**Knippa FFA Chapter**

# Constitution

## ARTICLE I - Name, Mission and Strategies

**Section A.** The name of this organization shall be the Knippa FFA Chapter of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association, as well as a member of the Area VII FFA Association and the Revaldina FFA District.

**Section B.** The mission and strategies for this chapter are as follows:

FFA makes a **positive difference** in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth** and **career success** through **agricultural education**.

1. Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.

2. Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.

3. Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.

4. Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.

5. Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.

6. Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.

7. Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.

8. Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.

9. Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.

10. Promotes healthy lifestyles.

11. Encourages excellence in scholarship.

## ARTICLE II - Organization

**Section A.** The Knippa Chapter of FFA is a chartered local unit of the Texas Association of FFA, which is chartered by the National FFA Organization.

**Section B.** This chapter accepts in full the provisions in the constitution, bylaws and policies of the Texas Association of FFA and the National FFA Organization and the policies and regulations of the Knippa Independent School District.

### ARTICLE III - Membership

**Section A.** Membership in this chapter shall be of four kinds: (1) Active; (2) Alumni; (3) Honorary and (4) Junior, as defined by the National and Texas FFA Constitutions and by Texas FFA Association membership policies.

**Section B.** The regular activities of this chapter shall be carried on by the active membership.

**Section C.** To be eligible for active membership in this chapter, a student must meet the membership eligibility requirements of the National FFA Organization and the Texas FFA Association. Active members in good standing may vote on all business brought before the chapter. An active member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:

1. While in school, be enrolled in at least one agriculture, food and natural resources course, as defined in Texas FFA Association membership policies, during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study. Either course must include a supervised agricultural experience program, the objective of which is preparation for an agriculture, food and natural resources career.

2. Shows an 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. Pays all current local, district, area, state and national dues by the date determined by the chapter.

4. Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization, Texas FFA Association and with the school district’s code of student conduct.

5. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter’s bylaws and policies.

**Section D**. This chapter may elect to have a junior FFA organization. Junior members must meet all junior FFA membership requirements described in the Texas FFA Association Constitution and policies. A junior member shall be considered in good standing when he or she:

1. Shows an interest in the affairs of the organization by attending junior member meetings.
2. Pays local and state dues by the date determined by the chapter.
3. Displays conduct consistent with the ideals and purposes of the National FFA Organization and with the school district’s code of student conduct.
4. Meets all other local standards and requirements described in this chapter’s bylaws and policies.

**Section E.** Names of applicants for membership shall be filed with the secretary and/or the chairman of the membership committee.

**Section F.** The membership year for this chapter shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of each year.

**Section G.** Honorary Membership – Farmers, school superintendents, principals, school board trustees, advisory committee members, chapter advisors, teachers, staff members in agriculture, food and natural resource education, business peoples, support group members and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and FFA and who have rendered outstanding service may be elected to honorary membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting. Honorary membership in this chapter shall be limited to the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree. Honorary Chapter FFA Degree recipients shall be entitled to wear the official silver or gold emblem pin. Procedures for nominating and electing honorary members shall be described in this chapter’s bylaws or rules.

## ARTICLE IV - Emblems

**Section A.** The emblem of the FFA shall be the emblem for the chapter.

**Section B.** Emblems used by the members shall be designated by the National FFA Organization.

## ARTICLE V - Degrees and Privileges of Active Membership

**Section A.** There shall be five degrees of active membership based on individual achievement. These degrees are: (1) Discovery FFA Degree, (2) Greenhand FFA Degree, (3) Chapter FFA Degree, (4) State FFA Degree and (5) American FFA Degree. All Discovery FFA members are entitled to wear the regulation bronze and blue emblem pin. All Greenhands are entitled to wear the regulation bronze emblem pin. All members holding the Chapter FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation silver emblem pin. All members holding the State FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem charm. All members holding the American FFA Degree are entitled to wear the regulation gold emblem key.

