

# BYLAWS of Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Association, Inc.

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## ARTICLE I - Name/Emblem

- Section I.** The name of the organization shall be the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Association, Inc., further referred to as the “Association”.
- Section II.** The emblem of the Association is the official FFA emblem.
- Section III.** All branding will follow that of the National FFA Organization guidelines.

## ARTICLE II – Purpose

- Section I.** The purpose of the Association shall be:
- A. To support, promote and advocate for the National FFA Organization (FFA) at the local school district, state and national levels.
  - B. To promote greater knowledge of the agricultural industry and support education in agriculture.
  - C. To provide a link to and assist FFA and agriculture education personnel to involve former members, supporters and volunteers in worthy activities.
  - D. To link with, train, and otherwise support local FFA Alumni chapters, FFA Alumni members, and agriculture education professionals.
  - E. To promote personal and leadership development of FFA and FFA Alumni members.

## ARTICLE III – Organization

- Section I.** The Association is organized as a non-stock, not for profit corporation registered in the State of Wisconsin and a chartered state chapter of the National FFA Organization.
- Section II.** The Association includes local chapters and their members, and members at large.
- Section III.** Local chapters of the Association shall be organized geographically into ten sections with the same boundaries as those of the Wisconsin Association of FFA.
- Section IV.** Local Chapters: Local groups sharing the purposes of the Association shall be eligible to become a chartered FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter of the State Association and the National FFA Organization when the following criteria have been met:
- A. A minimum of ten members appear on the annual chapter roster. This does not include associate members.
  - B. Bylaws have been adopted by the group that are in harmony with those of the State Alumni Association and National FFA Organization.
  - C. An executive group of officers has been elected.
  - D. All necessary paperwork required by the Association and the National FFA Organization has been filed with both organizations.
  - E. The state FFA Alumni Association Operational and National FFA Annual Affiliation fees are paid.
- Section V.** Membership At Large: Membership at large is designated for a member that does not have a local chapter.
- Section VI.** Maintenance of Chapter: FFA Alumni Chapters shall remain members of the Association as long as the requirements listed in Article III, Section IV are maintained.

## **ARTICLE IV – Membership**

- Section I.**
- A.** Membership shall be open to any person interested in supporting the purposes of the Association, agriculture and/or volunteerism. Membership in the Association includes many rights, benefits, and privileges; however, no level of membership entitles any member to act for or on behalf of any local, or the Association regarding any policy or position unless granted by and through these bylaws or is otherwise granted in writing by the Association.
- B.** Membership renewal procedures are processed by an online roster system provided by the National FFA Organization. Annually all local FFA Alumni chapters must submit their membership using [www.FFA.org](http://www.FFA.org).
- C.** To be eligible to vote at the annual convention and general business meeting, all membership criteria must be attained for eligible voters by December 1 in the membership year. Membership year is August 1 – July 31.
- D.** Any eligible member may attend the annual meeting for the purpose of voting, provided they pre-register and meet all other criteria.

### **Section II.** Types of Membership

- A. Annual**
1. Annual members have full voting rights and all other privileges and responsibilities of membership.
  2. Annual membership is for a 12-month period beginning August 1 and ending July 31 each year. Membership is not automatically renewed and must be entered on the online roster each year by the local chapter designee and benefits of membership will not be applicable until that membership is submitted to the state and national level.
  3. Annual membership is open to any qualified individual, once a local chapter has submitted the annual state and national affiliation fees. It is the responsibility of the local chapter to submit and check membership qualifications on an annual basis and submit those members to the state by December 1.
  4. There will be no annual dues charged at the state or local level.
- B. Lifetime Membership**
1. Lifetime members have full voting rights and all other privileges and responsibilities of membership
  2. Lifetime membership requires a one-time investment at the state and national life level.
  3. The amount of the Lifetime investment in the Association shall be recommended by the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council and fixed by a majority vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting of the Association.
- C. Associate Membership**
1. Associate membership is a national and state membership that is offered at no cost to potential members annually.
  2. Associate members have voting rights.
  3. Associate members are eligible for any rebate or awards programs.
  4. Associate membership is limited to no more than five years immediately following graduation from high school.

