

NATIONAL FFA HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONS
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 2018

TO: All FFA Associations (Advisors and Executive Secretaries)

FROM: Steve A. Brown, National FFA Advisor
Sherene Donaldson, National FFA Executive Secretary

RE: Proposed Constitutional Amendments for consideration by the Delegates at the
91st NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, OCTOBER 2018

Proposed Amendments to the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws

The National FFA Advisor is to submit all proposed constitutional and bylaw amendments to the FFA state associations by March 1. (Article XVII, Amendments) Likewise, as per Article XVII, amendments must be submitted by January 1 for review by the National FFA Board of Directors.

The provisions have been met and the board is asking the delegates to consider the following four constitutional amendments this October.

ENCLOSURES:

State Proposals:

- Proposal A – New York submitted a proposed change to the **State FFA Degree Requirements**.

National FFA Board of Directors, 2016-17 and 2017-18 National FFA Officer Proposals:

- Proposal B – Modifying National FFA Membership Kind “**Active**” to “**Student**”.
- Proposal C – Modifying National FFA Membership Kind “**Alumni**” to “**Adult**”.
- Proposal D – Moving National FFA Honorary Degree from **Membership Kind** to **Degrees**.

Questions regarding the constitutional amendments may be directed to sbrown@ffa.org

2018 National FFA Constitutional Amendment Proposal A

For consideration by the delegates at the 91st National FFA Convention

Submitted by: New York State FFA Association and 2017-18 New York State FFA Officer Team

Subject: Changing the State FFA Degree Requirements

Motion: Move to amend the National FFA Constitution: **Article VI. Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership, Section E** by striking out, “(24 months)”, add the words, “**and paid dues for two years**”.

Rationale:

- 20% of FFA chapters in New York are Career and Technical Centers.
- Most Career and Technical Center agriculture/FFA programs are two-year programs. As a result, even though these students have paid their dues for two years and are extremely active members they will not meet the 24-month requirement by state conventions. This restricts members that have met all other requirements from achieving this recognition while still in high school.
- This change does not alter the integrity of the current state degree requirements; it keeps the requirements just as rigorous while allowing FFA members the opportunity to fully participate in our organization.
- The current 24-month requirement conflicts with when membership begins and when many state conventions are held across the nation.

Effect: Proposal would cause **Article VI. Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership, Section E** of the constitution to read: Have been an active FFA member and **paid membership dues for two years** (~~24 months~~) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.

2018 National FFA Constitutional Amendment Proposal B

For consideration by the delegates at the 91st National FFA Convention

Submitted by: National FFA Board of Directors, 2016-17, and 2017-18 National FFA Officers

Subject: Replacing the word “Active” with the word “Student”

Motion: Move to amend the National FFA Constitution: **Article III. Organization; Article V. Membership; Article VI. Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership; and Article IX. National Officers and Procedures for Election;** by replacing the word “active” with “student” and the word “kinds” with “types” in all occurrences.

Rationale: Student membership is a more inclusive descriptor regarding membership type. All student members should be active participants in FFA.

Effect: Replaces the word “active” with the word “student” and the word “kinds” with “types” in the following:

(NOTE: The National FFA Constitution wording below reflects the constitution at the time the proposal was submitted. Proposal B changes are noted. Other proposed amendments may modify the wording of these sections.)

Article III. Organization:

Section A.

It shall consist of chartered state associations composed of not less than four chapters chartered by a state association and having a total ~~active~~ **student** membership of not less than 125 members

Article V. Membership:

Section A.

Membership in the National FFA Organization shall be of three ~~kinds~~ **types: active student**, alumni and honorary.

Section B.

Active Student Membership - To be eligible for ~~active~~ membership in a chartered FFA chapter, a student must be enrolled in a secondary agricultural education program. State associations may consider “secondary agricultural education programs” to be grades 7-12.

To become an ~~an active~~ **student** member and retain membership, a student must:

A member may retain ~~active~~ **student** membership until November 30, following the fourth National FFA Convention after graduation from high school.

