

Constitution of the Southwest District, Area III FFA Association

ARTICLE 1 NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. The name of this organization shall be called the Southwest District FFA. Members are herein after referred to as "FFA members" and the letters "FFA" may be used to designate the Association, its activities, or the members thereof.

Section B. The purpose for which this association is formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent, aggressive, rural, and urban agricultural leadership.
2. To create and nurture a love of rural life.
3. To strengthen the confidence of rural youth and young people in themselves and their work.
4. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming, and related agricultural occupations.
5. To encourage members in the development of individual farming programs and establishments in related agricultural fields.
6. To encourage members to improve their rural homes and their surroundings.
7. To participate in worthy undertakings for the improvements of agriculture.
8. To develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism.
9. To participate in cooperate efforts.
10. To encourage and practice thrift.
11. To encourage improvements in scholarship.
12. To provide and encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities.

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION

Section A. The Southwest District Association of the FFA is a District unit of the Texas Association of the FFA, which is chartered by the national organization of the FFA.

Section B. This Association accepts in full, the provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the Texas Association of the FFA as well as those of the national organization of FFA.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all members of chartered chapter units in good standing with the Area, State, and National Organization of the FFA, that lie within the boundaries of the Southwest District FFA Association upon receipt of dues payment and local chapter membership roster to the area office. All paid members listed on the local chapter unit's roster shall be considered members of the Southwest District FFA Association. Fall membership dues are required to be mailed to the District Treasurer and must be postmarked no later than November 1 of each calendar year. Spring membership dues are required to be mailed to the District Treasurer no later than March 1 of each calendar year. A \$25 late fee will be assessed per semester for dues received after the postmark deadline.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section A. The officers of the Southwest District FFA Association shall be:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Reporter
6. Sentinel
7. Student Advisor
8. Chaplain

(The local advisor of the Southwest District FFA President shall serve as the District Advisor and collaborate with the District Leadership Coordinator.)

Section B. Each local chapter may submit one candidate to run for the eight Southwest District FFA officer positions provided for in this constitution. If the registration deadline has closed and there are not enough officer candidates to fill all eight officer positions, once all local chapters who chose to register an officer candidate are initially represented, then a member from any chapter may register to run for Southwest District Office during a second registration. The highest scoring candidates from the second registration, regardless of local chapter, may fill the bottom officer positions. Members from the same chapter may be elected if there is a vacant office only at the annual Southwest District Elections/Convention.

Section C. The officers of the Southwest District FFA Association shall be elected at a time prior to Area III FFA Convention annually. The time and place to be scheduled by the district office.

Section D. Members serving as Southwest District FFA officer candidates must hold the following minimum qualifications:

1. Be a member in good standing with the Southwest District FFA Association.
2. Be duly elected by the local chapter unit they represent.
3. Hold, or be eligible to receive the Chapter degree (be enrolled in at least fourth semester of Agriculture Science class).
4. Be enrolled in at least one semester of Agriscience Education technology course during the school year.
5. Graduating seniors are ineligible for office.
6. District officers cannot succeed themselves as a District officer.
7. A member may not run for both district and area offices simultaneously.

Section E. District Officers shall be elected using the following system:

1. Candidates must fill out a district officer application and sign a district officer agreement.
2. Exam over the current year's FFA Manual, District Officer Leadership guide and Parliamentary Procedure (Gray's). Worth 20% of the overall score.
3. An interview with a panel of judges. Worth 40% of the overall score.
4. A general election of the Southwest District FFA Association that consists of each candidate giving a speech that will last no more than 2.5 minutes, followed by a thought question. Worth 40% of the overall score.
5. In the case of a tie, the interview score will be the tie breaker.
6. In the case of a tie on the interview, the tie will be broken using the test score.
7. Raw scores will be used in each category area to determine overall points earned by the candidate in the process.
8. The candidate with the highest overall score will be President, second highest– Vice-President, the remaining offices will go in descending order from highest score to lowest score, following the initial policy regarding candidate registration. (Article 4, Section B)

Section F. Members serving as Southwest District FFA Officers have the following duties.

