

Area VIII FFA Constitution

ARTICLE I – Name and Purpose

Section A: The name of this organization shall be “Area VIII of the Missouri Association of the FFA.” The words Area VIII FFA Association may be used to designate the association, its activities, or members thereof.

Section B: The purpose for which this association is formed are as follows:

1. To provide additional leadership training opportunities for the members of the Area VIII FFA Association.
2. To coordinate the public relations and activities of the chapters of the Area VIII FFA Association.
3. To form a common bond among the FFA chapters in Area VIII of the Central District of the Missouri Association of FFA in order to further brotherhood and cooperation among the members so that they might work together for the betterment of all.

ARTICLE II – Organization

Section A: Area VIII of the Missouri FFA Association is comprised of members, of chartered chapters, of the Missouri Association of the FFA who have paid their dues to the Area VIII FFA Association.

Section B: This Association accepts in full the provisions in the Constitution and bylaws of the Missouri Association of FFA as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

ARTICLE III – Membership

Section A: The kinds of membership of this association shall be Active and Honorary. The qualification for these two types of membership shall be those outlined in the National FFA Constitution.

Section B: Anyone becoming an active member of any of the FFA Chapters in the Area VIII FFA Association at the same time becomes an active member of this association if the home chapter has paid their Area VIII dues.

Section C: Each chapter shall be represented by each chapter’s set of officers from Area VIII.

Section D: The Honorary Degree of membership shall be conferred by the Association. Becoming an Honorary member of one of the FFA Chapters does not constitute honorary membership in the Area VIII FFA Association.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

Section A: The officers of the Area VIII FFA Association shall be as follows: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Reporter; Sentinel; Chaplain; Parliamentarian; Historian; and Advisor.

Section B: Requirements for office shall be the same as stipulated for Chapter Office by the National Constitution.

Section C: Chapters may present only 1(one) candidate for an Area office. Candidate may interview for state and area office in the same year. However, the candidate shall appear before the interviewing committee only once.

ARTICLE V – State Officers

Section A: The State Officer Interviews for Area VIII will be conducted during the Area VIII Officer Interview night.

Section B: The candidates must meet the qualifications for a state officer set in the constitutions of the Missouri State FFA Association and the National FFA Organization.

Section C: The interview panel will consist of 2(two) current State FFA Officers, neither from Area VIII; 1(one) advisor from Missouri that is not from Area VIII, 1(one) Area VIII advisor that does not have an applicant, and 1(one) representative from the agricultural industry.
It will be the duty of the current Area VIII MVATA officers to secure such judges.

Section D: Each FFA chapter may present only one candidate for State Office.

Section E: Each candidate must submit the required documents for application as required by the Missouri FFA State Officer Handbook, by the required deadline as set by the State FFA Advisor. Each applicant must bring 5 copies of the completed application to the interview.

ARTICLE VI – Meetings

Section A: There shall be 4(four) set meetings each year. However, the president may call special meetings as needed. These shall be: Area FFA Leadership Conference, Greenhand Leadership Conference, Area Contests, and Area Banquet.

Section B: Simple majority of the schools in Area VIII shall constitute a quorum.

Section C: There shall be a meeting each fall devoted to leadership training.

Section D: Official FFA ceremonies, Roberts Rules of Order, and FFA paraphernalia shall be used in all meetings. The sentinel shall be responsible for the official paraphernalia for all meetings.

Section E: Meeting places will be determined by the executive committee. The secretary shall send advance notice 5(five) days in advance of meetings.

ARTICLE VII – Dues

Section A: Minimum dues shall be recommended by the executive committee and voted upon by the delegate body. The dues shall be spent to cover any Area VIII FFA activities approved by Area VIII. Expenses encountered from banquets, barnwarmings, and other special projects shall be supported by the members participating in the special projects. Dues shall be paid by January 1 on the existing school year.

ARTICLE VIII – Executive Committee

Section A: The executive committee shall consist of all officers, the advisor of the Area VIII President and the Past Area VIII President's advisor.

Section B: The executive committee shall have the power to take all action necessary to carry out the business of the association unless such action limits the rights of the individual members.

Section C: The executive committee shall be held in conjunction with the vocational agriculture teacher meeting when feasible, or during the Area VIII workday at the Missouri State Fair.

ARTICLE IX – Amendments

Section A: To amend this constitution shall require 2/3 of the voting delegates at the Area VIII Leadership Conference for the amendment.

Section B: An amendment must be filed with the secretary 30 days prior to an Area VIII meeting. The secretary will then notify the chapters of the proposal 20 days prior to the meeting.

Section C: No amendment may conflict with any part of the State and National FFA Constitutions.

ARTICLE X – Miscellaneous

Section A: The Area will provide respective officer pins for the executive committees.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AREA OFFICERS

- I. Close meeting at Area VIII Banquet – (April)
 - A. Become familiar with your teammates.
 - B. Make sure every officer has every other officer's telephone # and address.
 - C. Get last year's officer's telephone # addresses.
 - D. Obtain Area Advisor's (New President's Advisor) telephone # and address.
 - E. Start learning parts in ceremonies.
 - F. Receive copy of the Area VIII FFA Constitution.
- II. Order Area VIII FFA Jackets – (Needed by September)
- III. District Fair at District Fair Location
- IV. Chapter Officer Leadership Training and Greenhand Motivational Conference – (September & October)
 - A. Secure a National Officer to speak.
 - B. Secure State Officers.
 - C. Each area Officer is to put on a workshop on their respective office to new chapter officers.
 - D. Each Officer presents a talk on the different aspects of FFA to Greenhands.
- V. District Greenhand Motivational Conference – (January)
- VI. Area Contest – (March)
 - A. Opening and Closing Ceremony
- VII. Area VIII Banquet – (April)
 - A. Meal
 - B. Area VIII and State Officers – Speak
 - C. Area VIII Creed Speaker – Speak
 - D. Area VIII Public Speaker – Speak
 - E. Know Officer installation ceremony

NOTE TO OFFICERS: Realize that these are only the basic things that have been done in the past. You should not feel restricted to what has been presented; use your own judgment and pay attention to the details and specific duties of your office. Example: The Sentinel should bring the meeting room Paraphernalia if not supplied at the meeting location.

