

BY-LAWS OF THE INDIANA YOUNG FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

Article I. Name and Purpose of the Organization

- Section 1.01 Name: The name of this organization shall be the "Indiana Young Farmers' Association." Members of local chapters are hereinafter referred to as "Indiana Young Farmers." The letters "IYFA" may be officially used to designate the organization, its units or members thereof.
- Section 1.02 Purpose - the purposes of this Association are:
- (a) To assist post secondary education persons interested in becoming established in agriculture through a program of organized education.
 - (b) To develop a greater appreciation of the opportunities in agriculture and of country living.
 - (c) To develop an understanding of ways to secure and utilize the services available to improve the economic status and social conditions of agricultural interested people.
 - (d) To cooperate with all agencies and organizations whose objectives are the improvement of the economic, educational, and social conditions of the agricultural community.
 - (e) To further develop the leadership abilities needed to participate in desirable activities in the community.
 - (f) To provide wholesome, social, and recreational activities for the entire young farmer family.
 - (g) To plan and render worthwhile community services.
 - (h) To give the group identity.
 - (i) To lessen the duties of the teacher, thereby enabling the teacher to do a more effective job of instruction.
 - (j) To make the program of the Indiana Young Farmers' Association an integral part of agricultural education through the Indiana Department of Education.

Article II. Organization

- Section 2.01 The Indiana Young Farmers' Association is a state organization of affiliated local chapters in schools having organized instruction in agricultural education under provisions of the Federal Vocational Education Act.
- Section 2.02 Area organization of IYFA may be formed and by-laws may be written for such area organization provided that such a constitution and by-laws are not contrary to the state constitution.
- Section 2.03 Affiliation
- (a) A local organization desiring to affiliate with this organization shall fulfill the following requirements:
 - (i) Enroll at least eight active members

- (ii) Accept the provisions of these bylaws
 - (iii) Adopt a constitution and/or bylaws and submit these documents for the approval of the State Association
 - (iv) Plan a program of work and have it approved by the State Association
 - (v) Pay the state and national dues of its active membership
 - (vi) Furnish the State Executive Director with the names and addresses of charter members, and the names of all officers.
- (b) Dues are to be paid in full by **October 1** so that the chapter may be eligible for the awards at the convention and to have voting rights at the state delegate session.
- (c) A chartered chapter may operate officially for a period not to exceed 36 months from the date of the discontinuance of the department of agricultural education. During this 36 month period some qualified adult must serve as local advisor. This adult must have the approval of the local school administrator and the State Advisor. Local chapter charters must be surrendered when the chapter becomes inactive.

Section 2.04 After the application for membership in the Indiana Young Farmers' Association has been approved by the State Advisor, the members of the local organization shall be known as "Indiana Young Farmers" and a chapter charter may be granted.

Section 2.05 A chartered chapter may retain good standing with the State Association by:

- (a) Submitting punctual reports as required by the State Association.

Section 2.06 The fiscal year of the Association shall be from **July 1** through **June 30**.

Article III. Membership

Section 3.01 Membership of the organization shall be of three kinds:

- (a) Active
- (b) Honorary
- (c) Associate

Section 3.02 Active Membership

- (a) Active membership is available to any person who is engaged in or has interest in agriculture or any agricultural related business and is out of high school and regularly enrolled in an agriculture education Young Farmers Program taught by a teacher of agricultural education. Any active member may hold a state office, have voting privileges and is eligible to apply for any appropriate state award.
- (b) Membership dues shall be established each year by the Executive Committee. The dues shall include state and national association dues.
- (c) The Indiana Young Farmers' Association shall forward national dues to the National Young Farmers Educational Association (NYFEA) by the posted deadline of each year.

Section 3.03 Honorary Membership

- (a) Any individual, elected by majority vote of the Executive Committee, who has made an outstanding contribution to the growth or improvement of the Young Farmers' Association, its affiliated local chapters, its members, or agricultural conditions.
- (b) Honorary members shall not vote nor hold office nor pay dues.

Section 3.04 Associate Membership

- (a) Associate members shall not vote nor hold office. Associate Membership dues shall be established year by the Executive Committee.
- (b) Associate membership for companies and corporations. Associate membership companies shall have all the rights and privileges of an active member except they may not hold office, vote, or apply for state awards. Dues for such membership shall be determined by the Executive Committee per company or corporation.