**Section B.** Discovery FFA Degree*.* Minimum qualifications for election:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

1. Be enrolled in a local credit agriculture, food and natural resources class for at least a portion of the school year while in grades 7-8.
2. Have become a dues paying member of the FFA at local, state and national levels.
3. Participate in at least one local FFA chapter activity outside of scheduled class time.
4. Have knowledge of agriculturally related career, ownership and entrepreneurial opportunities.
5. Be familiar with the local FFA chapter program of activities.
6. Submit written applications for the degree.

**Section C.** Greenhand FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution.)

1. Be enrolled in agriculture, food and natural resources course as defined by Texas FFA membership policies for high school credit and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience program.

2. Learn and explain the meaning of the FFA Creed, Motto, and Salute.

3. Describe and explain the meaning of the FFA emblem and colors.

4. Demonstrate a 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.

1. Submit a written application for the Greenhand FFA Degree.

**Section D.** Chapter FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for election:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution.)

1. Must have received the Greenhand FFA Degree.

2. Must have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least two semesters of systematic school instruction in agriculture, food and natural resources education at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved supervised agricultural experience program and be enrolled in an agriculture, food and natural resources course.

3. Must have participated in the planning and conducting of at least three official functions in the chapter Program of Activities.

4. Must have earned and productively invested at least $50 by the member's own efforts and worked at least fifty hours in excess of scheduled class time and have developed plans for continued growth and improvement in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours and dollars must equal or exceed the number 200.

5. Must have effectively led a group discussion for 15 minutes.

6. Must have demonstrated five procedures of parliamentary law.

7. Have participated in at least 10 hours of community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

8. Must show progress toward individual achievement in the FFA award programs.

9. Must have a satisfactory scholastic record.

10. Must submit a written application for the Chapter FFA Degree.

**Section E.** State FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

* + - 1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree.
      2. Have been an active FFA member for at least two years (24 months) at the time of receiving the State FFA Degree.
      3. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least four semesters of systematic school instruction in Agriculture Food and Natural Resources at or above the ninth grade level, which includes a supervised agricultural experience program.
      4. Have earned and productively invested at least $200 and worked at least 200 hours in excess of scheduled class time, in a supervised agricultural experience program. The combination of hours and dollars must exceed or equal the number 800.
      5. Have demonstrated leadership ability by:
         1. Performing ten procedures of parliamentary law.
         2. Giving a six-minute speech on a topic relating to agriculture or the FFA.
         3. Serving as an officer, committee chairperson, or participating member of a major committee.
      6. Have a satisfactory scholastic record as certified by the local agriculture, food and natural resources instructor and the principal or superintendent.
      7. Have participated in the planning and completion of the chapter program of activities.
      8. As of April 1, have completed ten activities above the chapter level in at least three of six different categories: leadership development events, career development events, conventions and meetings, project shows, student awards and leadership and service as described in policies adopted by the Board of Directors.
      9. As of April 1 of the year the member is to receive the degree, have participated in at least 25 hours of community service within at least two different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

Written records of achievement of all requirements, verified by the chapter FFA Advisor(s), shall be submitted to the State Association at least one month prior to the state FFA convention at which the State FFA Degree is to be received. The State FFA Executive Director shall provide for a review of the records and submit a recommendation to the State FFA Board of Directors, which shall nominate at the State FFA convention the candidates who have been found worth to receive the honor.

**Section F.** American FFA Degree. Minimum qualifications for selection:

(Refer to Texas FFA Constitution)

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

Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources program or have completed the program of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the school last attended.

Have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted.

Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise.

Have earned and productively invested at least $7,500 or earned and invested at least $1,500 and worked at least 2250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours x $3.33 plus dollars must be equal to or greater than the number 9000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements of the degree.

Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of "C" or better as certified by the principal or superintendent.

Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service, within at least 3 different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid SAE hours.

Submit an application and supporting documentation pursuant to the deadlines and requirements described in Texas FFA policies and procedures.

