**Iroquois West FFA Chapter Constitution**

**Article I-Name and Purpose**

Section A- the name of this organization shall be the Iroquois West FFA Chapter. The letters, “FFA” may be used to designate the chapter, tis activities or members thereof.

Section B- The FFA Mission is: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Section C- The purposes for which this chapter is formed are as follows:

1. To develop competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
2. To increase awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
3. To strengthen the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
4. To promote the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
5. To encourage achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
6. To encourage wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
7. To develop interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
8. To build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
9. To promote cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
10. To promote healthy lifestyles.
11. To encourage excellence in scholarship.

**Article II- Organization**

Section A- The Iroquois West FFA Chapter is a chartered local unit of the Illinois FFA Association, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

Section B- This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution and bylaws of the Illinois FFA Association as well as those of the National FFA Organization.

Section C- The FFA is an intra-curricular component of the Iroquois West High School agriculture program. Certain FFA activities might be required for a particular agricultural class.

**Article III- Membership**

Section A- membership in this chapter shall be of three kinds: 1) Active, 2) Alumni, and 3) Honorary, as defined by the National Constitution.

Section B- The regular work of this chapter shall be carried out by the active membership.

Section C- To become an active member and retain membership, a student must:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agricultural education class per school year or have taken all agriculture classes possible. Independent studies or SAE classes only count for senior FFA members who have no other possible option.
2. Show 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 chapter, district, state, and national dues.
4. Display conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization. *See Article I Section C*

Section D- Alumni Membership

1. Alumni membership shall be open to former active members, collegiate and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members, and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.
2. Alumni membership shall not be allowed to vote on business conducted by the active membership nor electioneer to active members.

Section E- Honorary Membership

1. Honorary membership shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter Degree. Honorary members will have no voting right at a chapter function.
2. The Honorary Chapter Degree should be given to farmer, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people and other who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service to the chapter.
3. Those earning the Honorary Chapter Degree will be determined by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting.
4. The Honorary Chapter Degree should be presented at the annual chapter banquet.

**Article IV- Membership, Degrees, and Privileges**

Section A- There shall be 2 degrees of active membership based on individual achievement in eth chapter. These degrees are the Greenhand Degree and the Chapter Degree.

Section B- Greenhand Degree, Minimum qualifications:

1. Be enrolled in agriculture education and have satisfactory and acceptable plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.
2. Learn and explain the FFA Creed, motto, salute, and FFA Mission Statement.
3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the FFA Code of Ethics and the proper use of the FFA Jacket.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the organization, the chapter constitution and bylaws and the chapter Program of Activities.
6. Personally own or have access to the *Official FFA Manual* and the *FFA Student Handbook*.

Section C- Chapter FFA Degree, Minimum qualifications:

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Must have satisfactorily completed at least one year of instruction in agricultural education at or above the 9th grade level, have in operation of a Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and be entolled in an agriculture education class.
3. Must have participated in the planning of at least one official function 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 demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.
6. Show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.
7. Have a satisfactory record with at least a 2.0 GPA.
8. Have effectively lead a group discussion for 15 minutes.
9. Submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section D- Degree Process

1. Advisor shall review the qualifications of the members and make recommendation to the chapter concerning degree advancement.

Section E- Pins

1. Greenhand FFA Degree recipients are entitled to wear the official bronze emblem pin.
2. Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the silver emblem pin.
3. Members who attain the State FFA degree will remove all pins from their jacket and wear the state FFA degree pin above their name.
4. Only 3 FFA pins may be worn on the FFA jacket at any time. They are to be their highest office, highest award, and highest degree.

**Article V- Officers**

Section A- The officers of the chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Reporter, Secretary, Treasurer, Sentinel, Historian, & Chaplain. The local Advisor(s) shall be the teacher(s) of Agricultural Education in the school where the chapter is located. All officers must be enrolled in at least one year long ag class during their term in office.

Section B- The Chapter President must hold the Chapter FFA Degree.

Section C- Election Process for the officer positions is as follows:

1. A selection committee composed of 3-5 individuals shall select 10 qualified candidates from the list of applicants. The committee many consist of alumni members, administrators, teachers, section officers, senior FFA officers, agriculture industry personnel. The committee member’s names will be held in confidence.
2. The 10 candidates that were chosen by the committee will then run for the 8 spots and be elected by majority vote of the members present at the election meeting.
3. Candidates must go through the outlined officer selection process. Which is as follows?
   1. Fill out the required application, sign the commitment form, get the proper signatures, and recommendations, and turn it in on time.
   2. If selected by the committee, office candidates will give a 1-2 minutes speech at the election meeting.
   3. Officer candidates may give speeches for any offices in which they are running.
   4. Officer candidates may be asked to give an impromptu speech.
   5. Candidates must declare on their application which offices they wish to run for. They cannot run for offices that they did not declare on their application.
4. In the case of officer removal or resignation, the office will be left vacant and the remaining officers will divide the duties amongst themselves.
5. Officers who have resigned from office, will not be eligible to run for future officer teams unless a verifiable reason (example-health issues) is deemed by the FFA officer team and officer.

