

## CONSTITUTION OF THE ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION OF DECA

### ARTICLE I – NAME

The official name of this organization shall be the Arkansas Association of DECA.

### ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

AR DECA prepares emerging leaders in marketing, finance, hospitality, and entrepreneurship in high schools and colleges.

This organization shall be to provide students an avenue for becoming (1) academically prepared, (2) community oriented, (3) professionally responsible, and (4) experienced leaders.

### ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

**Section 1:** The Arkansas Association of DECA is an association of approved local DECA Chapters of the State of Arkansas.

**Section 2:** The AR DECA Association may be composed of four divisions: High School, Collegiate, Alumni and Professional. Each division may have an Executive Board of officers who will be elected annually by voting delegates of that division.

**Section 3:** Each active division of the Arkansas Association of DECA shall have an Executive Board responsible for the administration of that division's activities and business. The Arkansas Chartered Association Advisor, the Arkansas Student Leadership Center Program Coordinator, and the AAMET (Arkansas Association of Marketing Education Teachers) President will serve as non-voting, ex-officio members of each Executive Board for that division.

The membership of AAMET (Arkansas Association of Marketing Education Teachers) will elect two "at-large" representatives annually to serve three-year terms on the Executive Board—for a total of six representatives for the High School division.

All state officer advisors will serve as non-voting, ex-officio committee members and are required to attend all Executive Board meetings for the High School division.

Collegiate DECA sponsors will also serve as voting members of the Executive Board for those divisions. At-large members may be elected if so determined.

All Sponsors/Advisors of chartered DECA Chapters will serve as non-voting members for their respective divisions and are encouraged to attend all Executive Board meetings.

## ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1:** The members of the Arkansas Association of DECA shall be Chartered Chapters of that State Association with membership limited to Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) member schools, except as prohibited by Federal and State law and/or State Board of Education requirements.

**Section 2:** Classes of membership which shall be recognized by the Arkansas Association of DECA are: active members, alumni members, and professional members.

### **ACTIVE MEMBERS:**

These may consist of students enrolled in business and/or marketing related courses.

An active member must pay all dues as established by the Arkansas DECA and DECA, Inc. to be eligible to hold a State or National office, participate in State or National competitive events, and if chosen, serve as a voting delegate and represent his/her Chapter in State or DECA, Inc. affairs of his/her division.

### **ALUMNI MEMBERS:**

These must have been active members of ONE of the other Divisions of DECA and not now be an active member of any Division. Alumni members will pay dues as established by the AR DECA Association but will be ineligible to serve as a voting delegate, hold office, or otherwise represent his/her AR DECA Association.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS:**

These persons may be associated with or participating in the professional development of DECA as approved by the AR DECA Association. Professional members will pay dues as established by the AR DECA Association but will be ineligible to serve as a voting delegate, hold office, or otherwise represent his/her AR DECA Association.

## ARTICLE V – VOTING

Each Chapter shall elect two delegates who shall be considered voting delegates at the State Career Development Conference.

## ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

**Section 1:** A State Career Development Conference shall be held each year and shall serve as the official annual meeting of the Arkansas Association of DECA.

**Section 2:** The State Executive Board will have three regular meetings scheduled in fall, winter, and spring, respectively. The State Executive Board shall be empowered to call special meetings.

## ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

**Section 1:** The officers of the High School Division of the Arkansas Association of DECA shall be the Association President and five (5) Vice Presidents. Student members will vote for their top six candidates. The top six percentages will determine which student members are on the State Officer Team. The Arkansas Association Advisor will determine who is the president. The maximum number of state officer candidates that can be nominated by a chapter shall be limited to two in any one year.

The officers of the Collegiate Division of the Arkansas Association of DECA shall be president, vice president and secretary/treasurer.

**Section 2:** These officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting delegates of their division at the annual State Career Development Conference.

**Section 3:** Officers shall serve from the close of the annual State Career Development Conference through the close of the following year's conference. In the event of a vacancy, the State Executive Board may appoint an officer to fill each vacancy.

## ARTICLE VIII – DUES

**Section 1:** National dues will be that amount set by DECA, Inc. State and National dues are to be paid according to the guidelines established by DECA, Inc. AR DECA Association dues may be recommended by the State Executive Board and voted on at the annual State Career Development Conference (SCDC) by the voting delegates.

**Section 2:** The Arkansas Chartered Association Advisor shall report each school year as to which chapters have paid their membership dues in full. Chapters that have paid their membership dues in full shall be designated as chapters in good standing.

**Section 3:** The membership year shall be September 1 to August 31 inclusive.

## ARTICLE IX – EMBLEMS AND COLORS

The emblem of the Arkansas Association of DECA and its colors shall be the same as those adopted by DECA, Inc.

## ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the authorized voting delegates of chapters in good standing at the State Career Development Conference; provided the Arkansas Chartered Association Advisor is notified in writing of the content of any proposed amendment at least 30 days prior to said State Career Development Conference. Only such amendments shall be made as are in keeping with the purposes stated in Article II of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE XI – AUDIT

The Arkansas DECA accounts shall be audited each year.

## ARTICLE XII – VOTING DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The number of voting delegates shall be variable with the directive of the National Constitution. Voting delegates shall be determined by the Arkansas Chartered Association Advisor.

## ARTICLE XIII – RULES, REGULATIONS, AND BY-LAWS

**Section 1:** Such rules, regulations, and by-laws as are deemed necessary for the proper conduct of this organization shall be adopted.

**Section 2:** No rules, regulations, and by-laws shall be adopted which are contrary to this Constitution.

**Section 3:** In all meetings, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall serve as standard procedure.

Adopted February 28, 1972

Amended March 14, 1977; March 5, 1979; May 5, 1990; April 11, 1983; February 25, 1991; February 25, 2003; March 5, 2017; February 6, 2023; March 4, 2024.