Article IV. Officers**Section 4.01 State Officers**

- (a) The officers of the Indiana Young Farmers' Association shall be as follows: President, four Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Executive Director, and Advisor. Officers, except the Advisor and Executive Director shall be elected annually at the State Convention.
 - (i) President
 - 1) Preside over all regular meetings of the Association and its Executive Committee.
 - 2) Serves as an ex-officio member of all organization planning committees.
 - 3) Appoints committees.
 - 4) Provides over-all supervision and leadership of activities of the organization.
 - 5) Counsels with the advisor concerning matters or organization policy, etc.
 - 6) Represents Young Farmers in other organizations or activities.
 - (ii) Vice-President (Four Positions)
 - 1) Four at-large Vice Presidents shall be elected.
 - 2) One Vice-President shall preside over meetings in the absence of the president, and shall assume other duties and responsibilities pertaining to the office. Each Vice President will be appointed to chair a standing committee.
 - (iii) Secretary
 - 1) The Secretary shall prepare minutes of the state convention and the Executive Committee meetings and such other duties as pertain to the office.

(iv) Executive Director

- 1) Assist all officers in properly carrying out the duties of their office.
- 2) Serves as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Association committees.
- 3) Conducts affairs of the Association in accordance with policies established by the Executive Committee and membership-at-large.
- 4) Maintains responsibility for the financial records, collection of dues, issuance of chapter charters and such other duties common to the office of Executive Director of an organization.
- 5) Submits news items of all organizational activities to the press, Young Farmer chapters, and other Young Farmer Associations.
- 6) Assists with all activities in the area of public relations.

(v) Advisor

- 1) Assists all officers in properly carrying out the duties of their offices.
- 2) Consults with all committees requesting advice or assistance.
- 3) Provides a challenging instructional and supervisory program for members.
- 4) Assists officers in working with school officials and in other public relations.
- 5) Exerts an ever-present enthusiastic influence upon Young Farmer work.

- (b) Any active member who has served as a state officer for one year may run for president. Any active member who has served as a director for one year may run for state office except that of president. A president may not hold the office for successive years. Only one member of a Young Farmer family can seek election to the Executive Committee in the same year, unless no other members are seeking the vacant seat on the Executive Committee, however only one family member can be a state officer in the same year. "Family member being defined as a married couple."
- (c) If, for any reason, an office becomes vacant during the year, a new officer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee as a replacement to fill the unexpired term.
- (d) The Agricultural Education Specialist of the Indiana Department of Education, shall serve as the State Advisor for the Indiana Young Farmers' Association.
- (e) The Executive Director shall be recommended by the current state officers and State Advisor with final approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 4.02 Election of State Officers:

- (a) State officers shall be elected at the annual delegate meeting.
- (b) All candidates for state office must have completed and submitted application forms as required, and participated in activities conducted by the Nominating Committee.

- (c) At the time of elections, the nominating committee shall nominate a candidate for each office. The nominating committee shall report the entire slate to the delegate body. The committee may move for election of the slate of nominated candidates. This motion shall be debatable, non-amendable, and shall require a majority of votes cast to elect the slate to offices.
- (d) If the motion to elect the slate presented by the nominating committee does not receive a majority vote, the offices shall be filled by election office by office. The order of elections shall be President, Secretary and four Vice Presidents. The nominating committee may nominate a candidate, then the floor shall be opened for further nominations. The nominations process may be closed by 2/3 of votes cast or by consensus providing at least 30 seconds has elapsed since the last person was nominated. In the voting process for each office, if a majority is not attained, where more than 2 candidates are being voted on, the candidate with the lowest votes received shall be dropped from the list prior to the next vote. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.
- (e) State officers shall assume their duties at the end of the annual conference and shall serve until their successors are installed.

Section 4.03 Area Director

- (a) An area director or co-director will be elected annually in each Indiana Young Farmer Area at the Area Meeting. Duties to include:
 - (i) Presides at all area meetings and activities.
 - (ii) Serves as a member(s) of the State Executive Committee.
 - (iii) Serves as a state representative(s) for all activities in respective area.
- (b) Each chapter will be allowed 2 votes.
- (c) Only state affiliated chapters in each respective area will be permitted to vote.

Section 4.04 Local Officers

- (a) The officers of the local chapter shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Advisor. Officers of the local chapter, except the advisor, shall be elected annually at a regular meeting of the local chapter.
- (b) The advisor shall be a locally employed agriculture education instructor except as provided in Section 2.03(c).

Article V. Committees

Section 5.01 Executive Committee

- (a) Elected State Officers, all Area Directors, Spouses of the Executive Committee, Immediate Past President, Executive Director, and the Advisor shall constitute this committee. Duties of the Executive Committee are:
 - (i) The President will appoint standing committees from members of the Executive Committee. Other duties include planning and conducting an Annual Association Convention, determining procedures for chartering local chapters, and performing such other duties as are common to the responsibilities of an executive committee.

