Board of Student Officers or State Advisor, plus other responsibilities as listed in Section J.

SECTION D.

The Advisor. The Advisor shall administer the State FFA program according to the dictates of the Board of Student Officers and the delegates in annual session. He/she is an ex-officio member of all committees. He/she shall assign duties and responsibilities to other officers of the Association. It is also his/her duty to advise the Board of Student Officers, delegates and committees on matters of policy and assist the State Officers in conducting meetings and carrying out programs. The Advisor reviews all applications for the State FFA Degree and prepares a brief of the qualifications of the candidates to be submitted to the Executive Members of the Board of Student Officers with his/her recommendations. The Advisor is empowered to act as agent for the Association in investing funds, signing checks, purchasing or selling

property as bonds and similar securities when said purchase or said is authorized by a majority of the delegates assembled at a State Convention or by the Advisory Committee.

SECTION E.

The Executive Secretary. The State Advisor with the approval of the Board of Student Officers may appoint an Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall carry out duties assigned by the Advisor and Board of Student Officers. Such duties may include: the issuing of charters when ordered to do so by the Board of Student Officers; the keeping of records of membership and progress; receive reports from chapters, review them and inform the State Advisor and Board of Student Officers of any proceedings which appear to be in conflict with the provisions of the State Constitution; carry out public relations activities; and making arrangements for the Annual State Convention. He/she will perform such other duties and assume responsibilities as directed by the State Advisor and the Board of Student Officers.

SECTION F.

The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall act as custodian of the funds of the organization; collect State dues; keep an accurate record of all receipts, bank deposits and disbursements; and make an annual report on such matters at the State Convention and such other supplementary reports as may be directed by the Board of Student Officers and submit a monthly statement to the State Advisor. He/she shall submit a budget of proposed expenditures to the Board of Student Officers annually, plus other responsibilities as listed in Section J.

SECTION G.

The Reporter. The Reporter shall represent the Association in all matters relating to public relations. He/she shall work closely with the Advisor to publicize State FFA activities. He/she shall greet members of the press at all state functions and assist them in obtaining accurate information for the public he/she shall assist in editing any of the Association's publications. The Reporter shall make initial and follow-up contacts to each chapter relative to local chapter activities. He/she shall urge chapters to submit materials for State and national publication, plus other responsibilities as listed in Section J.

SECTION H.

The Sentinel. The Sentinel shall be in charge of arranging, caring for and closing the meeting room at the annual State Convention and over State Association functions. He/she shall distribute all mimeographed materials to delegates at the State Convention and other functions. He/she shall be stationed at the entrance of the convention meeting room and prevent distractions. He/she shall greet guests and contest judges, taking their names and positions and arrange with the president for their introduction. He/she shall also make arrangements for the necessary facilities and equipment for all state contests plus other responsibilities as listed in Section J.

SECTION I.

The Executive Committee Chairman. The Executive Committee Chairman shall be chairman of the nominations Committee. He/she shall be responsible for informing the Association relative to any new developments and act as a liaison person between the Alumni, the State Advisory (Council for Vo-Ag, Local Chapters and others as necessary, plus other responsibilities as listed in Section J).

SECTION J.

All state officers shall participate in the annual Program of Work as adopted by the Officer Team. (More than three unexcused absences shall be cause for requested resignation by a vote of the State Board of Student Officers.)

1. State FFA Convention and any necessary preparatory sessions - 5+ days
2. Barre Farm Show- 2 days
3. State Board of Student Officers Meeting - 1 per month
4. out-of-state conferences and conventions as voted by the State Board
5. The Annual State Youth Leadership Conference - 4 days
6. Chapter visitations (3 or 4 chapters per officer)
7. Sub-regional FFA Leadership Conference - 3 days
8. State FFA Camp- 3 days
9. Attend any other conferences, committee meetings, fairs, field days, chapter banquets meetings

ARTICLE IX. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING STATE OFFICERS

The Executive Members of the Board of Student Officers shall study and review the qualifications of all members who are eligible for consideration for State Office. Chapters are limited to having no more than two State Officers from any one chapter unless a shortage of candidates exists. The Executive Committee Chairman shall be chairman of the Nominating Committee, which shall consist of one delegate from each chapter. The committee shall report during the State Convention. Election of officers, which shall be by ballot, shall require a majority vote of all delegates present.