## **ARTICLE V – Council Directors and Officers**

**Section I.** The Wisconsin FFA Alumni Council, further referred to as “the council” shall be the executive body of the Association.

**Section II.** Duties and Powers of the council: The council shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association between annual meetings, fix the time and place of meetings, prepare and present reports to the Association, make recommendations to the Association, and perform other duties as specified in these bylaws. The council shall be subject to the orders of the Association, and none of its acts shall conflict with actions taken by the Association.

**Section III.** Composition of the Council: The council shall consist of the following voting and non-voting members:

**A.** Voting members shall include:

1. The executive Officers of the Association
2. Section Representatives.

**B.** Non-voting members shall include:

1. The executive director of the Association.
2. The executive director of the Wisconsin Association of FFA and/or their designee.
3. The executive director or president of the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators.
4. The executive director of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation or their designee.
5. The Agriculture Education Consultant of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction or their designee.

**Section IV.** The officers of the Association shall be president, president elect, vice president, past president, and section representatives.

**A.** Duties of Officers: These officers shall perform the duties defined by the position description contained in the Association’s Standard Operating Procedures Guidebook, and any other duties defined for each office by these bylaws or the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

**B.** Qualifications of directors and officers: Any member of the Association in good standing is eligible to be nominated for the council; except members who are currently employed as secondary agricultural education instructors.

**C.** A candidate for a section representative must belong to a chapter in the section they are seeking to represent and also live within 30 miles outside the border of the said section.

**Section V.** Election and Terms of Office

**A.** President: The president elect during the previous year will be advanced to the office of president by a simple majority vote of the delegates at the annual meeting. By a two-thirds vote, delegates at the annual meeting may remove that person from office. The term of the president is one year.

- B. President Elect: The vice president shall be elected the previous year and will be advanced to the office of president elect by a simple majority vote of the delegates at the annual meeting. By a two-thirds vote, delegates at the annual meeting may remove that person from office. The term of the president elect is one year.
- C. Vice President: The vice president shall be elected by delegates at the annual meeting from among candidates identified by the nominating committee and/or nominated from the floor at the annual meeting. Any candidate nominated from the committee and/or the floor, must have proof of a background check that has occurred within the last twelve (12) months. The term of the vice president is one year.
- D. Past President: The president during the previous year will move to the office of past president unless, by a two-thirds vote, delegates at the annual meeting remove that person from office. The term of the past president is one year.
- E. Terms of Office: All officer positions begin and end at the conclusion of the annual convention, or upon the seating of the current office holder's successor.
- F. Sectional Representative
  - 1. Up to two section representatives serve each of the ten geographic sections in the state.
  - 2. Section representatives are elected by alumni members from nominees at the fall section meeting prior to the expiration of the current section representative's term of office or at next section meeting.
  - 3. Term of office: Section representative is a three-year term and it is limited to two consecutive terms.

**Section VI.** Seating of the Council: Following the election of the vice president at the annual meeting the council shall be seated by majority approval of a motion from the membership.

**Section VII.** Meetings: The council shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings may be called by the president or by a majority of the council members upon petition of the executive director.

**Section VIII.** Quorum: One-half of the number of voting members of the seated council, plus one constitutes a quorum.

**Section IX.** Vacancies:

- A. If a vacancy of an executive officer position (vice president, president elect, president, and past president) should happen after annual meeting the council will appoint a qualified member to assume the duties of the position until the next annual meeting. Vacancy of a section representative position will be filled by the following procedure;

1. The council will appoint a qualified member to fill the vacancy until the next section meeting.
2. At the next scheduled section meeting, a member will be elected to complete the unexpired portion of the term.