- (ii) The Executive Committee shall have the power to remove any member of said Committee, who fails to perform their duties by a vote of 2/3 of votes cast of the Executive Committee.
 - (iii) Replacement of a State Officer shall be governed by Section 4.01(c).
 - (iv) If replacement of an Area Director is warranted, the Executive Committee shall ask the local chapters in that particular area to appoint a new Director before the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
- (b) Non-Liability of Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall not be liable for the debts, liabilities or other obligations of the Association.

Section 5.02 Standing Committees

- (a) These committees for the state association shall include: Finance, Membership, Marketing, State Fair, and State Convention
- (b) These committees for the local chapter shall include: Agriculture/Agribusiness Planning, Cooperation, Leadership, Community Service, Conduct of Meetings, and Public Relations.
- (c) Other standing committees may be established as needed.

Section 5.03 Special Committees

- (a) These committees may be appointed by the president as the need arises.

Section 5.04 Nominating Committee

- (a) The Nominating Committee will be composed of the Past President, President, State Advisor, and any present Executive Committee members not running for an office.
- (b) The nominating committee may nominate one or more nominees per each office.

Article VI. Areas

Section 6.01 There may be up to twenty-four (24) area directors elected statewide as in Section 4.01(a) of these By-laws.

Section 6.02 The Indiana Young Farmer Areas will include the following counties:

- (a) Area I -
 - (i) Lake, Newton, Porter, Jasper, LaPorte, Pulaski, White, Benton
- (b) Area II
 - (i) St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, Fulton, Kosciusko, Starke
- (c) Area III
 - (i) LaGrange, Noble, Whitley, Steuben, DeKalb, Allen
- (d) Area IV
 - (i) Warren, Fountain, Vermillion, Tippecanoe, Montgomery, Boone

- (e) Area V
 - (i) Carroll, Clinton, Cass, Howard, Tipton, Hamilton, Madison
- (f) Area VI
 - (i) Miami, Wabash, Grant, Huntington, Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay
- (g) Area VII
 - (i) Parke, Vigo, Sullivan, Clay, Greene, Owen, Putnam
- (h) Area VIII
 - (i) Hendricks, Marion, Hancock, Morgan, Johnson, Shelby
- (i) Area IX
 - (i) Delaware, Henry, Rush, Randolph, Wayne, Union, Fayette
- (j) Area X
 - (i) Knox, Daviess, Martin, Gibson, Pike, Dubois, Posey, Vanderburg, Warrick, Spencer, Perry
- (k) Area XI
 - (i) Monroe, Brown, Bartholomew, Lawrence, Jackson, Orange, Washington, Scott, Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, Clark
- (l) Area XII
 - (i) Jennings, Ripley, Dearborn, Jefferson, Ohio, Switzerland, Decatur, Franklin

Article VII. Meetings

Section 7.01 State & Local Meetings

- (a) The State Convention of the Association shall be held annually at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee of the Association.
- (b) Each affiliated local chapter shall be entitled to two voting delegates to the State Convention, selected from among the active members of the local chapter.
- (c) Local chapters shall hold their meetings monthly or more often throughout the calendar year, and at such times and places as may be determined by the local executive committee.

Section 7.02 The guide for the conduct of the meeting shall be contained in the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR) shall govern the Association and affiliated units in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-laws and any special rules of order the Association or its affiliates may adopt.

- Section 7.03 A voting quorum shall be those members present, providing that proper notification has been made.
- Section 7.04 All meetings of local and state organizations, including initiation meetings, shall be open to the public.
- Section 7.05 The Association and its chapters have the right to adopt special rules for conducting meetings.
- Section 7.06 The Association and its chapters have the right to establish and empower standing and special committees as necessary to conduct business.
- Section 7.07 The Executive Committee may at their discretion hold meetings by use of electronic means such as telephone or video conferencing. If such means are used, all members must have equal opportunity for participation in the meeting.
- Section 7.08 Use of e-mail, web site, fax or similar means shall be acceptable for distribution of announcements, minutes, reports, and agendas in the conducting of Association activities.

Article VIII. Amendments

- Section 8.01 The By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association.
- Section 8.02 Proposed amendments to the state by-laws shall be approved by the local, affiliated chapter, and shall be submitted in writing by an authorized representative of the affiliated chapter to the State Association Executive Committee before December 1. The proposed amendments shall then be submitted to all affiliated chapters at least one month before the next annual state convention for their consideration. The proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the association, and submitted to the voting delegates at the next annual state convention with recommendations. The proposed amendments to the By-Laws may be adopted at the Association convention by 2/3 of votes cast.

Article IX. Dissolution Statement

- Section 9.01 In the event of dissolution of the Association, after all debts are paid, any remaining assets shall be given over to a group or organization selected by the Executive Committee providing no such assets may be used to directly benefit any member of the Executive Committee.