

**Illinois Leadership Council
For
Agricultural Education
(ILCAE)**

C O N S T I T U T I O N

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ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education, which may be referred to as the ILCAE.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES, OBJECTIVES, AND MISSION

Section A. Mission Statement

1. Promote education in agriculture and about agriculture.
2. Address changing needs for agricultural education to strengthen its viability and competitiveness.
3. Develop funding mechanism involving all groups having interest in agricultural education.

Section B. Purpose

1. Involvement of all facets and levels of the agricultural education profession to provide statewide leadership to improve education in agriculture.
2. To provide for the organization of agricultural businesses, organizations, and governmental agencies so that they may be directly and continuously involved in expanding agricultural education for Illinois.
3. Identification of resources to carry out state efforts in strengthening agricultural education.

Section C. Objectives

1. To serve as an advocate for agricultural educators at the local and state levels.
2. To involve the total agricultural industry in the assessment of agriculture education and in developing quality instructional programs and processes to meet current and future needs.
3. To provide a forum to identify and address state issues and concerns relative to all aspects of agricultural education.
4. To facilitate futuristic planning for agricultural education on statewide basis.
5. To establish a state structure to search out resources necessary for expanding and strengthening agricultural education.
6. To serve as an Advisory Council to the Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Section A. Council

The Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education is a statewide organization of individuals representing all segments of the agricultural industry which meets periodically to address stated purposes and objectives of said organization.

1. Active membership in the Council is open to any person interested in achievement of goals and objectives as previously stated.
 - a. All prospective members must submit a letter of application for membership, or
 - b. An individual may be nominated for membership by an active member of the Council.
2. All prospective Council members will be nominated and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular meeting.

Section B. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of 30 Council members elected by the Council membership at the annual meeting.

1. Board members will be elected to a three-year members term or completion of a term of service for a member who has resigned.
 - a. One-, two-, and three-year membership rotations will be determined by random selection for the first year.
 - b. Thereafter, members will be elected to three-year terms.
2. Board members may apply for or be nominated to consecutive membership.
3. Board membership may be resigned by written notification to the Board Chairperson.
 - a. Unexpired terms may be filled by Board appointments.
 - b. A quorum shall be a majority of members participating in any regular Council meeting.
4. The Board of Directors shall exercise all powers of the Council during the interval between meetings or said Council except as prohibited by the Constitution.
 - a. The Board shall serve to identify agricultural education issues, prioritize objectives, establish plans of action, search out resources, facilitate futuristic planning and clarify issues for action by the Council.
 - b. The Board of Directors shall annually submit a program of activities, calendar of events, and other official reports of action; and, its actions are subject to review and ratification by the Council.

Section C. Executive Committee (Officers)

The Executive Committee, comprised of Board Officers, shall prepare agendas, recommend programs of activity, outline calendars of events, and conduct the administrative function of the organization.

1. The officers shall elect annually by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first Board meeting of the fiscal year. The Executive Secretary shall be appointed annually by the Board Chairperson and approved by the Board of Directors at the first Board meeting of the fiscal year.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Executive Secretary, Chairperson of each standing principal committee and the Agricultural Education ISBE Consultant. The duties of the officers shall be:

- a. Chairperson
The Chairperson shall be the executive officer of the Board and Council and shall preside at all meetings of the Council, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee. The Chairperson is an ex-officio member of all committees established by the Board. The Chairperson shall convene the Council and/or Board whenever, in his/her opinion, the affairs of the Board and Council are deemed necessary.
 - b. Vice Chairperson
During any vacancy in the office of Chairperson, or his/her inability to discharge the duties of the office, such duties shall for the time being devolve upon the Vice Chairperson. In addition, the Vice Chairperson shall have such duties and responsibilities as may from time to time be determined by the Council and/or Board.
 - c. Executive Secretary
The Executive Secretary shall assist the Executive Committee in planning and conducting the business of the Board and Council. The Executive Secretary shall compile and distribute information as directed by the Executive committee, Board of Directors and/or Council. The Executive Secretary shall establish and maintain the permanent file of the organization. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the tax-exempt status of the Council.
3. The Executive Committee shall preside over all meetings of the Board and Council.
 4. The Executive Committee shall prepare all planning documents for consideration by the Board and Council.
 5. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Board of Directors shall fill the office by appointment.
 6. The Executive Committee—if in unanimous agreement excluding the ISBE Consultant who cannot lobby--shall have the right to electronically show support or disapproval (i.e. “Slip”) for legislation on behalf of ILCAE. Notice of any such action shall be made to ILCAE membership either electronically or at the next meeting.

Section D. Consultants

Representatives of agricultural education affiliates will serve the Board in an ex-officio capacity as consultants.

1. Consultants shall consist of the current presidents, chairpersons or elected representatives of the following affiliate organizations:
 - a. Illinois Association Vocational Agriculture Teachers
 - b. Illinois Association Community College Agriculture Instructors
 - c. Illinois Team Ag Ed
 - d. ITCS Instructional Support Services
 - e. Illinois Association FFA
 - f. Illinois PAS
 - g. Illinois FFA Alumni Association
 - h. Illinois Foundation FFA Sponsoring Committee
 - i. Partners in Agricultural Literacy

Section E. Honorary Membership

Persons selected for honorary membership may be nominated by anyone on the Council. Upon a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors at any regular meeting, the person shall have all the rights and privileges of active membership. Positions designated for honorary membership include:

- a. Governor of the State of Illinois
- b. State Director of Agriculture
- c. State Superintendent of Education
- d. Heads of Agriculture at the four Universities
- e. Agribusiness/Education Area

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section A. Council

1. The Council shall meet annually (preferably on a quarterly basis) to conduct official business of the organization.
2. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chairperson or by a formal request of three or more members of the Board.
3. Notice of the Council meeting shall be given by mail to all Council members at least 30 days prior to any meeting.

Section B. Board of Directors

1. The schedule of activities of the Board should be established at the first meeting of the Board following the beginning of the new fiscal year.
2. Notice of Board meetings shall be given by mail to all Board members at least 10 days prior to any meeting.

Section C. Executive Committee

1. Executive Committee meetings will be called at the discretion of the Chairperson or by formal request of two or more members of the Committee.
2. Executive Committee meetings should be called in connection with Board of Directors' meetings.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section A.

The Board shall establish ad hoc and standing committees as deemed necessary to study and carry on the mandates of the membership.

Section B.

The Chairperson, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, shall appoint all committees.

Section C.

The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE VI: TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS

Section A.

A quorum, at any Board of Directors meeting, shall be a majority of members participating.

Section B.

The procedures for conducting business of the Board and Council will be determined by Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VII: RECORDS AND REPORTS

Section A.

The Board shall maintain complete books and records of accounts, as well as all official proceedings of the Council.

Section B.

An audit of records of accounts shall be conducted annually.

ARTICLE VIII: FISCAL YEAR

Section A.

The fiscal year for the Council shall be from July 1 through June 30.

ARTICLE IX: AUTHORITY

Section A. Authority

1. The Council (corporation) has such powers as are now or may hereafter be granted by the General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois.
2. No part of the net income of the Council (corporation) shall ensure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the Council (corporation) shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered.

The Council (corporation) shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Council (corporation) shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

3. Upon dissolution, the Council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Council (corporation), dispose of all the assets of the Council (corporation) to the Illinois FFA Foundation or to such other organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Committee shall determine.

ARTICLE X: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Section A.

The Constitution may be amended, revised, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any regular meeting of the Council provided a written notice giving exact wording of the intended change is sent to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.