

BYLAWS OF THE FLORIDA FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

Name/Emblem

Section I. The name of this National FFA Organization affiliate shall be the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters.

Section II. The emblem of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters **is the FFA emblem with the words "Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters" beside it.** ~~is a triangular shield with an FFA emblem and the word "Alumni" below it. (Refer to the emblem found on the cover page of this document.)~~

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Section I. The purpose of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters shall be:

- A. To support and promote FFA activities and agricultural education on local, state and national levels.
- B. To provide a tie to and assist FFA and agricultural education personnel to involve former members, supporters and volunteers in worthy activities.
- C. To promote greater knowledge of the agricultural industry and support education in agriculture.
- D. To cooperate with the members of the agriculture family (FFA Association, FFA Foundation, University of Florida Agricultural Education, FFAE, etc.)
- E. To promote and maintain an appreciation of the American free enterprise system.
- F. To promote the personal development of the FFA and FFA alumni members and volunteers.

ARTICLE III

Organization

Section I. The Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters is an affiliate of the National FFA Organization.

Section II. The Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters consists of chartered local affiliates and members-at-large, which operate in harmony with the National FFA Organization. Any group using the name "FFA Alumni" must affiliate and charter with the State as well as the National Association. ~~They must also pay National dues for each member.~~ **They must also pay National affiliation dues. If affiliation dues and/or membership roster isn't received, by the state's due date, the alumni chapter will not be consider "in good standing" with state and national alumni.**

Section III. Chapters must submit a yearly local officer list and chapter bylaws with their membership roster and dues to be considered "in good standing" with Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters.

Section III. *State Alumni Association*

The Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters shall retain its active charter provided:

- A. It is organized with at least 50 charter members who paid National FFA Alumni dues.

- B. It has bylaws and/or constitution in harmony with the National FFA Alumni Bylaws.
- C. It has an executive group with officers.

Section IV. Local affiliates

Local affiliates shall be eligible to become chartered when:

- A. It has at least 10 charter members ~~who have paid state (if any) and national dues~~ **and paid national affiliation dues.**
- B. Its bylaws and/or constitution are in harmony with the National FFA Alumni and **Supporters Association** ~~and the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters.~~
- C. It has an executive group with officers.

Section V. Membership-at-Large

Membership-at-Large is designated for a member that does not have a local affiliate or State Association ~~and pays dues directly to the Florida or National Association.~~

Section VI. The State Association or local affiliates are eligible to maintain affiliation status provided the requirements stated in this article continue to be met.

Section VII. Reports and Audits

- A. Books and records of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters may be inspected by any member or his agent at any reasonable time.
- B. There shall be an annual financial review of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters by the standing committee appointed for that purpose.
- C. The fiscal year and reporting year are from September 1 to August 31.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section I. Membership shall be open to anyone interested in supporting FFA, Agricultural Education, or volunteerism. Membership in the FFA Alumni includes many rights, benefits, and privileges, however, no level of membership entitles any member to act for and/or on behalf of any local or the Florida FFA Alumni Association regarding any policy or position unless granted by and through these bylaws and/or is otherwise granted specifically, in writing, by the Florida FFA Alumni Association.

Section II. Types of Membership

A. Associate Membership

1. Is a no cost national membership that is provided to potential members annually.
2. Associate Membership will entitle the member to quarterly information from the National FFA Alumni Association.
3. Associate Members will not be included in any rebate or awards program. Associate members have no voting rights and ~~will not be included in official membership counts to determine the number of national voting delegates.~~
4. There will be a five year limit on the associate membership.

B. Annual Membership

1. All annual members have equal class and privileges.
2. Is a 12-month period beginning September 1 and ending August 31.
3. Annual **affiliation membership** dues of the National FFA Alumni Association is established by the national association.
4. ~~The Florida FFA Association and local affiliates may establish their own membership dues for annual membership in addition to the national dues.~~
5. Membership renewal procedures are conducted by **the MYFFA** roster system.

C. Life Membership

1. Established dues as set by the National FFA Alumni **and Supporters Association**. Changes to the dues structure by the National FFA Alumni Association shall not require amendment of these Bylaws.
2. The life membership amount is deposited in an investment fund by the national association. A percentage of the interest earned is returned to the Florida FFA Alumni as a membership rebate.
3. Upon the death of a life member, whose life membership began before January 1, 1997 an amount equal to the amount of their life membership will be presented in their name as a scholarship as designated.
4. ~~The Florida FFA Alumni Association and local affiliates may establish their own life membership category and set dues for life members.~~

D. Corporate Membership

1. Is a 12-month period beginning September 1 and ending August 31.
2. Corporate dues and benefits of the National FFA Alumni **and Supporters Association** shall be recommended by the National FFA Alumni Council and fixed by majority vote of the delegates present at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE V Officers

Section I. The officers of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters will be the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (secretary & treasurer may be combined).