**Section X.** Removal from Office

- A. A council member who has two unexcused absences from regularly scheduled council meetings annually may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the council. Absences are excused if an executive committee member or executive director is notified at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting and a written report of the officer's activities is forwarded to all council members.
- B. A council member who engages in conduct, activities, or takes action that is contrary to these bylaws or the purposes of the Association; reflects negatively on the Association, the FFA; or creates a threat of liability to the Association may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the council. Procedures established in Association policy must be followed in conducting such action to protect the rights of all parties.
- C. If the vice president, president elect, president or immediate past president is removed from office, that person may not hold a chairmanship or leadership position in the Association in the future.

**ARTICLE VI - Annual Convention and General Membership Meetings**

**Section I.** The annual convention of the Association shall be held in the month of February. **The council has the right to modify the date outside of February in the event of necessity.**

**Section II.** Purpose: The purpose of the convention is to conduct business, elect officers, communicate with members, recognize achievements of the chapters and members, provide for educational and social activities and for any other business that might arise.

**Section III.** Special Meetings: Special meetings of the general membership may be called by the president or the council or shall be called upon the written request of ten members of the Association. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in the case of emergency, at least one week's notice shall be given.

**Section IV.** Quorum: A quorum shall be the number of members present at a meeting.

**ARTICLE VII - Committees**

**Section I.** Standing Committees

- A. The Association shall have the following standing committees.
  1. Executive Committee
  2. Finance Committee
  3. Awards Committee
  4. Resolutions/Bylaws Committee
  5. Membership Committee
  6. Marketing Committee

7. Statewide Convention Committee
  8. Program Development Committee
  9. Past President's Committee
  10. Fundraising Committee
  11. Nominating Committee
  12. Business Operation Committee
- B. Standing Committee chairs shall be appointed by the president.
- C. The duties and responsibilities of the standing committees are described in the Association's Operating Procedures Handbook.

**Section II.** An ad-hoc committee may be created by the president, the council or the Association, as it deems necessary for proper function of the organization.

**Section III.** Any Association member in good standing is eligible to serve on any committee.

### **ARTICLE VIII - Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

### **ARTICLE IX - Amendments**

Any individual member or chapter may propose amendments to the Association bylaws by submitting the proposed amendment(s) to the executive director at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting. Proposed amendments may not conflict with the bylaws of the National FFA Organization. Proposed amendment(s) will be posted on the Association's website by January 1. To be accepted, amendments to the bylaws must receive a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting.

### **ARTICLE X – Dissolution**

**Section I.** With previous notice to the membership and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at the time of the vote, the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Association, Inc., may be dissolved. Motion for dissolution may be presented at the annual meeting or a special meeting of the membership. Previous notice must be provided for dissolution, either directly or indirectly, to all current active registered paid membership at the time of dissolution consideration.

**Section II.** Upon the dissolution of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Association Inc., funds and/or assets remaining, after settlement of all debts and liabilities are satisfied, will be given to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation. Whereas if the Wisconsin FFA Foundation is unable to accept or receive the said funds and/or assets from the Wisconsin FFA Alumni and Supporters Association, Inc., the said funds and assets will be given to the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE).

## **ARTICLE XI – Administration**

- Section I.** Chief Administrative Officer: The executive director shall be the chief administrative officer of the Association. Duties and responsibilities are listed in the executive director position description in the Association’s Standard Operating Procedures Handbook.
- Section II.** Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.
- Section III.** Association Office: The location of the Association’s business office shall be designated by the Council.
- Section IV.** Official Address: The official address of the Association will be the mailing address of the executive director.
- Section V.** Access to Research: An Association member in good standing or his/her representative may examine the records of the Association. A written request must be made to the executive director and reasonable time allowed to make provisions for the examination.
- Section VI.** Financial Review: A financial review of the Association financial records shall be conducted annually. The nature of the audit will be determined by the finance and executive committees as outlined in the Association’s Standard Operating Procedures Handbook.
- Section VII.** Bond: The Association executive director and the convention treasurer must be bonded in sufficient amount to protect the Association. Bonding information will be available upon request.