Section D- All chapter officers must sign and follow the Officer Commitment Form. If a student breaks any of the rules on the code of ethics/commitment form, the advisor has the right to remove that officer from the officer team without approval from the chapter.

1. Be dedicated and committed to FFA & to the agricultural education program at Iroquois West. FFA will be of high priority.
2. Forgo all tobacco products, alcohol, and illegal drugs.
3. Use wholesome & appropriate language in all speeches and informal conversations.
4. Avoid places or activities that would raise questions about your moral character.
5. Work with your fellow officers to accomplish common goals.
6. Treat all FFA members equally.
7. Conduct myself in a manner, which commands respect without any display of superiority.
8. Maintain proper dress and good grooming for all occasions.
9. Maintain my SAE and SAE records in a timely fashion.
10. Follow school rules, guidelines, and handbook for expected conduct.
11. Keep social media accounts free from vulgarity, drama, and other content unbecoming of a leader.
12. Attend a summer officer retreat.
13. Attend the greenhand or welcome back activity.
14. Attend Section 10 Leadership Training School.
15. Collect required foundation and auction donations.
16. Plan FFA Week.
17. Plan the FFA Banquet.
18. Attend the FFA Auction.
19. Attend the FFA Banquet.
20. Attend weekly officer meetings.
21. Attend all FFA meetings. (1 excused absence)

**Gross violation of these commitments will result in the following:**

1. Foregoing all official officer titles and duties.
2. No recognition will be given for your service at the chapter banquet or in writing.
3. A written apology will be given to the chapter.

Chapter Officers serve a vital role in our organization. The following are general duties expected of all officers:

* Attend all chapter meetings. Arrive 30 minutes early to set up. Remain after the meeting for clean up and group discussion.
* Attend all officer meetings.
* Attend all officer retreats and training sessions.
* Wear official dress as needed.
* Help prepare for the FFA auction.
* Be on time to all activities.
* Participate in the FFA auction and auction donation collection.
* Be committed to your position and work with other on your team.
* Be willing to accept responsibility.
* Have a sincere desire to work with all chapter members in meeting their leadership, personal and chapter goals.
* Lead by example.
* Have a knowledge and understanding of the chapter, state and national FFA constitutions and bylaws.
* Have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
* Read FFA publications.
* Show interest, alertness, and proper attitude by volunteering to do your share of the work.
* Have a good personality, morals, honesty, and manners.
* Carry out the duties of your specific office.
* Be willing to discuss any problems or concerns with the advisor.

**Article VI- Committees**

Section A- There shall be 3 standing committees in the chapter. These will be the following:

1. Growing Leaders
2. Building Communities
3. Strengthening Agriculture

Section B- Sub committees will by the officer team. Special committees can be formed at any regular meeting.

**Article VII- Meetings**

Section A- Regular chapter meetings shall be held once a month during the school year at such a time an place designated by the advisor and officer team.

Section B- Standard meeting paraphernalia and agenda shall be used at each meeting. All regular meeting shall open and close with official ceremonies. Parliamentary procedure shall be used in transacting all business at each meeting.

**Article VIII-Dues**

Section A: Local dues of this chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the active membership.

**Article IX- Amendments**

Section A- The constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the active members present.

\*Amendment 1a- Candidates complete an application and interview that is reviewed by a selection committee consisting of but not limited to, (current FFA advisor, teachers, community members, former FFA members, senior officers).  The top 12 candidates will be selected by the committee.

The top 12 candidates will create a poster/flyer no bigger than a 8.5” x 11” piece of paper highlighting why they would be a good candidate for chapter office.  The flyers will be compiled into a booklet for all chapter members to view.  Top 12 candidates will give one 3 minute or less speech on why they should be a chapter officer at the March FFA meeting.

A google form or paper form will be sent to all FFA members to complete during a special homeroom meeting.  The members will vote in a ranking style. Giving the #1 to the most qualified candidate and a #12 to the least qualified candidate.

The rankings will the tabulated by Mrs. Caise and the Chapter President by averaging each candidates rank.  The 8 candidates with the lowest overall rankings will be the 8 chapter officers for the upcoming FFA year.

The 8 chapter officers would then be selected by the selection committee to determine their specific office.

\*Adopted on 2/7/2018

Section B- Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter at any regular chapter meeting by two-thirds vote of the active membership present providing such bylaws conflict in no way with the constitution and bylaws of either the state association or the national organization.

\*Last Updated in February 2018