AVATA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ARKANSAS VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

REVISED JULY 15, 2021

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be "Arkansas Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association."

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

1. **To promote the interest of Vocational education in agriculture in Arkansas.**
2. **To encourage mutual, helpfulness among its members.**
3. **To study the problems of vocational agriculture teachers.**
4. **To help members contribute more to their communities, their state, and their nation.**
5. **To uphold high standards for vocational agriculture teachers.**
6. **To cooperate with the Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education (AR-ACTE), The National Association of Agriculture Educators (NAAE), The Association of Career and Technical Educators (ACTE), and other professional and lay organizations interested in education.**

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this organization shall consist of active, associate, honorary, and student members.

1. **Active membership shall include teachers of agriculture on the secondary level.**
2. **Associate memberships shall include teacher education staff, state supervisory staff and others engaged in the program of Vocational Agriculture who are not employed as teachers of Vocational Agriculture and/or retired teachers, supervisors, teacher educators, and others subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.**
3. **Honorary membership shall include those people who contributed to the furtherance of vocational agriculture by approval of the Executive Committee.**
4. **Student membership shall include students with training to be teachers of vocational agriculture.**
5. **In order to benefit from the privileges of this organization and be in good standing, a member must have paid their Arkansas Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (AVATA) dues by December 1. The AVATA dues of first year agriculture teachers will be waived.**
6. **Members in good standing who have served 20 years or more, including Military Service as counted by the teacher retirement system up to a maximum of four (4) years, will be recognized by the association with proper insignia, and may become a member of the 20 Year Club.**
7. **The privilege of voting and holding office shall be restricted to active members.**

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. **The board of directors shall be made up of ten (10) members, President, President-elect, Past President, Sec/Treas/Dues Remitter, and two (2) from each district.**
2. **In order to be qualified for a board member, a teacher must have taught agriculture in Arkansas for the last three consecutive years, and have been a member in good standing in the State Association for the same period of time. If the teacher of vocational agriculture in Arkansas is interrupted by military services, they will be eligible to serve on the board after they return to teaching agriculture in Arkansas for one year, provided that they had three consecutive years of teaching vocational agriculture in Arkansas before military service.**
3. **A person elected to an unexpired term may succeed themselves on the board. Each duly elected board member shall serve four (4) years on the board, and is eligible to succeed themselves. District board members will be elected every other year. District Vice Presidents will be the board member in their last two years of district representation.**
4. **A vacancy appearing on the board may be filled at the next district meeting or annual conference.**
5. **The Board of Directors shall be empowered to designate the delegates that are to represent the state organization at the Region and National meetings.**
6. **Arkansas Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association president shall be chair of the board of directors, and in the absence the next ranking officer will preside.**

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

1. **The officers of the organization shall consist of a president, three (3) vice presidents (one from each district), secretary/treasurer/dues remitter, president-elect, and past-president.**

1. **Officer qualifications:**
    a. **President: The president must have served on the board of directors for at least one year.**
    b. **President-Elect: Shall be considered Vice President of the organization.**
    c. **Secretary/Treasurer/dues remitter is elected by the board of directors.**

ARTICLE VI: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OD DIRECTORS

1. **The president or next ranking officer shall preside at all meetings of the association and the board of directors. The president shall perform the usual duties expected of a presiding officer.**
2. **The district vice presidents shall preside over district meetings of the AVATA and perform any other duties assigned by the president. The succession to the office of president, in case of unexpired term of president, shall be president elect. In the event the president elect is unable to complete the unexpired term of the president, a special meeting of the board of directors shall be called and a president will be elected by the board from those eligible candidates.**
3. **The secretary shall keep full and accurate records of all business and proceedings in regular and special meetings. They shall perform such additional duties as the board of directors may designate.**

4. **The board of directors shall constitute the administrative body of the association and carry out all activities necessary to the successful operation of the association. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to elect the secretary-treasurer of the association and determine their compensation. It shall further be the duty of this board to provide for safe keeping and proper management of all funds of the association.**

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any annual conference provided the following provisions are met:

