

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

Revised July 30, 2004

Article 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be "Mississippi Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers."

Article 11. Purposes

Sec. 1. To actively promote a sound program of Agriculture Education in the state.

Sec. 2. To bring together all Agricultural Education teachers through membership in a state organization devoted exclusively to their interests.

Sec. 3. To work with similar organizations in other states for the promotion of the national program of Agricultural Education.

Article 111. Membership

Sec. 1. Membership in this association shall consist of active, honorary, student, and associate members upon payment of their dues.

Sec. 2. Active membership is limited to regular and special teachers of Agriculture Education, state staff personnel, post-secondary agriculture educators who are members of MS-ACTE and the ACTE.

Sec. 3. Honorary memberships shall be awarded to those people who contribute to the furtherance of Agriculture Education, subject to the approval of the executive committee.

Sec. 4. Student membership shall consist of Agricultural Education majors in any post-secondary institution.

Sec. 5. Associate membership shall consist of those individuals using Agriculture Education as their secondary affiliation in MS-ACTE.

Article IV. Dues

Sec. 1. Membership dues of this association shall be set annually by the active membership of the organization.

Sec. 2. The fiscal year of the Mississippi Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers shall be July I- June 30.

Article V. Officers

Sec. 1. The officers of the association shall consist of a president, president-elect, secretary-treasurer, one vice president from each of the supervisory districts, one district chairperson from each district, one alternate vice president from each district, and one member at large to be elected from the post-secondary members of MAVAT. The executive committee shall consist of the president, president- elect, vice presidents, past president, and the secretary-treasurer.

Sec. 2 The election of officers shall be for a one-year term and in the following manner:

a. An active member as defined in Article III, Sec. 2, shall make nomination.

b. President. The office of president shall be filled automatically by the president-elect.

c. President-elect. The president-elect shall be elected from qualified applicants at the annual conference of the association. To be eligible for the office of president- elect the nominee must have served previously on the executive committee. If no applications are received the MAVAT officers shall nominate a candidate from those who are qualified.

Treasurer. The treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote from the nominees of the annual conference of the association.

d. Vice President. The office of vice president shall be filled automatically by the district alternate vice president of the respective district.

e. Alternate Vice President. The office of the alternate vice president shall be filled automatically by the chairperson of the respective district.

f. District chairperson. Each district chairperson shall be elected from qualified applicants at the annual conference of the association. Applications will be submitted to the Executive Board by June 15th. Opportunity shall be provided to receive nominations from the floor for the office. Nominations shall cease upon the third consecutive unanswered call for nominations by the District Vice President.

g. Member at large. A member at large will be elected from the post- secondary membership by the post secondary membership and shall serve a I -year term.

Sec.3.Voting must continue until an officer has received a majority vote of those present.

Sec. 4. No officer except the treasurer shall be eligible to succeed themselves in their respective offices. The designated signee of the check shall be bonded with the bonding fee paid by the association.

Sec. 5. Officers shall be elected from the active membership, and those being elected must have an active membership for a minimum of 3 years. In case the status of any officer shall change during his/her term of office, that office shall be declared vacant immediately and filled as follows.

a. In the case of the president the president-elect shall be elevated immediately to the office of president.

b. In the case of the president-elect, the executive committee shall have the power to appoint the successor from their own members, it being understood, however, that this appointment shall be to fill out the unexpired term and not affect any officer rotation by the supervisory districts.

c. In the case of a vice president, the alternate vice president shall immediately serve the unexpired term. This fill-in term will not be counted.

d. In the case of the treasurer, a temporary treasurer shall be appointed by the executive committee, until a regular meeting of the association during which a treasurer shall be elected from nominations from the floor.

e. In the case of the chairperson, a temporary chairperson shall be appointed by the executive committee, until a regular meeting of the nominations from the floor.

Article VI. Duties of officers and executive committee

Sec. I .The president shall serve as the presiding officer at all meetings of the association and the executive committee and shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees. In the absence of the president, the president-elect or the vice president as designated by the president shall preside. If neither is designated or shall not be present, the executive committee shall designate a presiding officer. The president shall appoint an Audit committee annually from the membership at large. The audit will be conducted prior to the annual summer conference.

Sec. 2. The president-elect shall be responsible for public relations for the organization. They shall also work closely with the legislative task force to insure, the implementation of the legislative agenda. The president-elect shall also keep full and accurate records of all business and proceedings in regular and special meetings. They shall also be responsible for official association correspondence.

Sec. 3. The treasurer shall receive and under the direction of the executive committee hold for safekeeping or expend any funds as ordered by the executive committee. This officer shall keep an exact amount of receipts and expenditures with vouchers for all expenditures. No bills or accounts shall be authorized for payment unless property presented with vouchers. The secretary shall keep copies of the constitution on file and the secretary shall bring copies of it to the annual convention.

Sec. 4. The vice president, or the alternate vice president, shall preside at all meetings of the district. The vice president and the alternate vice president shall promote the association in their district. Vice president shall be in charge of communicating association news to the membership in their district and district news to the MAVAT webmaster for publishing on the association's website. The alternate vice president shall establish a phone chain to all teachers of agriculture in their district and submit it to the president-elect by Sept. 15th of each year.

Sec. 5. The district chairperson will be responsible for membership campaigns in their district.

Sec. 6. The executive committee shall constitute the administrative body of the association and carry out all of the activities necessary to the successful operation of such association. It shall be the duty of the executive committee to provide for the safekeeping and proper management of all funds of the association.

Sec. 7. If an officer does not carry out his/her duties, the executive committee will be empowered to ask for the officer's resignation and if not obtained will be empowered to remove the person from office by a majority vote by the executive committee.

Sec. 8. An officer must pay dues by their active anniversary date.

Article VII. Meeting

Sec. 1. The annual meetings of the association shall be held at such time and place, as the executive committee, in conference with the state supervisory staff shall decide.

Sec. 2. The executive committee shall meet at the call of the president or upon written request of a majority of the executive committee.

Article VIII. Delegate's to NAAE

The delegates shall be selected from teachers of agriculture education on the following basis:

Sec. 1. President of the association, president elect, past president, and vice presidents from districts not already represented.

Sec. 2. Treasurer of the association, provided he/she has not attended at least one national convention during his/her tenure of office.

Sec. 3. Other members of the association not to exceed one delegate for each 50 association members or major fraction thereof.

Sec. 4. The association will pay voting delegates travel, hotel, registration, and per diem, and other expenses as deemed necessary by the executive committee. Per Diem not to exceed twenty dollars/day and mileage not to exceed twenty cents/mile.

Sec. 5. The president will be a permanent delegate.

Sec. 6. Those members who hold regional or national positions who are required to attend the NAAE national or regional meetings will be reimbursed for travel, hotel, registration, per diem, and other expenses as deemed necessary by the executive committee provided that funds are available. Per Diem not to exceed twenty dollars/day and mileage not to exceed twenty cents/mile.

Article IX. Quorum

A quorum of any regular or special meeting of the association authorized by the executive committee and called by the president, and all members having been duly notified, shall consist of the members present.

Article X. Voting

All questions coming before the association shall be decided by a majority vote except in cases of conflict with correct parliamentary law, and amending the constitution of the association.

Article XI. Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any annual conference, providing certain provisions are met:

Sec. 1. Notice must be given at least 30 days prior to annual conference.

Sec. 2. Two-thirds of the delegates present and voting at the annual conference must vote in favor of the proposed amendment.

Article XII. Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the governing rules of this organization: (MAVAT)
Mississippi Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers

District Officers: Elect in District Meeting by Majority Vote

Treasurer: Nominated from the floor and elected by majority vote.