

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
AREA III FFA
(amended May 2004 at Blinn College)

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section A. The name of the organization is Area III Association of the Texas FFA. The letters FFA may be used to designate the Association, its activities, or the member's thereof.

ARTICLE II. MISSION AND STRATEGIES

Section A. Mission

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.

Section B. To accomplish this mission, the Area III FFA Association:

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 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. Encourage excellence in scholarship.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership in this organization shall be of two kinds:

1. Active (as covered by Article VIII Section B of this constitution).
2. Alumni (as covered by Article V Section C of the Official FFA Manual).

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section A. The officers of the Area III FFA shall be as follows: president and five vice-presidents. The Area president shall be elected at the May meeting. The first vice-president shall be the first runner-up to the president. The remaining four vice-presidents shall be designated to their office in the opening and closing ceremonies based on the Area Convention election ranking process. The Area III FFA Officer election of all Area and State officer candidates will be broken down into a three-phase process. The Area III Executive Committee will appoint a three-person panel consisting of agricultural science teachers and industry professionals that will serve as the interviewing committee. The Area Executive committee will also appoint a test writer.

- The first phase will be a 50 question multiple-choice exam given to all candidates over the current FFA Manual and Parliamentary Guide. The exam will account for **30%** of the total process.
- The second phase will involve an interview by a panel of teachers and industry professionals. The panel will ask each candidate the same questions. The interview will account for **30%** of the total process.

- The final phase will be a speech given by each candidate that will last no more than five minutes. Time will be called at the end of five minutes. Each candidate will also be asked one thought question. Each delegate will vote once for 2 candidates. The student vote will account for **40%** of the total process.
- The candidates will be ranked by assessing the lowest number to the highest-ranking individual in each category. For instance: the candidate ranked highest in the interview will receive a 1 for that category, which will correspond to a .3 (30%) in the total tally. The student ranked highest on the exam will receive a 1 or (.3) which is 30%. The student receiving the most votes will receive a 1 in that category or .4, which is 40%. The candidate ranking second highest will receive a 2 or .6 and so forth. The candidate with the lowest number of points will be President; second lowest will be Vice President, third Secretary, fourth Treasurer, fifth Reporter, and sixth Sentinel.
- In the case of a tie in one of the categories, each candidate will be assessed the same score in that particular category. For example: Candidate one and two tie in the exam section, therefore each candidate will receive a 1 or .3. The third candidate would receive a 3 or .9 in that category.
- In the case of the Area III, State FFA President candidate, this individual shall be elected according to the same method as that of the Area III FFA officers as voted upon by a 2/3 majority vote of delegates at the 2004 Area III FFA Convention.

Section B The election of the Area III State President candidate shall follow the same procedures of election as those outlined in Article X of the Texas FFA Constitution and Bylaws (<http://www.texasffa.org/GeneralInformation/TexasFFAConstitution/tabid/6431/Default.aspx>).

Section C. At a district meeting preceding the Area III FFA meeting in May, each district will select one area officer who will be a candidate for Area President.

Section D. The officers shall be elected annually and may serve only one term.

Section E. Area Candidates (state officer nominee, area officer nominee, or talent team) will not be allowed to set up a campaign booth at the Area Convention.

Section F. No handout material or wall posters will be allowed. This rule will be enforced.

Section G. Area-wide materials mailed out in advance are not permissible.

Section H. Area and state officer candidates will not be allowed to use props during their campaign speeches.

Section I. Area officers must hold the Chapter FFA Degree and must have been active in their local chapters.

Section J. The term of office for Area III officers must be served while still enrolled in high school. Members running for state officer candidate must be a graduating senior or beyond but still an active member of the FFA.

Section K. The Area III officers shall be installed at the Area III FFA Convention.

Section L. The advisor(s) of the Area President shall serve as the Area Advisor(s). A Co-advisor shall be elected by the Area III Agriculture Science teacher membership. The Co-advisor shall serve a period of 3 years. At the close of the 2nd year (during State PI Conference), an *Assistant* Co-advisor shall be elected to begin the 3 year term. The 1st year as *Assistant* Co-advisor shall be one of "training."

