

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF FFA, INC.
ADOPTED JANUARY 1942
REVISED 1945, 1948, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1970, 1982, 1987, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1999,
2004, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2023

ARTICLE I
NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. The name of this organization shall be the Pennsylvania Association of FFA, Inc.

Section B. The objectives and purposes of the organization shall be as follows:

1. To create, foster and assist chapters composed of students of agricultural education.
2. To develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism and thereby develop competent, aggressive leadership in the food, agricultural, and natural resources industry.
3. To create and nurture an understanding and appreciation of agriculture and the environment by encouraging members to improve the home and its surroundings to develop organized recreational activities and to create more interest in the intelligent choice of occupations in food, agricultural and natural resources.
4. To encourage the practice of thrift.
5. To publish an official newsletter and other publications for the member of the organization, as prescribed in the annual program of activities.
6. To strengthen the confidence of students of agricultural education in themselves and their work, to encourage such members in the development of individual career and/or occupation programs and to promote their permanent establishment in production agriculture or agribusiness.
7. To cooperate with others 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.
8. To operate exclusively for the charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501 C (3) of the internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future federal tax code).

ARTICLE II
ORGANIZATIONAL

Section A. The Pennsylvania Association of FFA, Inc. shall be Pennsylvania's representative body in the National Organization of FFA.

Section B. Active chapters of the FFA for students enrolled in public secondary school (grades 7 thru 12) programs shall be chartered only in schools where recognized systematic instructions in agricultural education are offered under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts.

Section C. Collegiate chapters, designed primarily for training prospective teachers of agriculture education in their duties as local advisors of the FFA may be established in institutions offering two and four-year post- high school training in agriculture.

Section D. Area or County federations of local chapters may be organized in any county or group of counties.

Section E. Local Chapters may be established when students studying agricultural education in school (grades 7 thru 12) meet, organize, elect officers, adopt the Constitution of the State Association, setup a program of activities, then apply for a charter. New charters may be approved at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania FFA.

Section F. A house of delegates will be responsible for conducting the business of the State FFA Association. Each chapter shall be permitted to send delegates to the Summer Convention based on the following formula: (8/23)

<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Number of Delegates</u>
1-49	1
50-99	2
100-199	3
200-299	4
300-399	5
400-499	6
500-599	7

600-699 members – 8 Delegates Continue to add one for every 100 members.

Section G. The governing body of the Pennsylvania FFA shall be a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania FFA shall consist of eight regional teacher representatives, and three State FFA Officers (the State President, Vice-President and Immediate Past President). Ex-officio members of the Board will be one member of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, a representative of the Pennsylvania Association of Agriculture Educators, a representative of the agricultural teacher education, a state alumni representative, State Advisor, the Pennsylvania FFA Executive Manager, The Adult Treasurer, A CTSO member (FFA Facilitator) and four regional coordinators. Ex-Officio members of the Board may not serve on the Board as voting members.

12/18 - Effective July 1, 2019

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership in this association shall be:

1. Active
2. Alumni
3. Collegiate
4. Honorary

Section B. Active membership: To be eligible for active membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program while in grades 7 thru 12. To become an active member and retain membership a student must:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education course during either 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 agricultural career.
2. Show 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. To be eligible for state competitions, rosters must be turned in by November 15, with payment. A second deadline of January 31 can be used to add new students and/or second semester students.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization. A member may retain active membership until November 30th following the fourth National Convention after graduation from High School.

Section C. Alumni Membership: Membership is open to former active, collegiate or honorary FFA members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of members, and others interested in supporting the FFA.

Section D. Collegiate membership: To be an active FFA member you must be enrolled in an agricultural education program or majoring in some field of agriculture. You must also be attending a college or university that has an active collegiate FFA chapter.

Section E. Honorary membership: Farmers, producers, and/or agribusiness personnel, school administrators, principals, and members of boards of education. Chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, and other individuals who have rendered outstanding service, may be selected to honorary membership and upon recommendation by the State Association shall hold the Honorary Keystone Degree.

