

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE MAINE FFA ASSOCIATION

## ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Maine FFA Association. Recognized Units of the Organization may officially use the letters “FFA” to designate the organization, its units and/or members.

## ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION

The objectives of the organization shall be consistent with the organization’s federal charter, Public Law 116-7 (formerly Public Laws 105-225 and 81-740). The organization shall cooperate with national and state government agencies and officials in career and technical education to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To be an integral component of instruction in agricultural education, including without limitation, agriculture, food, and natural resources. As such, the corporation shall be intra-curricular to the agricultural education program, and will work with contextual classroom/laboratory instruction and work-based experiential learning in furtherance of a complete and comprehensive agricultural education program;
2. To be an integral component in agricultural education, to prepare students for successful entry into productive careers in agriculture, food and natural resources, or connect students to relevant postsecondary educational pathways, focusing on the complete delivery of classroom and laboratory instruction, work-based experiential learning and leadership development;
3. To seek and promote inclusion and diversity in its membership, leadership and staff to reflect the corporation’s belief in the value of all human beings;
4. To build character and develop competent and assertive leadership;
5. To increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture, food and natural resources and its contribution to our well-being;
6. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of a career in agriculture, food and natural resources;
7. To cooperate with others, in accomplishing the foregoing purposes; and
8. To engage in other activities, consistent with these purposes, determined by the governing body to be for the best interests of the organization.

Said organization is organized exclusively for educational purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the

purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by any organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

SECTION A. The National FFA Organization is the organization of, by, and for students enrolled in agricultural education programs. It shall consist of chartered state associations

SECTION B. Chapters of the Maine FFA Association shall be chartered only in such schools where recognized systematic instruction in agricultural education is offered under the provisions of federal vocational education legislation, or in those schools or educational entities which offer science or elective classes or other instruction that include an application to agriculture or natural resource systems. Such chapters shall operate as an integral part of the instructional program of agricultural education.

Schools with large enrollments and/or multiple programs in agricultural education may establish subsidiary chapters of the parent chapter. Each subsidiary chapter shall be organized and operated in accordance with all the provisions of the national, state and local constitutions. Subsidiary chapters shall be coordinated by the officers and advisors of the parent chapter.

SECTION C. Students enrolled in agricultural education may meet in state convention, adopt a constitution which shall not conflict with that of the national organization, elect officers, develop a Program of Activities, and apply to the national organization for a state association charter. Upon receipt of a charter from the national organization, the state organization, the state association shall be part of the National FFA Organization and shall be empowered to charter local chapters.

## ARTICLE IV. PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS

SECTION A. A local chapter shall be in good standing with the Maine FFA Association when the following conditions are met:

1. All annual national dues have been paid to the National FFA Association , or shown by postmark or other reliable evidence to have been mailed to the National FFA Treasurer on or before May 15.
2. All reports have been submitted as required by the Maine FFA Association.
3. Provisions of the Chapter constitution do not conflict with the State and National FFA Constitutions, and Chapter activities are in harmony with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

The governing body of the Maine FFA Association shall have the power to suspend the charter of any chapter which violates the State or National FFA Constitution and Bylaws. A report of all suspensions shall be presented to the delegates at the next succeeding state convention. In the event a chapter is not in good standing with the Maine FFA Association at the time of the opening of a state convention, the delegates in session at that state convention shall have the power, upon recommendation of the State Association governing body, to withdraw the charter and refuse such chapter's official representation at the state convention. When such action is taken, the chapter in question and members thereof shall be denied the privileges of membership in the State Association. Upon meeting the requirements for good standing a chapter may be reinstated by action of the State Association governing body.

In the event a local department of agricultural education is discontinued, its chartered FFA chapter may officially operate for a period not to exceed three years (36 months) from the date of discontinuance, provided proper supervision is given by a person having the approval of the local school administrator and the State FFA Advisor. The chapter's charter must be surrendered to the State Advisor at the end of the three-year period if a local department of agricultural education is not in operation in the school at that time.

## ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. Membership in the National FFA Organization shall be of four kinds: Active, Alumni, Collegiate, and Honorary. Membership in the National FFA Organization shall be of two types: student and adult.