## ARTICLE VI – Officers and Executive Committee

**Section A.** The offices of an FFA chapter shall be: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, reporter and sentinel. Other officers (such as student advisor, chaplain, historian, and parliamentarian) may be elected as deemed appropriate by the chapter, with the consent of the Advisor(s). The teacher(s) of agriculture, food and natural resources shall be the FFA Advisor(s). Chapter officers shall be elected annually by the members present at a regular meeting or called special meeting of the chapter. Preference is given to hold elections (and election announcements) to the final two meetings of the year, including the FFA banquet. Procedures for electing officers and specific duties of each office are described in the bylaws of this chapter.

**Section B.** Pursuant to the provisions of the national and state constitutions, all chapter officers shall have attained the chapter FFA degree once the chapter has been chartered for two or more years. The president and vice president must be a junior or senior in class standing, unless no junior or senior is willing to fill the office(s) of president and/or vice president.

**Section C.** Officers shall serve from the end of the chapter meeting at which they are installed to the end of the next succeeding chapter meeting at which officers are installed.

**Section D.** The elected officers of the chapter shall constitute the executive committee, which shall convene to plan the activities of the chapter. Standing committee chairpersons may also be named as members of the executive committee. The chapter must approve all policy decisions of the executive committee. Telephone/electronic conferencing of the executive committee may be called and considered meetings provided that all participating members may participate and be heard simultaneously.

**Section E.** The executive committee shall have the ability to make decisions on behalf of the chapter with the consent of the Advisor(s). The executive committee should act in the event of a time sensitive matter brought forth by Knippa ISD, the community of Knippa or Uvalde County, or by any subdivision of the National FFA Organization. Actions undertaken without a vote from the chapter must be approved by the Advisor(s) and must not exceed expenditures of $25 from chapter funds. The chapter must approve any greater spending.

**Section F.** Pursuant to the applicable constitutional, bylaw and policy provisions of the district, area and state associations and of the National FFA Organization, this chapter may nominate candidates for offices above the chapter level in a manner consistent with the provisions of its bylaws and policies. Candidates for district and area office shall have attained the chapter degree at the time of the district or area election. Candidates for state office shall hold the state degree at the time of the state election. Candidates for national office shall hold the American Degree at the time of their election to office.

**Section G.** If deemed appropriate by the chapter, Greenhand Officers may be elected. The structure of the team and duties of the officers will mirror those of the chapter officer team, and the officers will be responsible for facilitating Greenhand specific activities. The Advisor(s) may adjust election procedures and methods. Greenhand Officers will be in 7th and 8th grade.

## ARTICLE VII - Committees

**Section A.** The standing committees of the chapter shall be described in the bylaws. The chapter may, at any meeting, create additional standing committees.

**Section B.** The chapter president shall appoint all committees and committee chairs. Unless specified by the chapter or the chapter executive committee, the terms of all committees shall expire at the end of chapter officer terms. The president shall have the authority to remove any committee chairperson, with the consent of the Advisor(s).

**Section C.** No committee shall have the authority to expend chapter funds (unless expressly authorized to do so), amend the chapter’s constitution, bylaws or policies, appoint or remove a committee member, or take any action outside the scope of authority delegated to it by the chapter.

## ARTICLE VII - Dues

**Section A.** Local dues in this chapter shall be fixed annually by a majority vote of the active members.

**Section B.** Full local, district, area, state and national dues shall be paid by all active members.

**Section C.** No member shall be considered as active and in good standing unless he/she pays full local, district, area, state and national FFA dues.

## ARTICLE VIII - Meetings

**Section A.** Regular meetings shall be held on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm, unless extenuating circumstances prevent convening a regular meeting on this date. Special meetings may be called by the president, by a majority vote of the executive committee or by the chapter Advisor(s).

**Section B.** A quorum shall exist when 40 percent of the chapter membership is present.

**Section C.** Proxy and cumulative voting are prohibited.

## ARTICLE IX - Amendments

**Section A.** This constitution (and related bylaws) may be amended or changed at any regular or special chapter meeting by a two-thirds vote of the votes cast by a quorum of active members present providing it is not in conflict with the National FFA Organization or Texas FFA Association constitution, bylaws or policies. Amendments must not conflict with the policies and/or regulations of the Knippa Independent School District. Members shall be notified by mail, electronic mail (including social media announcements) or classroom announcement at least 15 days prior to a meeting at which any constitutional amendment is to be considered.