ARTICLE IV EMBLEM

Section A. The emblem of the Pennsylvania Association of FFA, Inc. shall be the same as adopted and recognized by the National Organization.

Section B. All active, alumni and honorary members are entitled to wear the emblem. Collegiate members and advisors may wear the owl pin of official design authorized by the National Organization.

ARTICLE V ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES

Section A. There shall be four degrees of active membership based upon achievement. These degrees are:

1. Discovery degree
2. Greenhand degree

3. Chapter degree
4. Keystone degree

All Greenhands are entitled to wear the bronze emblem degree pin. All Chapter degree recipients are entitled to wear the silver emblem degree pin. Keystone degree, are entitled to wear the regular gold emblem charm.

Section B. Discovery FFA Degree – To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from a chapter, the member must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8.
2. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels.
3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.
6. Submit written applications for the degree.

Section C. Greenhand Degree: On meeting the qualifications as stated by the National Constitution, may be conferred by the chapter.

Section D. Chapter Degree: On meeting the requirements as stated by the National Constitution, may be conferred by the chapter.

Section E. Keystone Degree: any member meeting requirements may be elected to the Keystone FFA Degree annually. The local advisor must verify written records of achievement. Review and selection will be determined by FFA Association Board policy. The applicants will be certified as prescribed in the National FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section A. The officers of the Pennsylvania Association shall consist of a President, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Chaplain, an Adult Treasurer, an Advisor, and Executive Manager. (2011) All officers with the exception of the State Advisor, Adult Treasurer, and Executive Secretary shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at the annual business meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of FFA, Inc., and may only serve a one-year term. The Program Specialist of Agriculture Education shall be the State Advisor. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Adult Treasurer and Executive Manager.

Section B. Local chapter officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, Chaplain and Advisor. Local teachers of agriculture shall be the local chapter advisors. Local chapter officers shall be elected annually or semi-annually at a regular meeting of the local chapter.

Section C. The Board of Directors of the State Association (Article II, Section G) shall be responsible for the welfare and promotion of activities in the organization.

Section D. The Board of Directors shall appoint the State Officer Advisory Council. The Advisory Council shall assist and advise in the direction of the affairs of the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

Section E. Honorary members shall not vote or hold office except that of the advisor.

Section F. Only members elected to the Keystone Degree may hold a State Office. Officers in the local chapters will be no lower than the grade of Chapter Degree after the chapter has been established in any given school for one year.

Section G. The Adult Treasurer of the association shall receive funds for the association and make disbursements of such funds on due warrant, subject to the provisions of the budget for the fiscal year. That person shall finish a complete itemized account to the earnings, savings, and investments committee. The accounts of the association shall be reviewed and audited by a certified public accountant. The Adult Treasurer shall furnish suitable bond in an amount to be fixed by the Pennsylvania Association of FFA, Inc.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

Section A. The President shall appoint the delegate committees from the issues that are voted on by the participants at the State Legislative Leadership Conference. No more than 5 committees, which are issue based, with one standing committee as the Nominating Committee, will make up the delegate sessions at the State Convention.
(9/04)

Section B. The nominating committee shall receive from local advisors and regional coordinators, the names of Keystone Degree recipients recommended as candidates for State office. These candidates shall be interviewed by the nominating committee and placed into nomination for various offices.

Section C. The standing committee of the State shall examine the current State Program of Activities and recommendations. Each committee will report to the delegate body for action. The new program of activities will serve as an implement to be carried out by the State Officers and Staff.

Section D. A standing CDE/LDE Committee will report to the PA FFA Board of Directors at each meeting on CDE issues. Committee members will include representatives from: PSU, PDE, PAAE (CDE Liaison), Foundation and current FFA Board member.

Section E. A standing SAE committee will report to the PA FFA Board of Directors at each meeting on SAE issues. Committee members will include a chairperson from the FFA Board of Directors and one non-board member teacher from each of the four regions. In addition, the SAE Specialist or their designee will serve in ex-officio, non-voting capacity. Roles and responsibilities of the committee will be:

- Overview and Guidance of SAE in PA
- Management of Degree Programs (American and Keystone--Application, Verification, Education)

- Management of Proficiency Programs (Application, Verification, Education)
- Management of Financial Literacy (Professional Development and Student Education)

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section A. The annual business meeting shall be held during Summer Convention designated as FFA Activities Week.

