CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

AREA VIII FFA ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I. NAME

 The name of the organization shall be the Area VIII FFA Association.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

 The objective of the Association hereinafter referred to, as the organization shall be consistent with Section 3 of the National FFA Organization's federal charter, Public Law 105-225 (formerly Public Law 81-74). The association shall cooperate with national and state government agencies and officials as set forth in Article II of the National FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

 The Area VIII FFA Association/Area VIII Association of Future Farmers of America is the organization of, by, and for students enrolled in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources programs and pursuant to the Texas Education Code Section 29.182, is an integral part of the agriculture, food and natural resources career and technical education program. It shall consist of local chapters chartered by the Texas FFA Association. The Area VIII Association shall consist of five districts*:* Bosque River (#1), Blackland (#2), Chisolm Trail (#3), SandyLand (#4), and Heart O’ Texas (5).

ARTICLE IV. PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING STANDING OF CHAPTERS

SECTION A. A chapter shall be in good standing with the Area VIII Association when the following conditions are met:

1. All annual District and Area dues have been paid to the Area Coordinator prior to November 1 for the Fall semester and March 1 for the Spring semester. The Area VIII membership year runs from September 1 to August 31.

2. All reports have been submitted as requested and all fees have been paid for teams, conferences, and etc. to the Area FFA Association.

3. Provisions of the chapter constitution do not conflict with the District, Area, Texas, or National FFA Constitutions and chapter activities are in harmony with the ideas and purposes of the Area, Texas, and National Associations.

SECTION B. Any chapter not meeting the requirements for standing shall be suspended and

reinstated in the manner listed in the Texas and National Constitutions.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall follow the guidelines set forth in the state constitution Article V, sections A-F, with the following exception:

SECTION F. Honorary Membership (TEACHER) - An AFNR teacher must meet the following conditions in order to be nominated for the Honorary State FFA degree:

1. Must have taught AFNR for a minimum of three years in the District from which they were nominated and two consecutive years at the same school.
2. Must have been the Advisor of three State FFA Degree recipients or one American

 FFA Degree recipient.

3. Must be active in the Area and State Activities including training L.D.E. and

 C.D.E. teams.

ARTICLE VI. DEGREES AND PRIVILEGES OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

 RECIPIENTS

ARTICLE VIII. EMBLEM

ARTICLE IX. NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION

ARTICLE X. STATE OFFICERS AND PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION

ARTICLE XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD, & NATURAL RESOURCES CLUSTER.

The Area VIII Association shall follow the guidelines set forth in Articles VI – XI of the Texas FFA Constitution.

ARTICLE XII. AREA, DISTRICT, AND CHAPTER OFFICERS

SECTION A. The officers of the Area VIII FFA Association shall be: President, First Vice-

President, and eight Vice-Presidents. Each district in the area shall be represented by

two officers. Area officers shall serve no more than one full term. Area officer

candidates shall not be past their junior year in high school when running for officer

and shall not be past their senior year in high school when serving. The Advisor of

the Area President shall be the Area Advisor. If an officer moves out of his or her

respective district, the office will be vacated, and a replacement will be elected from

the district from which that officer was originally elected. Each officer, a parent and

their AFNR Instructor will be required to sign a contact, listing the requirements and responsibilities of each officer candidate, before they will be able to run for office.

A Candidate for Area Officer must have received their Chapter FFA Degree before they have been elected.

SECTIONS B - D. Refer to Article XII Sections B-D of the State FFA

 Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

SECTION A. Except in case of an extreme emergency declared by the governing body, a

convention of the Area VIII FFA Association shall be held annually. The time and place of the convention shall be determined by the governing body but must be held

prior to the State Degree Check.

SECTION B. At the Area Convention each local chapter shall be entitled to send one

delegate for its active membership, plus one additional delegate for each 50 members,

or any fraction thereof, above the first 50 members.

SECTION C. Except in cases of extreme emergency, District conventions shall be held

 annually prior to the Area Convention at a time selected by the District Association.

SECTION D. In election processes requiring two votes, a ballot must have two votes cast to

 constitute a legal ballot.

ARTICLE XIV. COMMITTEES

SECTION A. The Area VIII FFA President, Area Advisor or chairman of the Board of

Directors (Area Teacher President) shall appoint all committees necessary in

carrying out the program of activities for the Area VIII FFA.

ARTICLE XV. AREA VIII FFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION A. Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors of the Area VIII FFA shall consist of AFNR teachers selected by their peers. They shall include but are not limited to the following:

Area President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Student Activity Director,

Area Advisor, District Officers (Teachers), Young Farmers Coordinator, members of the L.D.E., C.D.E., Scholarship, Animal Industry, SAEP, Ag. Mechanics, Horticulture, and Awards and Degree Check Committee. The Area Teacher President shall serve as chairperson for all meetings.