ARTICLE X. STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SECTION A.

There shall be a State Advisory Council of the Vermont Association of FFA composed of the district advisors, the State Executive Secretary, the State Advisor, the VATA President and two Alumni members.

SECTION B.

The State Advisory Council shall serve in an advisory capacity to the board of Student Officers, the State Executive Secretary and the State Advisor as requested. The council shall assist with the administrative direction of the organization and interpret the State Constitution. The State Advisory may act as chairman of the council.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

SECTION A.

The State Convention shall be held annually and at least 45 days prior to the National Convention at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Student Officers.

SECTION B.

Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly or more often throughout the calendar year and at such time and place as may be decided upon by the Executive Committee of the local chapter.

SECTION C.

Each local chapter shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) delegates and one (1) for each 20 members thereafter, based on an active membership of May 1.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES

The President of the Vermont Association of FFA shall appoint two committees annually. The Auditing Committee and the Committee of Program of Work. Other committees may be appointed as necessary. The Executive members of the Board of Student Officers shall act as Nominating Committee and shall, after careful consideration of the FFA personnel, place in nomination the candidates for the various State Officers, including the Executive Members. The Auditing Committee shall meet semiannually. The Auditing Committee is to be made up of the State Treasurer, the chapter treasurer from the State Treasurer's district and the district advisor. The Committee of Program of Work shall set up the annual objectives and goals of the State Association and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

ARTICLE XIII. DUES

SECTION A.

Annual membership dues in the State Association shall be fixed by a majority vote of the delegates present at the State convention of the FFA.

SECTION B.

The dues of any chapter shall be fixed by a majority vote of the membership of that chapter.

SECTION C.

Chapters shall pay their dues to the Vermont FFA State Association no later than January 15, of the current school year. Chapters will be granted a one-week grace period. Chapter(s) submitting dues after this date will be subject to a $40 late fee. Students must have a valid membership to represent the Vermont FFA Association in any state, regional and/or national competitions.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

SECTION A.

Proposed amendments to the State constitution may be submitted in writing by authorized representatives of local chapters at any Annual State convention of the FFA. These proposed amendments must be reviewed by the Board of Student Officers of the State Association which shall, in turn, submit them to the delegates in State convention with recommendations.

SECTION B.

By-Laws may be adopted to fit the needs of the State Association or any unit thereof, providing they are not in conflict with the State or National Constitution

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. BY-LAWS

SECTION A.

All provisions contained in the constitution of the FFA shall be considered to be a part of these By-Laws to the same extent as though fully set forth herein.

ARTICLE II. LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE

SECTION A.

The principal office of the state organization of the FFA shall be in the state supervisory office.

ARTICLE III. THE FISCAL YEAR

SECTION A.

The fiscal year of the association shall commence on the first day of July of each year and shall end on the thirtieth day of June of the next succeeding calendar year.

SECTION B.

All books and records of the organization may be inspected by any member or his/her agent or attorney, at any time.

ARTICLE IV. REPORTS TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Each chapter shall submit the following information to the State Executive Secretary:

1. A list of the newly elected chapter officers immediately following each chapter's election.
2. A report on any change in, or amendments to, the chapter constitution and by-laws immediately after being made.
3. A list of official delegates to the State Convention at least two weeks prior to the convention.
4. An annual chapter report on forms furnished by the State Executive Secretary giving such data on status, activities and progress as may be deemed advisable and called for by the Board of Student Officers.

ARTICLE V. PROCEDURE OF ISSUING CHARTERS TO CHAPTERS

Chapters shall apply through the State Executive Secretary for affiliation with the Vermont Association of FFA. The President, Secretary and Advisor shall sign such applications. The following materials shall accompany the application for an Association charter:

1. A copy of the proposed constitution and by-laws
2. A copy of the annual program of work
3. A complete list of chapter members
4. A list of the chapter officers and address of each
5. Evidence that current state and national dues have been paid

A charter shall be granted by the Board of Student Officers upon such application, provided the proposed chapter constitution is not in conflict with the Vermont Association Constitution, such charter to be signed by the State President and by the Executive Secretary or Chairman of the Executive Members of the Board of Student Officers.