

Clarification of WV FFA Governance

WV FFA Advisory Committee - The following excerpt from the WV FFA Constitution identifies who serves on the WV FFA Advisory Council and defines the role of the committee. As State FFA Advisor, I do meet and/or communicate with the committee about major decisions impacting the FFA. The WV Department of Education Agricultural Education staff collaborates with the Advisory Committee to make the major decisions impacting our WV FFA Organization. Each regional advisory committee member is a representative of their region and is therefore responsible for communicating with teachers and students in their region to ascertain their thoughts and opinions on major issues.

Article XI – State Advisory Committee

- Section A - There shall be a State FFA Advisory Committee composed of the state supervisor of agricultural education; program specialists of agricultural education; one teacher-educator of agricultural education; and one chapter advisor from each region elected alternately by the members of the West Virginia Agriculture Teachers' Association to serve a three-year term. The state advisor shall act as chairman.
- Section B - The State FFA Advisory Committee shall cooperate with and serve in an advisory capacity to the state advisor of the FFA, assist with the administrative direction of the organization, and interpret the state constitution of the FFA.
- Section C - The State FFA Advisory Committee shall have the power to approve or disapprove actions of the state executive committee and the delegates to the state convention.

State Executive Committee – The following excerpt from the WV FFA Constitution identifies who serves on the State Executive Committee and defines the role of the committee.

Article IX – Officers

- Section A - The officers of the State Association shall be a president, a secretary, and one vice president from each region. The state supervisor of agricultural education shall be state advisor. An executive secretary and/or treasurer from the state professional staff shall be named by the state advisor. The officers shall perform the usual duties of their respective offices. Vice Presidents shall be selected by the State executive committee to serve as vice president, reporter, treasurer and sentinel at meetings and conventions. The elected officers, the state advisor, the executive secretary and/or treasurer and the outgoing state president shall constitute the executive committee of the state association. The executive shall have authority and control over the association subject only to such regulations and bylaws as may be adopted by the state association at any annual convention. The officers of the association shall be active members elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates assembled in annual convention.

WV FFA Governing Body – The following excerpt from the WV FFA Constitution identifies who serves on the WV FFA Governing Body. The WV FFA Governing Body is a combination of the Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee. The Governing Body reviews and approves constitutional amendments and submits to state convention delegates.

Article XIII – Amendments

- Section A - Proposed amendments to this state constitution may be submitted in writing by: Authorized representative of local chapter, the State FFA Advisory Committee or the State Executive Committee. Proposed amendments must be reviewed by the Governing Body, and if approved by the Governing Body, submitted to the delegates at the state convention. Amendments may be adopted or revisions made in this state constitution at any State Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates.
- Section B - Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the state organization or any unit thereof, provided they are not in conflict with the state or national constitution.

Article XIV – Governing Body

- Section A - The governing body of the State FFA Association shall be composed of (1) the members of the executive committee of the State Association, and (2) the members of the State FFA Advisory Committee.
- Section B - The State Advisor shall serve as chairperson.

West Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators (WVAE) – This is the Agriculture teacher’s professional association in WV. All teachers are encouraged to join this association which does require the paying of dues. This group elects a team of officers who work hard to improve the agriculture teaching profession in WV. They plan and host an annual teacher retreat, work closely with state staff to develop and deliver teacher professional development, and recognize the excellence of teachers through state and national awards and recognitions.

WV TEAM AgEd - WV TEAM AgEd is an attempt to bring key shareholders together to improve Agricultural Education and the FFA in WV and to enhance the communication between all groups. This group consists of the WV Advisory Committee, Officers of the WVAE, Regional Agriculture Teacher Presidents, Past State FFA President, WV FFA Alumni, WV FFA Foundation, WV Dept. of Agriculture, WV Farm Bureau, and a current Agricultural Education undergraduate student. This group serves in an advisory role to major Agricultural Education initiatives. This group usually meets at least one time each year.

Fall Program and Policy Meeting - This meeting is held in the fall of each year typically the second week of November. Every Agriculture teacher is invited to attend this meeting but the FFA Advisory Committee and Regional Agriculture Teacher Presidents are expected to attend. This is the one time each year where decisions are made that impact the specific rules and content of WV Career Development Events. Current FFA and Agricultural Education updates and reports are also shared. All major decisions are made by the Advisory Committee and not everyone in attendance.

Spring Governing Body Meeting – This meeting is held in the spring of each year typically the last week of March or first week of April depending upon Easter. At this meeting, those in attendance will review proficiency award applications, State and American Degree applications; nominate individuals and groups for State and National Honorary Awards. Current FFA and Agricultural Education updates and reports are also shared. All major decisions are made by the Advisory Committee and not everyone in attendance.

Submitted by Jason Hughes, WV FFA Advisor
August 20, 2014