1. **All amendments proposed must be sent to the secretary at least 45 days prior to the annual conference and copies of such proposed amendments must be provided to each of the members at least 30 days prior to the conference.**
2. **This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at the annual conference.**
3. **The proposed amemdments will be read at the first session and voted on at the final session of the conference.**

ARTICLE VIII: PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

1. **Maintain a high standard of moral and professional conduct.**
2. **Abstain from:**
    - **A. Bidding competitively on vacancies.**
    - **B. Criticizing fellow members in presence of non members.**
    - **C. Applying for a job until it is declared open.**
    - **D. Adverse criticism of anyone connected with the school system.**

3. **That we will defend fellow members character, reputation and standing as far as justified.**
4. **Work in harmony with school authorities and academic teachers.**
5. **Notify proper authorities 90 days in advancement of termination of employment except by mutual agreement.**
6. **Teacher trainers are urged to familiarize their students with these standards.**
7. **Any officer of the organization shall constitute a grievance committee to investigate any violations of this code and make a report to the association.**
8. **Each member will notify officers of any violation of this code.**
9. **Attend all professional activities and meetings.**

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS

1. **Annual meeting of the association shall be held at such a time and place as the board of directors shall decide.**
2. **The board of directors shall meet at the call of the president or upon a written request of a majority of the board.**
3. **Members of the board may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred while attending meeting, provided funds are available.**

ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES

1. **Committees may be appointed by the president as deemed necessary by the president or board of directors.**
2. **The president shall appoint the following committees:**
    - **A. Auditing Committee**
    - **B. Scholarship Committee**
    - **C. Awards Committee**

ARTICLE XI: SCHOLARSHIPS

1. **The AVATA will award scholarships to students pursuing agriculture education degrees from accredited programs. Scholarships will be awarded to post-secondary students who are conducting their internship at high schools in Arkansas.**
2. **The AVATA will award one (1) $1000 scholarship to each child of an Agriculture teacher whose parent(s) are dues paying AVATA members for five (5) consecutive years including the year of graduation upon graduation from high school of the student.**

BYLAWS

1. **The bylaws may be changed by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual conference.**
2. **Quorum of membership shall consist of those present at an annual meeting.**
3. **Quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of those present at an official meeting of the board.**
4. **Annual dues of the AVATA shall be forty (40) dollars for active and associate members and zero (0) dollars for student members. Members may pay their professional dues in two installments: one half at the conference (to the nearest dollar), and one half with a postdated check for the second month after the annual conference.**

5. **Each district shall elect the board members for the district while in a regular meeting called by the presiding officer of the district during the time of the conference. The term of office shall begin at the close of that annual conference.**

6. **Election of officers:**
    1. **President:**
        - **A. The president shall be elected by the membership at large at the annual conference and take office at the close of the conference.**
        - **B. The president may succeed themselves in office.**
        - **C. Nominations may be made from the floor by any member in good standing.**
    2. **President-elect:**
        - **A. The president-elect shall be elected by the entire membership present at the annual conference.**
        - **B. The board of directors shall serve as a nominating committee and nominations may be made from the floor by any members in good standing.**
        - **C. The president-elect may succeed themselves in office.**

7. **President, President-elect, and Past President shall serve Two (2) years or until their successor is elected.**

8. **All other officers shall serve one year or until their successor Is elected.**

9. **Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority of this organization.**

10. **One student from each DWE approved post secondary institution offering Agriculture Education will be an ex-officio member of the board.**
11. **One teacher trainer from each DWE approved post secondary institution offering Agriculture Education will be an ex-officio member of the board.**
12. **The treasurer shall receive, and under the direction of the board of directors, shall hold for safe keeping or expend any funds as ordered by the board of directors. The treasurer shall keep an exact account of receipts and expenditures with vouchers for all expenditures. No bills or accounts shall be authorized for payment unless properly presented with vouchers. The treasurer of the organization shall be appointed by the board of directors.**

ARTICLES OF ADOPTION OF THE REVISED CONSTITUTION:

1. **This constitution and bylaws supersedes all previous articles and amendments of this organization**

2. **This document was amended on Friday, July 15, 2021.**