Section II. *Duties/qualifications of officers*

A. President

1. Must be a duly elected District Director, **Emeritus Director** or hold at-large status.
2. It will be the President's duty to preside at all meetings of the Florida FFA Alumni Council, the Executive Committee and the Association and to carry out the general mission and objectives of the Association.
3. The President will be an ex officio member of all committees

B. Vice President

1. Must be a duly elected District Director, Emeritus Director (see Article VI Section II(C)(5)) or hold Director-at-large status.
2. It will be the Vice President's duty to preside in the absence of the president.

C. Secretary

1. Must be a duly elected District Director, Emeritus Director (see Article VI Section II(C)(5) or hold Director-at-large status.
2. Shall keep the minutes of the association and send out notices of meetings, etc.
3. Shall process membership rosters
4. Shall maintain communications with national and local alumni groups.
5. At any time a board member may be appointed to assist the Secretary with membership and/or other duties. This person will not serve on the Executive Committee and will provide updates to the Secretary.

D. Treasurer

1. Must be a duly elected District Director, Emeritus Director (see Article VI Section II(C)(5) or hold Director-at-large status.
2. Shall maintain the financial records of the association.
3. Shall give a treasurer's report at all meetings of the board and at the annual meeting.

Section III. *Nomination and Selection of Officers and Board Members*

1. The President of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters will appoint a nominating committee composed of 3 Alumni members not running for election prior to the Annual Meeting who will present a nominating committee report. ~~and at which time nominations may be made from the floor.~~
2. Persons interested in serving as a director shall make application for consideration by the Nominating Committee. The application shall be available on the state alumni website. Applications may be returned to any member of the Board.
3. Applications must be received no later than 24 hours prior to the opening of the Annual Meeting of the members.
4. In the event that no qualified application is received for an office. Nominations may be made from the floor. Nominations received from the floor shall be accepted provisionally. The nominating committee shall determine if the person nominated lives in the appropriate location, if applicable, and that the person is an active member. Election of a nominee from the floor shall not be considered complete until such time as the Nominating Committee shall determine the eligibility of the nominee.
5. A majority vote is required to secure election to an office. (exception, see Article VI Section II (C)(5)

Section IV. *Terms of Office*

All board members shall serve a two-year term of office on a staggered basis and officers of the association will serve a two year term.

ARTICLE VI

Board

Section I. The executive body of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters shall be the duly elected officers of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters.

Section II. *Procedure for Selection of members of the Board*

A. Elected Members

1. Twelve district representatives, to represent the membership in each district as defined by the Florida FFA Association, shall be elected during the Florida FFA Alumni meeting by the delegates from their respective districts. Each district representative must live within their respective district during their term of service. In the event that a District Director moves from the District, or re-alignment of the Districts causes a Director to no longer reside in the District, said Director may serve out the term of office elected, but shall not be eligible to run for that District until residency is established within it.
2. Even numbered Districts shall hold elections in even numbered years, odd numbered Districts in odd numbered years.
3. The convention delegates shall elect ~~three~~ **four** Member-at-Large Director positions. **The member-at-large Directors shall serve a two year term. Two At large Directors would represent Districts 1-6 and two would represent Districts 7-12. At Large Directors would be required to live in their represented area. Terms of the member-at-large Directors shall be staggered so that all 3 shall not have to run in the same year. District 1-6 would be elected odd numbered years and 7-12 even numbered years.**
4. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for the *Board*. ~~Preferably all candidates should declare their intentions prior to the annual meeting. The position will be filled at the annual meeting by taking nominations from the floor, and then proceeding with the usual election process for that position. If no person accepts a nomination from the floor, the executive Committee will appoint a person to fill that position.~~
5. All contested elections will be conducted by ballot and election results will be announced at the annual meeting.
6. Terms shall start with the conclusion of the annual meeting.
7. Members of the *Board* serving in **elected positions** will be expected to make a substantial contribution to the advancement of agricultural education and the FFA by attending board meetings and other functions, if possible. Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy of an **elected representative** will serve until that term expires. That person may run for a full term at that time.
8. At each meeting of the Board, the District and member-at-large Directors shall report on chapter visits, programs conducted, and other events and activities carried out as responsibilities of the office. Reports shall be presented in writing to the President.

9. Duties and responsibilities of the elected Directors.

- Represent Florida FFA Alumni at State functions as requested.
- Be knowledgeable of the State and National Alumni structure and guidelines.
- Sell State Alumni Raffle Tickets along with distributing tickets to chapters within your area.
- Train local Alumni Chapters on MYFFA (Formerly AgCN).
- Communicate with local Alumni Chapters to share State and National Alumni updates.
- Assist local Alumni Chapters, as needed, with questions or issues that may arise.
- Attend local Alumni meetings within your District as requested.
- Volunteer to work shifts at the Alumni area at the State Convention Expo.
- Attend State Alumni Conference and four Quarterly State Alumni Meetings.
- Assist local Chapters that want to reactivate or charter a new Alumni affiliate.