Proposal B (continued)

Members using this waiver of service time for the purpose of maintaining **active student** membership for application for advanced degrees of membership must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from military service or completing their FFA international program and indicate such a desire by paying dues and attending meetings.

No individual may retain **active student** membership beyond his or her twenty-third birthday.

Section C.

Alumni Membership - Membership shall be open to former **active student** members and honorary members, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

Article VI. Degrees and Privileges of Active Student Membership

Section A.

There shall be five degrees of **active student** membership based on individual achievement.

Section E.

2. Have been an ~~n~~**active student** FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.

Section F.

1. Have received the State FFA Degree, have been an ~~n~~**active student** member for the past three years (36 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state levels.

Article IX. National Officers and Procedures for Elections:

Section D.

The national officers shall hold the American FFA Degree at the time of their election and must be **active student** members for the duration of their term in office. They shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates assembled at the national convention. A member cannot hold a national office and a state office at the same time.

2018 National FFA Constitutional Amendment Proposal C

For consideration by the delegates at the 91st National FFA Convention

Submitted by: National FFA Board of Directors 2016-17, and 2017-18 National FFA Officers

Subject: Replacing the word “**Alumni**” with the word “**Adult**”

Motion: Move to amend the National FFA Constitution: **Article V. Membership** by replacing the word “**Alumni**” with “**Adult**”.

Rationale: Adult membership is a more inclusive descriptor regarding membership type.

Effect: Modifies a constitutional form of membership with a more inclusive descriptor.
Replaces the word “**Alumni**” with the word “**Adult**” in the following:

(NOTE: The National FFA Constitution wording below reflects the constitution at the time the proposal was submitted. Proposal C changes are noted. Other proposed amendments may modify the wording of these sections.)

Article V. Membership:

Section A.

Membership in the National FFA Organization shall be of three kinds: active, ~~alumni~~ **adult** and honorary.

Article V. Membership:

Section C.

~~Alumni~~ **Adult** Membership - Membership shall be open to former active members and honorary members award recipients, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

2018 National FFA Constitutional Amendment

Proposal D

For consideration by the delegates at the 91st National FFA Convention

Submitted by: National FFA Board of Directors, 2016-17, and 2017-18 National FFA Officers

Subject: Moving Honorary as National FFA membership kind to Degrees.

Motion: Move to amend the National FFA Constitution: **Article V. Membership** and **Article VI. Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership** by changing “honorary” from a membership kind to a degree.

Rationale: Differentiates between membership type and degrees and maintains the honorary degree recognition.

Effect: Changes the Constitution and will cause a change in the wording within the National FFA Honorary Degree Ceremonies.

(NOTE: The National FFA Constitution wording below reflects the constitution at the time the proposal was submitted. Proposal D changes are noted. Other proposed amendments may modify the wording of these sections.)

Article V. Membership

Section A.

Replace the word “**three**” with the word “**two**” and strike the word “~~honorary~~”.

Membership in the National FFA Organization shall be of ~~three~~ **two** kinds: active **and** alumni, ~~and honorary~~.

Section C.

Replace “**members**” with “**degree recipients**”.

Alumni Membership - Membership shall be open to former active members and honorary ~~members~~ **degree recipients**, present and former professional agricultural educators, parents of FFA members and others interested in and supportive of the FFA.

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Proposal D (continued)

(Note: The word “Active” would be deleted in the Article VI.)

Move **Article V. Section E.** to **Article VI. Degrees and Privileges of ~~Active~~ Membership** and adding a **Section G,**

Section G.

Honorary ~~Membership~~ **FFA Degree** - Farmers, school superintendents, principals, members of boards of education, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agricultural education, business people and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and the FFA and who have rendered outstanding service, may be elected to **receive an** honorary **FFA degree membership** by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting or convention.

The Honorary ~~membership~~ **FFA Degree** shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree in the local chapter, Honorary State FFA Degree in the state association and the Honorary American FFA Degree in the national organization. **All Honorary Degree recipients will be considered alumni/adult members as part of their Honorary Degree.**

Rationale: Differentiates between membership type and degrees and maintains the honorary degree recognition.

Effect: Will cause a change in the wording within the FFA Honorary Degree Ceremonies.