Section M. Area III FFA officers are expected to participate in the following:

1. State FFA Convention
2. Area III FFA Convention
3. State FFA Leadership Camp
4. Area III FFA Leadership Camp
5. National FFA Convention if an appointed delegate

6. Area III FFA Leadership Development Events
7. Area III FFA Career Development Events
8. All Area III Executive Committee meetings
9. Area III FFA Greenhand Camp (date to be determined during Area Executive Committee meeting each June during Area III Leadership Camp by Executive members)

Section N. Any officer who becomes ineligible during more than one six-weeks period shall be asked to resign. A new officer shall be elected from the respective district to replace this officer.

Section O. Area officers must attend both state and area leadership camps. No area officer may miss more than two Area III functions unless emergency situations arise. These will be determined as “emergency” by the Area III Executive Officer Committee.

ARTICLE V. AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section A. The Area Advisory Council shall be composed of the advisor(s) to the area officers (including the appointed co-advisor), and the state officer from Area III.

Section B. The area advisory council shall cooperate and serve in an advisory capacity to the Area Advisor of the FFA, assist with the administrative direction of the organization, and interpret the area constitution of the FFA.

Section C. The Advisory Council shall have the power to approve or disapprove the action of the area officers.

Section D. The Advisory Council shall meet at the same place as the Area FFA officers and at other times when called by the chairperson of the council.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section A. The area shall meet in May each year for the following purposes:

1. Election of State Officer
2. Election of Area Officers
3. Conducting public speaking events
4. Election of FFA talent team to represent the area in the state convention
5. Selection of chapters to represent the area in National Chapter contests.
6. Rating of chapters in Area III
7. Checking applications for Lone Star degrees.
8. Select nominees for Honorary Lone Star FFA Degrees, both teacher and non-teacher.
9. Selection of area entries for state and national awards programs
10. Selection of area applicants for scholarship awards
11. Selection of Area Star Lone Star, Area Star Chapter, and Area Star Greenhand FFA Degree recipients

Section B. The area shall meet at other times as called by the area executive committee.

Section C. The voting delegation by chapter at each area meeting shall consist as follows:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Voting Delegates</u>
1-50	one voting delegate
51-100	two voting delegates
101-150	three voting delegates
151-200	four voting delegates
201-250	five voting delegates
251-300	six voting delegates

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section A. The area officers and the advisory council will compose the executive committee.
- Section B. A quorum shall consist of at least 8 people representing at least 4 districts.
- Section C. The President of the FFA shall serve as the chairperson of the executive committee.
- Section D. The executive committee meeting may be called by the chairperson of the executive committee or by the chairperson of the advisory council.

ARTICLE VIII. DUES

- Section A. The dues shall be \$1.50 per member annually.
- Section B. Full local, district, area, state and national dues shall be paid by all active members in order to participate in Area III FFA activities and awards.

ARTICLE IX. DUTIES OF THE AREA OFFICERS

- Section A. The President. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over the area meeting and over meetings of the executive committee. The president shall call one area meeting on such date and such place as shall be designated by a majority vote of the executive committee. The president shall appoint all committees and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees.
- Section B. The Vice-President It shall be the duty of the five vice-presidents, acting under the direction of the president, to look after the welfare of the FFA Organization in the six districts in the area. In case the office of president becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the first vice-president shall assume the duties of the president.
- Section C. The Area Advisor It shall be the duty of the area advisor to serve as ex-officio member of all committees and to assist the area officers in conducting meetings and carrying out programs.

ARTICLE X STATE LEADERSHIP CAMP

- Section A. Newly elected state officer, Area III officers, and outgoing state officer will constitute the representatives allotted at the state leadership camp in Trinidad, Texas.

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

- Section A. National convention delegates shall be the Area III state officer and the remaining number of delegates shall be appointed from among the area officers. The area officer delegates shall be appointed based upon the number of votes received when elected at the Area III FFA Convention. (Example- If four additional delegates are needed, four officers with the highest number of votes would be appointed to serve as delegates).

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- Section A. The constitution may be amended only at a regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, provided they represent a quorum.
- Section B. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the chapters in the area in good standing, providing each chapter is notified at least 14 days in advance of the meeting and supplied with a statement of the proposed amendment.

Section C. All proposed amendments shall be in the hands of the chairperson of the advisory council at least 30 days prior to the date of the regular meeting, and said chairperson shall then notify all chapters in the area at least 14 prior to the regular meeting.