1. Duties – The Area VIII FFA Board of Directors shall review decisions and

proposals of the Board of Student Officers. The Area VIII Board of Directors shall have final authority in all matters pertaining to the Area VIII FFA Association without violating the Texas FFA Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION B. Governing Committee - - The Area VIII FFA Executive Committee shall

consist of the Area President, Area Vice President, Area Secretary, Area Treasurer,

and Area Student Activity Director. The Executive Committee shall have the power

to deal with items of business of the Area VIII FFA in accordance with the Area VIII

Constitution and Bylaws. All official actions of the Executive Committee shall be

approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVI. DUES

SECTION A. Annual membership dues in the Area VIII FFA Association will be determined annually by a majority vote of the delegates at any Official Area VIII meeting, provided local chapters have received notice of the change 30 days prior to the Official meeting, otherwise a two-thirds vote is required.

SECTION B. All District and Area dues are to be sent to the Area Coordinator and completed the online roster program. State and National dues are to be sent to Austin by the local chapter. Instructions and procedures for submitting dues and rosters will be posted on the area website.

SECTION C. The membership and fiscal year of the Area VIII FFA Association shall be

from September 1 to August 31.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE XVIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The Area VIII FFA Association shall follow these Articles as stated in the State FFA Constitution.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. RELATIONSHIP TO CONSTITUTION

The Bylaws shall be a part of the Constitution of the Area VIII FFA Association.

ARTICLE II. PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING MEMBERS

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Membership on the Board of Directors has followed a rotation basis, however this may be done only with the general consent of all AFNR teachers present.

SECTION A. The Student Activity Director shall serve a one year term and rotate to the

Treasurer position.

SECTION B. The Treasurer shall serve a one-year term and rotate to the secretary position.

SECTION C. The Secretary shall serve a one-year term and rotate to the Vice President

position.

SECTION D. The Vice President shall serve a one-year term and rotate to the President

position.

SECTION E. The President shall serve a one-year term and rotate off the Board of Directors.

SECTION F. Each district will have a member serving on the Board of Directors at all times.

When the President rotates off, the Student Activity Director should be elected from

that same district.

SECTION G. Elections shall be held during the AFNR Teachers Professional Development Conference for AFNR teachers.

ARTICLE III. DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

SECTION A.  Except as allowed pursuant to Section C of this Article, the Districts of the

Area VIII FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America shall be:

1. Bosque District(#1) consisting of the following Texas High Schools: Bruceville-Eddy, Clifton, Copperas Cove, Cranfills Gap, Crawford, Evant, Gatesville, Iredell, Jonesboro, Kopperl, Lorena, McGregor, Meridian, Midway, Moody, Morgan, Oglesby, Valley Mills, Walnut Springs, and Whitney.
2. Blackland District(#2) consisting of the following Texas High Schools: Avalon, Blooming Grove, Ennis, Ferris, Frost, Heritage, Italy, Maypearl, Midlothian , Milford, Palmer, Red Oak, Rice, and Waxahcahie.
3. Chisolm Trail District(#3) consisting of the following Texas High Schools: Alvarado, Blum, Burleson, Burleson Centennial, Cleburne, Cornerstone Christian, Covington, Glen Rose, Godley, Granbury, Grandview, Itasca, Joshua, Lipan, North Central Texas Academy, Rio Vista, Tolar, and Venus.
4. Sandyland District(#4) consisting of the following Texas High Schools: Athens, Brownsboro, Cayuga, Cross Roads, Elkhart, Eustace, Fairfield, Frankston, Kerens, La Poynor, Malakoff, Mildred, Neches, Palestine, Slocum, Teague, Trinidad, Westwood, and Wortham.
5. Heart O’ Texas District(#5) consisting of the following Texas High Schools: Abbott, Aquilla, Axtell, Bosqueville Boys Ranch, Bynum, China Spring, Coolidge, Corsicana, Dawson, Gholson, Groesbeck, Hillsboro, Hubbard, Mart, Mexia, Mt. Calm, Penelope, Riesel, Robinson, and West.

Section B. District Re-Alignments: The Area VIII FFA Association Board of Directors shall review district alignments contained in these bylaws and consider and district realignment resolution at least every ten years. For the purpose of district alignment, chapters shall be associated with the county in which the school district is headquartered.