### SECTION B.

Student Membership - To be eligible for membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a state approved school-based agricultural education program not below the 5th grade level

To become a student member and retain membership, a student must:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural or natural resource education course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study; either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agricultural career.
2. Show an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending meetings, striving for degrees of membership and participating in other organized activities of the chapter.
3. Pay all current state and national dues or program affiliation fee by the date determined by the chapter.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization.

A member may retain student membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduation from high school.

A member in good standing at the time of induction into the armed forces of the United States of America shall be in good standing during the period of active service without further payment of dues or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the armed forces shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period of four conventions following graduation from high school or leaving high school. Members using this waiver of service time for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application for advanced degrees of membership must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from military service and indicate such a desire by paying dues and attending meetings. Members participating in a six-month armed service program shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual may retain active membership beyond his or her twenty-third birthday.

SECTION C. Adult Membership - Membership shall be open to former student members and honorary degree recipients, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

## ARTICLE VI. DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These are the Discovery FFA Degree, the Greenhand FFA Degree, the Chapter FFA Degree, the State FFA Degree, and the American FFA Degree. The National Organization shall set the minimum qualifications for each degree.

SECTION B. Discovery FFA Degree--- To be eligible to receive the Discovery FFA Degree from a chapter, the member must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Be enrolled in agricultural education class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8.

2. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels.
3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.
6. Submit written application for the degree.

SECTION C. Greenhand FFA Degree—To be eligible to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree from the chapter, the members must meet the following minimum qualifications:

7. Be enrolled in agricultural education and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
8. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, Motto and Salute and FFA Mission Statement.
9. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
10. Demonstrate a knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA jacket.
11. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history of the Organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws, and the chapter Program of Activities.
12. Personally own and or have access to the Official FFA Manual and the FFA Student Handbook
13. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

SECTION D. Chapter FFA Degree—To be eligible to receive the Chapter FFA Degree from the chapter, the member must meet the following minimum qualification:

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least 180 hours of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program, and be enrolled in agricultural education. For more information on what constitutes “agricultural education,” see Article III, Section B, first paragraph.
3. Have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$150 by the member’s own efforts or worked at least forty-five hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Have effectively led a group discussion for fifteen minutes.
6. Have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
7. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award program.
8. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
9. Successfully complete 10 hours of community service.
10. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Other requirements may be established by the chapter and/or the State FFA Association.

SECTION E. State FFA Degree—To be eligible to receive the State FFA Degree from the State Association, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree
2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two academic years by the close of the year in which the State FFA Degree is bestowed or have completed an entire technical agriculture / natural resources program by the end of same year.
3. While in school, have completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
4. Have earned and productively invested at least \$1000 or have worked at least 300 hours in excess of scheduled class time, or a combination thereof, in a supervised agricultural experience program.
5. Demonstrate leadership ability by:
  - a. Performing ten procedures of parliamentary law
  - b. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture of the FFA
  - c. Serving as an officer, subchapter officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a chapter committee.
6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agricultural education instructor and the principal or superintendent.
7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.
8. Have participated in at least five FFA Activities above the chapter level.
9. Successfully complete 25 community service hours

The percentage of the total state membership which may receive the State FFA Degree and other requirements may be established by the State FFA Association.

Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA advisor, shall be submitted to the State Association at least one month prior to the state FFA convention at which the State FFA Degree is to be received. The State Advisor shall provide for review of the records and submit a recommendation to the State Association governing body, which shall nominate at the state FFA convention the candidates who have been found worthy to receive this honor. The State FFA Degree will be conferred upon the candidates subject to approval by the delegates at the state convention.

The State FFA Degree of another state or territory of the United States held by an active FFA member studying or residing in the state of Maine shall be honored by the Maine FFA Association provided that member is enrolled with a secondary Maine FFA chapter.

Under exceptional circumstances, active FFA members who have attained the Chapter FFA Degree and are running for State FFA Office but have not yet completed 5 activities beyond the chapter level, may be accorded by the Maine FFA Advisory Board a provisional approval of their State FFA Degree application, with final approval contingent on completion of remaining conditions within the upcoming academic year.