AREA VIII FFA OFFICER SELECTION

1. Officer candidates will submit an application prior to the interview. This application must be signed by the applicant, his/her parents, administrator, and advisor prior to the interview and will include an officer contract.
2. A panel of voting delegates will conduct the interview. Each school may bring one (1) student to serve on this panel.
3. The interview will be overseen by the following individuals, with only one of these individuals being a first year teacher:
 - a. The Area FFA Advisor
 - b. Current Area VIII MVATA Vice-President
 - c. Two (2) advisors “at large.” The two “at large” advisors shall be chosen by the Area VIII FFA Advisor & the Area VIII MVATA Vice-President.
4. Individuals not on the panel of voting delegates or advisors overseeing the interviews will not be allowed to observe the interviews.
5. The officers will be selected based on the following items:
 - a. **FFA Knowledge – 20 pts:** This will consist of a 20 question multiple choice test on offices and the duties each requires, Program of Activities, Parliamentary Procedure, names of current area, state, and national officers, information on the creed, motto, mission statement or opening and closing ceremonies.
 - b. **Official Dress – 10 pts:** Candidate will receive 2 points for each correct item of official dress that he/she wears for the interview. (FFA jacket, FFA tie or scarf, white shirt or blouse, black slacks or skirt, black shoes with black socks/hose, or boots.)
 - c. **Activity Points – 20 pts:** The candidates will fill out the Leadership page of the state degree application. The State Degree handbook will be used to tally the candidate’s score. The student’s advisor must score this page prior to the interview. All applications will be checked by the MVATA Area Vice-President for accuracy. The following chart will then be used to determine the candidate’s activity portion for the interview.

State Degree Handbook Score	Activity Points Score
0-80	0
80-120	2
121-140	4
141-160	6
161-180	8
181-200	10
201-220	12
221-240	14
241-260	16
261-280	18
281-above	20

Example – If a student scores 206 on the state degree leadership page, then for the activity portion of the interview, the student would receive 12 points.

Appendix A.

- d. **Interview Questions – 50 pts:** Each delegate may submit one question. From these questions, 5 will be voted on by the delegates to be used during the interview. The same questions will be asked to each candidate. The delegates will score each question asked the candidate. Each question will be worth 10 points. When determining the candidates average interview score from the delegates, the highest and lowest score from the delegates will be deleted.

Example

Delegate #	Score	
1	50	← Deleted
2	45	
3	45	
4	45	
5	45	
6	44	
7	44	
8	43	
9	42	
10	22	← Deleted

Delegate #1's and Delegate #10's scores would be deleted in order to ensure a more unbiased average score.

- e. **Grade Point Average – Yes/No:** Anyone running for an office must have a current minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) as verified by the school counselor.
6. When the interview process is concluded, and all scores are totaled, the assigning of offices will take place. The individuals with the top three scores will be considered for President. The person with the fourth high score will be added to the list to be considered for Vice-President. The fifth high scoring individual will be added to the list or Secretary, sixth for Treasurer, seventh for Reporter, eighth for Sentinel, ninth for Chaplain, tenth for Parliamentarian and eleventh for Historian.

Example of nominating candidates for office

Candidate	Score
1	195
2	193
3	190
4	188
5	182
6	176
7	171
8	169
9	168
10	167
11	166
12	164

Appendix A.

President	Candidates 1, 2, 3 are considered	2 is chosen
Vice President	Candidates 1, 3, 4 are considered	1 is chosen
Secretary	Candidates 3, 4, 5 are considered	4 is chosen
Treasurer	Candidates 3, 5, 6 are considered	5 is chosen
Reporter	Candidates 3, 6, 7 are considered	6 is chosen
Sentinel	Candidates 3, 7, 8 are considered	3 is chosen
Chaplain	Candidates 7, 8, 9 are considered	8 is chosen
Parliamentarian	Candidates 7, 9, 10 are considered	9 is chosen
Historian	Candidates 7, 10, 11 are considered	7 is chosen

7. The slate shall be presented at a business meeting prior to the area contests.
8. Once the slate has been approved by the Area VIII FFA Association, the officers shall be installed at the Area Banquet.
9. The Area VIII FFA Association advisor shall be the chapter advisor of the Area VIII FFA president.
10. Officers shall be limited to juniors in high school and under at the time of elections. One individual may hold office for two years if elected to an office for a second year.
11. In case of officer resignation, the Area Advisor will appoint 1 of the 3 non-constitutional officers to perform ceremonies for vacated spot, and will be filled at the area advisors discretion.
12. In the case of an Area Officer not performing his or her duties, the Area Advisor will notify the Local Advisor of the improvements that need to take place. If there is no sign of improvements the Area Advisor will then notify the Area VIII MVATA Executive Committee and steps will be taken to correct the problem.