1. All officer duties as listed in the Official FFA Manual for each respective office other duties as assigned pursuant to district policy.
2. Attend the following functions:
 - a. Southwest District officer elections.
 - b. Southwest District leadership contest and awards meeting.
 - c. Southwest District speaking contest and awards.
 - d. Southwest District leadership camp
 - e. Southwest District Talent Contest.
 - f. Southwest District Association meetings.
 - g. Area III Leadership Camp.
 - h. Area III FFA Convention.
 - i. Southwest District Greenhand Camp
 - j. Southwest District Officer Meetings
3. In case of an emergency absence, officers will make contact with the District Leadership Coordinator.

Section G. If an officer is unable to reasonably fulfill his/her duties as specified in Section F above, then the Southwest District FFA Association Executive Committee shall appoint each officer to their respective positions below the open position, and that officer/chapter will be required to reimburse the district for all expenses incurred for that officer.

Section H. Area Officers Candidates shall be selected using the following system:

1. Senior Quiz format exam. Worth 20% of the overall score.
2. An interview with a panel of judges. Worth 40% of the overall score.
3. A general election of the Southwest District FFA Association that consists of each candidate giving a speech that will last no more than 2.5 minutes, followed by a thought question. Worth 40% of the overall score.
4. In the case of a tie, the interview score will be the tie breaker.
5. In the case of a tie on the interview, the tie will be broken using the test score.
6. Raw scores will be used in each category area to determine overall points earned by the candidate in the process.
7. The two candidate with the highest overall score will represent the Southwest District FFA Association in the Area III Association officer election process.

**ARTICLE V
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Southwest District FFA Association elected teacher officers.

Section A. Officers of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the State Ag Teacher's Conference.

Section B. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. District Leadership Coordinator

Section C. The President and Vice-President shall each be elected to a two-year term. Following completion of the initial two-year term, that position will rotate up (i.e. VP will become President for the next two years)

Section D. The Secretary, Treasurer and the Leadership Coordinator will be re-elected at the end of each of their 2 year terms.

**ARTICLE VI
MEETINGS**

Section A. The Southwest District FFA Association shall meet to conduct the business of the District as necessary.

Section B. The Southwest District FFA Association Executive Committee meetings shall be held and scheduled by the Southwest District FFA Executive President.

Section C. Voting delegates to Southwest District FFA Association meetings shall be provided for by the local chapter units in accordance with the Texas Association FFA membership representation guidelines.

Section D. Southwest District FFA Association meetings shall be open to all members in good standing and to any friends of the Southwest District FFA Association.

**ARTICLE VII
TALENT**

Section A. The Southwest District FFA Association may submit to the Area III Association the Talent Teams according to the guidelines set forth by the Area III Association. Talent Teams shall be governed by the State Talent Team Contest Rules.

Section B. Any member competing for any of the above positions, must be in good standing with the local, district, area, state, and national organization.

**ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS**

The constitution of this district may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the voting delegates present at any regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at the preceding regular meeting or delivered via mail or digital method (email) to the Agriculture Science Teacher of each local chapter unit 30 days prior to the meeting.

BY- LAWS

Section 1.....Gray's Parliamentary Guide and Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the parliamentary procedure of the district on all points not covered by the constitution or by-laws of the district.

Section 2.....*A majority of the voting delegates of the Southwest District FFA Association shall constitute a quorum.*

Section 3.....When a quorum is not present at a regular meeting, the executive committee may transact necessary business provided that no expenditure is involved.

Section 4.....Dues will be paid by the individual chapter unit to the National, State, and Area Associations. The Southwest District FFA Association shall determine the amount, if any, of district dues.

Section 5.....All applications, etc. must come through the Southwest District FFA check before advancing to the Area, State and National levels.

Section 6.....All candidates for a District or Area officer must be present at the District meeting held to elect such officer nominees to be eligible for nominations to the office.

Proposed by the Southwest District Executive Board – July 31, 2019

Adopted by the voting delegates at the Southwest District Fall Meeting – September 9, 2019