

# WEST VIRGINIA DECA CONSTITUTION

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## **ARTICLE I NAME**

Section 1 The official name of this organization shall be, “The West Virginia Association of DECA” and may be referred to as West Virginia DECA.

## **ARTICLE II PURPOSE**

Section 1 To assist chartered chapters of West Virginia DECA in their growth and development.

Section 2 To prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

Section 3 To enrich the development of occupational competencies necessary for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

Section 4 To develop the realization of the responsibilities of citizenship in our free enterprise system.

Section 5 To develop an appreciation of the civic and social obligations of those engaged in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

## **ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION**

Section 1 The West Virginia Association of DECA is an association of local chapters, each operating in accordance with a Charter granted by West Virginia DECA.

Section 2 Local Charters shall be issued to Chapters by the Chartered Association Advisor of DECA.

Section 3 Administration of West Virginia Association of DECA shall be vested in the Professional Division, composed of all Chapter Advisors and the Chartered Association Advisor (see attached Professional Division Bylaws for government).

## **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 Membership in the West Virginia Association of DECA shall be individual members of the local West Virginia chapters.

Section 2 All members of the West Virginia Association of DECA must belong to National DECA.

Section 3 The classes of membership to be recognized are:

- A. Active Members – DECA membership is extended to any student at the discretion of the chapter advisor. An active member must pay dues as established by the National and Chartered Association and shall then be eligible to participate in regional chartered association and national DECA activities.
- B. Alumni Members – Past members of a high school DECA chapter may, through their local chapter, join DECA. They shall be allowed to attend regional, chartered association, and national functions only with approval from the Chartered Association Advisor.
- C. Professional Members – Marketing/Business Education teachers, Career and Work Skills Training teachers, administrators, educators, and others associated with and participating in the professional development of West Virginia DECA, are eligible for membership as established by the Association.
- D. Collegiate Members – Students enrolled in marketing, finance, hospitality, or management courses in a postsecondary institution are eligible to become collegiate members. Collegiate members must pay dues as established by the National and Chartered Association and participate in appropriate activities.
- E. Honorary Life Membership – Leaders in the field of education, business, or government may be eligible for Honorary Life Membership. Honorary Life Members must be approved by the Board of Directors and are exempt from dues.

## **ARTICLE V – VOTING**

Section 1 Member chapters shall exercise their voting privileges through Chartered Association Voting Delegates to the Annual Meeting or meetings of West Virginia DECA. Each chapter will be allowed one Voting Delegate. Chapters with over twenty-five members will receive additional votes as per the chart below.

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| 1 – 25 members   | 1 vote  |
| 26 – 50 members  | 2 votes |
| 51 – 75 members  | 3 votes |
| 76 – 100 members | 4 votes |
| Over 100 members | 5 votes |

## **ARTICLE VI MEETINGS**

Section 1 An annual meeting of the West Virginia Association of DECA shall be called for the express purpose of electing officers and conducting other business of the Association.

Section 2 Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Chartered Association of DECA Board President with 15 days' notice given to all chapters.

## **ARTICLE VII OFFICERS**

Section 1 Officer Candidates shall run for the office of a Chartered Association Officer Team Member.

Section 2 All officers will be elected by a chartered association-wide election, testing procedure, and interview session at the West Virginia Chartered Association Career Development Conference.

Section 3 The five candidates receiving the best overall rating will be the Chartered Association Officer Team. The candidate receiving the highest overall rating will become the president and the rest will assume the duties of vice presidents.

Section 4 The duties of the officers shall be:

President – to preside over all official West Virginia Association of DECA meetings and to be available at the request of the DECA Chartered Association Advisor in promoting the general welfare of West Virginia DECA. The Chartered Association Officer Team will develop and carry out an Annual Business Plan and visit individual chapters and provide technical assistance to the chapters.

Vice Presidents – To serve in any capacity as directed by the President; to accept the responsibilities of the President as occasions may demand, and to make themselves available at the request of the Chartered Association Advisor in promoting the general welfare of West Virginia DECA and in specific chapters in designated areas.

Section 5 Qualifications for officer candidates for a chartered association office must meet minimum national standards for national officers.

#### **ARTICLE VIII FINANCES**

Section 1 Dues for the West Virginia Association of DECA shall be established by the Board of Directors at the spring board meeting.

Section 2 Dues established by National DECA shall be paid at the same time as the chartered association dues.

Section 3 A Chapter Affiliation Fee shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall be paid at the same time as Chartered Association Dues.

Section 4 Chartered Association, National dues, and Chapter Affiliation Fee must be paid by the date set by the Chartered Association Advisor.

Section 5 At the fall board meeting, the Chartered Association Advisor shall submit for review the past fiscal year's financial records to the Board of Directors.

Section 6 The West Virginia Chartered Association Advisor shall have a financial review and compilation completed each fiscal year. Financial records and documentation of said review shall be provided.

Section 7 The Chartered Association Advisor will submit to the Board of Directors an annual budget for approval.

Section 8 The Chartered Association Advisor will select 8 advisors to be paid advisors to travel to ICDC. These advisors will be picked from the 8 largest chapters of members who will be traveling to ICDC. In the event of a tie, the money will be split between the tying chapters.

#### **ARTICLE IX CHARTERED ASSOCIATION ADVISOR**

The West Virginia Department of Education will appoint a professional staff member to serve as the Chartered Association Advisor. This individual will be responsible for and have final authority regarding all policy decisions, all treasury funds, and all activities and functions of the West Virginia Association of DECA. In the event the Chartered Association Advisor is unable to be present at any West Virginia DECA function, they may appoint another Professional Division member to serve in this capacity.

#### **ARTICLE X EMBLEM AND COLOR**

The West Virginia Association shall adopt the same emblem colors as the National Association.

#### **ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS**

Section 1 This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting provided the proposed amendments have been presented to all board members. To amend this constitution, proposed amendments shall be submitted according to the following procedures:

- a. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the president of West Virginia DECA and each board member at least 14 days before the final action.
- b. Proposed amendments shall be reviewed by the board members and approved by a two-thirds majority of members present at a regular business meeting.
- c. Approved amendment shall be submitted in writing to all members of West Virginia DECA.

*AMENDED: August 2017*