Section B. A winter convention meeting shall be held annually in Harrisburg at the time of the Pennsylvania State Farm Show to make certain awards, present citations, and to confer the Keystone State Degrees.

Section C. The state FFA Board of Directors shall meet at least two times a year. A quorum of the board shall consist of one-half the voting members of the board.

Section D. Local chapters shall hold their meeting monthly or more often throughout the calendar year.

Section E. In the event of a situation that is deemed an “emergency” by a minimum of two board members that requires the immediate attention of the board, an electronic meeting (telephone conference or online video conference) may be requested, providing there is a minimum of 72-hour notice prior to the meeting to the executive committee via email.

ARTICLE IX FEES

Section A. The annual fees of the Pennsylvania Association of FFA Inc., shall be fixed by the delegates at the annual business meeting during the Summer Convention

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendments to this Constitution/By-laws will be made by a 2/3 majority vote of the delegates present or a majority of the entire membership at the annual PA FFA Summer State Convention. Constitutional changes must be advertised to FFA chapters via the PA Agriculture teachers’ list serve maintained by the Penn State Center for Personal and Professional Development at least 30 days before being considered by the assembly.

Section B. By-laws may be adopted to fit the needs of any local chapter providing they do not conflict with the Constitution of the National Organization or the State Association.

**Article XI:
Location of Principal Office**

Section A. The board shall designate the principal office of the State Organization of the FFA.

**Article XII:
Procedure for Electing Members of the Board of Directors**

Section A. The eight regional teacher representatives and alternates shall be elected by ballot of the respective regions.

Section B. The PA FFA Foundation shall appoint the PA FFA Foundation member.

Section C. The executive committee of PAAE shall appoint the PAAE member.

Section D. The Pennsylvania State University shall appoint the agricultural teacher education member.

Section E. The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni representative shall be appointed by the Alumni Association to serve as a voting member of the PA FFA Board of Directors.

Section F. The three current state officer representatives consist of the President and another officer to be determined by the Executive Secretary, and the immediate past President, or their designee.

Section G. The term of office of a director shall be three years. A director shall be limited to two consecutive terms.

**ARTICLE XIII:
The Four State Regions**

Section A. The four state FFA regions, as set up by the State Board of Directors, shall be the Eastern, Western, Northern, and South Central.

**ARTICLE XIV:
Officers**

Section A. The Board of Directors shall elect a President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

**ARTICLE XV:
Fiscal Year**

Section A. The fiscal year shall start June 1 and end May 31.

**ARTICLE XVI:
State Board of Directors Meetings**

Section A. The annual and other necessary meeting of the State Board of Directors shall be held at such place or time as may be prescribed by the Board.

**ARTICLE XVII:
Duties of the State Board of Directors**

Section A. The Board of Directors shall review the operations, finance, and personnel of the State FFA.

Section B. The Board of Directors may name an acting State FFA Advisor.

**ARTICLE XVIII:
Prohibition Against Private Inurement/Dissolution**

Section A. No part of the net earnings or surplus funds of fees the organization shall insure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, directors, officers or other private persons (whether during the existence of the organization), except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the organizations purposes, as described in Article I of the Constitution. The compensation and benefits (if any) of directors, officers and employees (if any) of the organization shall not be based primarily on the financial performance of the organization. In no event shall any surplus funds of the organization upon its dissolution or sale, insure to the benefit of the organization's members, officers, directors, or other private persons.

Section B. Upon the sale or dissolution of the organization, the board of directors shall after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all of the assets of the organization exclusively for one or more of the purposes of the organization (as described in Article I of the Constitution), or to such organization or organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes and are exempt from federal income tax under code section 501 C 3, or to federal, state, or local government for a public purpose, as the board of directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is the located, exclusively of such purposes or to such organizations, as the Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.