10. Elected Directors shall sign the following statement attached to the Duties and Responsibilities document that shall be filed with the Secretary upon election.

“I have read and fully understand what the expectations are for myself as a Florida Alumni & Supporters Director. If, at any time, I am not able to fulfill these duties I will advise the State Alumni President so that a replacement can be found.”

B. Non-Elected Members

1. The Executive Director of the Florida FFA Association.
2. The State FFA Advisor.
3. The Executive Director of the Florida FFA Foundation.
4. A representative from the faculty of University of Florida Agricultural Education department.
5. The President of the Florida FFA Association, or his/her designee.
6. Two past state or national officers of the FFA Organization.
7. ~~A representative from the Collegiate FFA Chapter or Collegiate FFA Alumni Chapter of any State College, Junior College, State of private University or College~~
8. A representative of the Florida Association of Agricultural Educators.
9. Other representative organizations may also have non-voting membership on the board.

C. Emeritus Directors

1. Individuals who have served as a District or At-Large Director for many years and are no longer serving in that role may be elected by the Board of Directors to the office of Director Emeritus.
2. A Director Emeritus is valued for their experience and dedication.
3. A Director Emeritus is a voting member of the Board.
4. A Director Emeritus shall have no assigned duties but is expected to attend all meetings of the Board and Association, and assist the Officers and Directors with promotion, activities and leadership development for the benefit of the members of the Alumni Association and the FFA.
5. A Director Emeritus may be called upon to serve, on an interim basis, as an Officer or Director whose death, resignation or removal caused the office to become vacant. By two-thirds majority vote, a Director Emeritus may be elected to the office of **President**, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer.
6. The number of Directors Emeritus shall at no time exceed one-third of the number of elected and non-elected members of the Board of Directors.

D. Immediate Past State FFA Officer

1. The Past State Officer shall be considered a Director-at-Large, no specific location of residence shall be required.
2. Duties shall be the same as any Director-at-Large.
3. The Past State Officer shall host an informational workshop at the State Convention, providing information about the Alumni and Supporters.
4. Applications will be provided to the current State FFA Officers by the Florida FFA Alumni & Supporters.
4. This position will be selected by the Board's nominating committee.

F. Each individual of the *Board* must be a member in good standing of the National FFA Alumni **and Supporters Association**.

Section III. Duties of the Board

- A. To direct the operation of the association in accordance with its bylaws.
- B. The *Board* at a regularly scheduled meeting, should approve a Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters program of activities and budget for the period starting each September
 1. The program shall deal with those activities and objectives to be accomplished by the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters.

Section IV. Reimbursements

- A. Members of the *Board* shall not be paid a salary for their work as a member of the council.
- B. The Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters may pay travel expenses of individual board members that attend national conferences, Alumni Development Conferences, etc. at the request of the board.
- C. Receipts for travel (hotel and airplane) are required. If travel is by private car, the amount paid shall not exceed the cost of travel by common carrier (airplane).

Section V. Meetings

The *Board* shall meet four times per year. Additional meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the *Board* members.

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership of the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters that will be held concurrently with the Florida FFA Convention. Additional membership meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the *Board* members.

Section VI. Delegates

A. Representation for the purpose of voting at the annual meeting shall be from local affiliates deemed to be an active affiliate. Each Alumni chapter represented at the annual meeting shall be entitled to 2 voting delegates.

Section VII. A quorum will consist of the number of directors/members in attendance after meetings have been announced.

Section VIII. The minutes of the previous annual meeting will be read at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

Committees

Section I. It is suggested the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters have the following standing committees:

- A. Executive Committee
- B. Awards and Membership Services
- C. Public Relations/Marketing
- D. Financial Review Committee

Section II. These committees shall be served by a chairperson from the *Board* appointed by the President.

Section III. These standing committees will be called upon to report on their activities at Board meeting.

Section IV. The President has the authority to create special committees and appoint FFA Alumni members to those committees.

ARTICLE VIII.

Administrative Staff

Section I. The Administrative duties shall be handled by a board member until such time this is no longer feasible or possible.

ARTICLE IX

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert 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 X

Amendments

Section I. Proposed amendments to the Florida FFA Alumni and Supporters bylaws may be submitted by Board members or local affiliates, or by any active member; any of which must be in good standing. Proposed amendments must be in writing and received by the Executive Board 90 days prior to the opening of the annual meeting.

Section II. Proposed amendments will be reviewed by the *Board* and sent to the delegate body with one of the following three recommendations:

- a) Recommend adoption
- b) No recommendation
- c) Do not recommend adoption

Section III. If the proposed amendment is unclear or incomplete the Board will return it to the party making the proposal for clarification and/or perfection prior to being decided on by the Board.

Section IV. A two-thirds vote in the affirmative is necessary to amend this document.