SECTION F. American FFA Degree—To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization, the member must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months), and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program or have completed the program of agricultural education offered at the school last attended.
3. Have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.
4. Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.
5. Have earned
  - a. at least \$10,000.00 and productively invested at least \$7,500.00; or
  - b. earned and productively invested \$2,000.00 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 10,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree.
6. Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least 3 different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.
7. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of “C” or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.

## ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF AMERICAN FFA DEGREE RECIPIENTS

SECTION A. Applications for the Degree must be approved by the State Advisor or representative(s) thereof and be received by the National Organization not later than midnight of June 30, or show by postmark or other reliable evidence to have been mailed to the National Organization on or before June 15, prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be received.

SECTION B. Applications must be submitted on the official form provided by the National FFA Organization.

SECTION C. The National FFA Board of Directors shall review the American FFA Degree applications and recommend those candidates meeting the minimum qualifications. Final

approval of the candidates shall be given by the delegates present at the National FFA Convention.

## ARTICLE VIII. EMBLEM

SECTION A. The official emblem of the national FFA Organization shall include five symbols, namely: the plow, representing labor and tillage of the soil; the owl, representing wisdom; the rising sun, representing progress; a cross-section of an ear of corn, representing common agricultural interests; and an American eagle surmounting the cross-section of the ear of corn, representing the national scope of the organization. The emblem shall also include the letters, “FFA” and the words, “Agricultural Education”.

SECTION B. The emblem shall be uniform in all State Associations and recognized units thereof. All members shall be entitled to display the emblem.

SECTION C. Greenhand FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin, Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver emblem pin, State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm, and American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

SECTION D. Honorary Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear either the official silver or gold emblem pin, Honorary State FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem charm, and Honorary American FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official gold emblem key.

SECTION E. Collegiate FFA chapter members and FFA advisors shall be entitled to wear the official gold owl pin.

## ARTICLE IX. STATE OFFICERS AND PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION

SECTION A. The elected officers of the Maine FFA Association shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, (or one from each administrative district of the State), Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel. The State Agriculture & Natural Resources Consultant shall assume the responsibilities of the State Advisor. An Executive Secretary from the state professional staff may be named when necessary by the State Advisor subject to approval of the State Executive Committee. All nominated State Officer candidates shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates present at a regular State convention of the Maine FFA Association.

SECTION B. The officers of an FFA chapter shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter and Sentinel. Other officers may be elected as deemed appropriate by the local advisor and/or governing body. The teacher(s) of agricultural education shall be the FFA advisor(s) or other appointees approved by the school administration. Chapter officers shall be elected annually or semi-annually by the members present at any regular meeting of the chapter.



SECTION C. If a State Association has been chartered for two years or more, all State officers shall have attained the State FFA Degree. If a chapter has been chartered for two years or more, all chapter officers shall have attained the Chapter FFA Degree.

## ARTICLE X. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

SECTION A. Except in case of an extreme emergency, a convention of the Maine FFA Association shall be held annually and shall be at least 45 days prior to the National Convention at a place and time to be designated by the State Executive Committee.

SECTION B. Local chapters shall hold at least ten meetings a year at such a time and place as designated by the local executive committee.

SECTION C. Each local chapter shall be entitled to send at least (2) two delegates from the membership to the State Convention, (3) delegates for (25) twenty-five members, with one delegate for each additional (15) fifteen members or majority fraction thereof over the initial (25) members.

Chapters shall arrange for alternates to be available to fill delegate positions of State Officer candidates if they are nominated and elected at the State Convention.

State Officers elect shall not be able to cast a vote in their election or proceedings thereof (including matters concerning nominations as well as elections).

SECTION D. The Advisory Board shall send as delegates to the National Convention the State President and one other officer. In the event that the current list is exhausted, the Advisory Board may select delegate representatives from members of any past state officer teams that retain active membership.

## ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

SECTION A. Proposed amendments to the State Constitution may be submitted in writing by authorized representatives of local chapters to the State Executive Committee at least two months prior to the State Convention. During any year in which a physical State Convention is not conducted, a special Business Session may be organized in its place by the State Executive Committee to be conducted in person or virtually for the purpose of transacting timely business of the Maine FFA Association, including the consideration of any amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. These proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the State Executive Committee which in turn shall submit them to the delegates at the State Convention with recommendations. Amendments may be adopted or revisions made to the State Constitution at any State Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, and Bylaws will require a majority vote of the official delegates provided they represent a quorum. Amendments to the Bylaws must be in harmony with the State and National Conventions.

## ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Maine FFA Association, the State Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all of the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such a

manner, or to such organizations organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the State Executive Committee shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Maine Superior Court exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I.**

SECTION A. All provisions of these Bylaws shall be considered a part of the State Constitution

### **ARTICLE II.**

SECTION A. The President. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meeting of the Maine FFA Association. The President shall call one State Convention each year. The President shall appoint all committees, except the State Executive Committee, and may serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

SECTION B. The Vice Presidents: It shall be the duty of the Vice Presidents, acting under the direction of the President, to represent the membership of the National FFA Organization in the two administrative districts of the state. In case the office of President becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the First Vice President shall assume their responsibilities, followed in turn, if the occasions demands, by the Second Vice President. They shall also assume responsibility for all committees.

SECTION C. The Secretary. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep minutes of the meetings of the state FFA officers and the state convention, and perform other duties as directed by the organization.

SECTION D. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall assist in collecting dues, handling funds, or making disbursements, and shall annually report on such matters at the State Convention. They will make such other reports as may be requested by the State Advisor or State Executive Committee.

SECTION E. The Reporter. The reporter shall gather and classify news items from the State Officers; prepare news notes for publication; and assist in maintaining a scrapbook for the Maine FFA Association, and shall perform other duties as directed.

SECTION F. The Sentinel. The Sentinel shall act as the custodian of the paraphernalia and equipment of the Maine FFA Association, assist in setting up the convention hall, attend the door during meetings, and welcome visitors, take charge of the candidates for degrees during initiation, and perform other duties as directed.

SECTION G. The Advisor. The Advisor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. It is also their duty to advise the State Executive Committee, delegates, and committees on matters of policy and assist the State Officers in conducting meetings and carrying out programs. The Advisor reviews all applications for the State FFA Degree, and prepares a brief statement of the qualifications of the candidates to be submitted to the State Executive Committee with his recommendations.

SECTION H. The State Executive Committee. The officers of the Maine FFA Association shall constitute the State Executive Committee. The State Advisor and the State Executive Secretary shall be ex-officio members. The President will normally serve as chairman.

SECTION I. The Advisory Board.

Section A.

Financial and managerial oversight of the Association will be provided by the State FFA Advisory Board, which will not enter into the day-to-day functions of the Executive Committee except when these run counter to FFA policies, rules and regulations or when they fall short of acceptable standards. Advisory Board shall meet at least once a year or as need arises, as in case of specific financial or State Officer performance issues. Such meetings will be announced 30 days in advance by Chair. This body is composed of the following members:

1. President of the Maine Association of Agriculture Educators (MAAE) or Agriculture Educator to act as Chair of Advisory Board
2. Chair of Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Association;
3. State FFA Officers;
4. President of State FFA Alumni Association;
5. Associate Dean of College of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agriculture, University of Maine, Orono or their designee;
6. Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Maine at Presque Isle, or their designee;
7. Representative of the agriculture/natural resources industry;
8. State FFA Advisor as ex officio, non-voting member;
9. Other staff members of Maine Departments of Education and Agriculture as ex officio, non-voting members.
10. A member of the agricultural community to be appointed by the Board as “Financial Liaison” to the Maine FFA Association for the purposes of periodically reviewing association finances and accounts. The Board member will serve as an ex officio, non-voting member;
11. Up to four additional members of the agricultural community may be appointed by the Board for two-year terms to the Board as voting members.

Section B.

The Advisory Board is responsible for keeping the Association consistent with all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the FFA. They advise and make recommendations to the Executive Committee in conducting activities and business. They may veto any action of delegates assembled in convention that is inconsistent with FFA laws, rules and regulations. They review and approve the annual budget of the Association. They review and approve any requests from Executive Committee or from State FFA Advisor for any special privileges or benefits for any of these individuals (ex. funding all or part of costs associated with a training event not included in normal officer training continuum).