Section C. In accordance to policies and procedures established by the board of directors, a chapter, by means of a resolution of the school district’s board of trustees, may petition the board of directors to be assigned to an adjacent district association. Should the board of directors grant and district reassignment request, the reassignment shall be considered temporary and will be referred to the Area Realignment Commission in any subsequent realignment to consider whether such assignment may be recommended to made permanent.

Section D. District Associations: Each area association shall have district associations apportioned in relationship to membership, number of chapters and other appropriate considerations. Each area association shall consider a district realignment resolution every five years in accordance to policies adopted by the area association. New districts may be formed by the area association with the approval of the State FFA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV. SCHOLARSHIP

SECTION A. The Area VIII FFA Association shall give a scholarship annually to a student

in Area VIII.

SECTION B. Requirements for this scholarship are to be set by the Board of Directors using

the State guidelines and the State application form. The person to receive this

Scholarship will be the next person in line that does not receive a scholarship at the

State level, as ranked at the Area Convention. This scholarship will be awarded at the

Area Banquet.

SECTION C. The scholarship shall be funded from interest monies accumulated during the

year from the Endowed funds or other funds collected by the area.

SECTION D. If insufficient qualified applications are received, monies for the scholarship

will be held over until they are needed.

ARTICLE V. AREA COORDINATOR

The Area VIII FFA Association shall retain an Area Coordinator for a paid salary, to be determined annually by the Area Board of Directors, per year plus expenses. Duties of the Area Coordinator shall include but not limited to the following: create forms and documents as needed by the Area, keep records of Area business, collect fees and dues, update area website***,*** attend Area Banquet, Convention, and Leadership Development Event. Attend all other meetings as needed. Help coordinate Area activities and assist the Area Officers as needed.

ARTICLE VI. CONTESTS

SECTION A. Speaking Development Events

An entry fee set by the Area Executive Committee will be charged for each contestant and first through fifth place Plaques will be awarded. Each district will be allowed to enter two contestants. Each contestant will follow the state rules and submit copies as determined by the Board of Directors. The participation order for each district is a rotational scale and is posted on the area website. At least two judges will officiate the contest and at least one of these judges will be an AFNR teacher. The first and second place winner qualifies for the state contest. All other rules will follow the state guidelines for the Speaking Development Events.

SECTION B. Talent Team Contest

An entry fee set by the Area Executive Committee will be charged for each team and first through third place plaques will be awarded. Each district may qualify one team for the Area VIII Talent Contest and each member of the team must be a member of the Area VIII FFA. One team will qualify for the state talent review. Drawing for order will begin prior to the contest. All other rules will follow the state guidelines for the Talent Team Contest.

SECTION C. Career Development Events

 The Area VIII FFA C.D.E. will follow the guidelines for the State C.D.E.

SECTION D. Leadership Development Events

 The Area VIII FFA L.D.E. will follow the guidelines for the State L.D.E.

SECTION E. Sweepstakes Awards

Three plaques will be awarded at the Area VIII FFA Convention for the C.D.E. and S.D.E. Sweepstakes and at the Area VIII FFA L.D.E. for the Leadership Sweepstakes. Ties in the C.D.E.’s will be broken by using fractional points. (.9 points for 11th place, .8 points for 12th place etc.) If still tied the number of first place teams a school has will be used. If still tied the number of second place teams, etc. This system will be used to break ties for all three places of sweepstakes only. Ties in the L.D.E.’s and S.D.E.’s will be broken by using the number of first place teams a school has and if still tied by the number of second place teams, etc.

ARTICLE VII. TEACHER ELECTIONS

SECTION A. District Officer

 In order for a teacher to be nominated and elected to a position as a district officer,

he/she must have been teaching AFNR for at least three years and for the past two years in their present school. If for any reason a teacher must vacate their position as a district officer, an election will be held at the next regular district meeting. It will be that districts option to move up the present officers and elect a new officer or elect a person to complete the unexpired term of the vacated office.

SECTION B. Area Officer

 In order for a teacher to be nominated and elected to a position as an area officer,

he/she must have been teaching AFNR for at least five years and for the past three years in their present school. If for any reason a teacher must vacate their position as an area officer, an election will be held at the next regular area meeting, unless that position is the Treasurer, in which case the President will appoint a person to serve in this capacity until the election may be held. At the area meeting when the elections are to take place, the teachers present will decide if a rotation order will take place or if a new officer(s) will be elected.

REVISED MAY 14, 1994

UPDATED AUGUST 10, 1998

Submitted for Amendment Changes July 12, 2005

REVISED AUGUST 23, 2005

Submitted for Amendment Changes July 30, 2010

REVISED SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

Submitted for Amendment Changes January 3, 2018

REVISED MAY 4, 2018