#### Section C.

The Advisory Board shall review any reports of improper or inadequate performance by State Officers, shall request clarifying information from the State Officer(s) in question, from the Executive Committee and from the State Advisor, and shall make determination on appropriate action to be taken, which may include suspension of Officer privileges or resignation from office. They may remove by two thirds vote any current State FFA Officer for failure of performance of duties or for failure to maintain the service and commitment noted on the State FFA Officer Application or for not abiding by the Maine FFA State Officers Commitment and Conduct Statement included on same application or expectations included in other rules and policy standards of the Association. They may remove State FFA Officer for unexcused absence from FFA meetings or official FFA events, with two such absences normally constituting grounds for dismissal. Any such dismissals must be approved by two thirds vote of Board. Advisory Board may fill for remainder of term vacated State FFA Officer positions by majority vote with qualified candidates completing applications.

### ARTICLE III. COMMITTEES

The President of the Maine FFA Association shall appoint three committees annually:

The Nominating Committee; the Auditing Committee; and the Program of Activities Committee. Other committees may be appointed as necessary.

The Nominating Committee shall, after careful consideration, place in nomination the candidates for the various State Offices.

The Auditing Committee shall audit the books of the Treasurer.

The Program of Activities Committee shall set up the annual objectives and goals of the Maine FFA Association and suggest ways and means of attaining them.

### ARTICLE IV. FISCAL YEAR

SECTION A. The FFA fiscal year shall commence on the first day of July each year and shall end on the thirtieth day of June of the next succeeding calendar year.

## ARTICLE V. REPORTS TO THE STATE ASSOCIATION

Each Chapter shall submit the following to the State Executive Committee:

1. A list of the newly elected chapter officers immediately following chapter elections.
2. A membership and dues report.
3. A list of official delegates prior to the state convention.
4. An annual report on chapter activities.

## ARTICLE VI. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING STATE OFFICERS

A nominating committee shall interview and study the applications of the members who are eligible for consideration for state office. The committee shall consist of one representative from each chapter and shall elect a chair from among these representatives. Adult advisor(s) shall serve as non-voting members of the committee as shall the current State President, assuming they are not running again for office. The committee shall approve a slate of State Officers to be submitted to the Delegates for majority approval at the State Convention.

The election of the Vice Presidents shall follow a seniority cycle. The district from which the Second Vice President comes during the current year shall be entitled to a First Vice President the succeeding year. In the case that there are no candidates from the Southern District, the Vice President's position shall not be filled.

## ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING CHARTERS TO CHAPTERS

Chapters shall apply through the State Advisor for affiliation with the National FFA Organization by using the proper form. Such applications must be signed by the President, the Secretary, and the Advisor. The following materials shall accompany the application for charter:

1. A copy of the proper form.
2. A copy of their annual Program of Activities and Chapter Constitution.
3. A complete list of active membership.
4. A list of the chapter officers.
5. A remittance of \$5.00 to cover the cost of charter and engraving.

A charter shall be granted by the Maine FFA Association upon such application, provided the proposed chapter constitution is not in conflict with the State or National Constitution of the National FFA Association.

The delegates at any annual State Convention shall have the right to suspend chapter charters upon receipt of evidence of infringement on provisions of the State and National Constitutions.

## ARTICLE VIII. PROCEDURE FOR CHOOSING CANDIDATES FOR THE STATE FFA DEGREE

SECTION A. The State shall elect all of its qualified membership to the Degree of State FFA Degree.

SECTION B. Each chapter in good standing may submit as many candidates as they desire.

SECTION C. Application for the degree shall be sent to the State Advisor.

## ARTICLE IX. AWARDS

Included among the awards offered to FFA members shall be agricultural proficiency awards and star awards, based on a student's Supervised Agricultural Experience. Each specific proficiency award and star award may only be bestowed on a student once.

Proficiency awards may be granted at the state and national levels, according to requirements and applications set forth for this purpose. Eligible FFA members must be in secondary school or have graduated from secondary school within one year of the time of their application at the state level.

Star awards at the state level may be granted to successful FFA member applicants up until and including the year in which they are to receive their American FFA Degree. State star winners to receive the American FFA Degree the same year as winning the State Star, are eligible to apply for an American FFA star award. Past State Star winners who are to receive an American FFA Degree may also be considered eligible to apply for an American FFA star award the same year as receiving the American FFA Degree.