**Section B.** Bylaws may be adopted to fit the needs of the chapter at any regular or special chapter meeting by a majority vote of a quorum of active members present providing such bylaws do not conflict in any way with the constitution, bylaws or policies of the Texas FFA Association, National FFA Organization or the Knippa Independent School District. Members shall be notified by mail, electronic mail (including social media announcements) or classroom announcement at least 15 days prior to a meeting at which any amendment to the bylaws is to be considered.

## ARTICLE X – Parliamentary Procedure

**Section A.** The *Parliamentary Guide for FFA* by Jarrell D. Gray shall be used as a guide for all chapter meetings. The latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order* shall be the final authority in governing the actions of all chapter meetings.

**Knippa FFA Chapter**

# Bylaws

## ARTICLE I. – Relationship to Constitution

The Bylaws shall be a part of the Constitution of the Knippa Chapter of FFA.

## ARTICLE II. – Location of Offices

The headquarters and principal office of the Knippa Chapter of FFA shall be at 100 Kessler Lane, Knippa, Texas 78870. The mailing address of the chapter shall be P.O. Box 99, Knippa, Texas, 78870.

## ARTICLE III – Procedures for Electing Officers

**Section A.** The chapter shall adopt rules related to the election of officers which shall include, but not be limited to, designation of elections committee, filing deadlines, application forms, testing procedures and election date.

**Section B.** Qualified members shall declare intent to be considered for chapter office by filing the required forms by the prescribed filing deadline pursuant to the rules adopted by the chapter.

**Section C.** Officers shall be selected by a combination of written exam score, 25 percent, interview score, 25 percent and a score derived from a secret ballot vote of the members present a regular or called special chapter meeting, 50 percent. A tie in total scoring shall be broken first by utilizing the popular vote. If candidates are still tied, the interviewing committee will reconvene and make a decision on the tie-breaker.

**Section D**. If the elected chapter officers deem appropriate, and the chapter gives permission, the additional office of student advisor may be elected by the executive committee with the consent of the Advisor(s). This officer shall traditionally be a student that shows determination and skill, but was not elected to another office.

**Section E.** All written materials related to a chapter election shall be deposited and retained in a secure location for no less than 30 days following the announcement of election results.

**Section F.** Appeals or protests related to a chapter election shall be filed pursuant to the grievances procedures of the Knippa Independent School District.

## ARTICLE IV – Duties of Officers

**Section A.** It shall be the duty of all officers to fulfill the responsibilities described in the officer contracted adopted by the chapter and agreed to by each officer at the time of declaring candidacy for chapter office.

**Section B.** The president shall preside at all of the chapter’s meetings, shall sign all official documents or authorize execution of said documents, appoint student committees and serve as an ex-officio member of all student committees, coordinate all chapter operations, represent the chapter in official functions and perform other such duties as usually pertain to the office of president.

**Section C.** The vice president shall perform the duties of the president in the event of the disability, death, resignation, removal or other inability of the president to perform such duties, develop the chapter’s program of activities, coordinate the operations of all student committees, serve as an ex-officio member of all student committees and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

**Section D.** The secretary shall make and keep correct records or minutes of proceedings of the chapter and executive committee, prepare and post meeting agendas, file reports, maintain member activity records, issue membership cards, update policy documents as directed and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

**Section E.** The treasurer shall have responsibility for accounting of all funds and property of the chapter. The treasurer shall provide direction and oversight to any and all who handle the monies of the chapter, assuring that the financial policies of the chapter and Knippa Independent School District are followed completely, shall present a proposed budget at a regularly scheduled or called special chapter meeting, present monthly financial reports at chapter meetings, chair the budget and finance committee and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

**Section F.** The reporter shall chair the chapter public relations committee and develop public relations strategies to accurately define the public image of the agricultural education program and FFA chapter, develop or cause to be developed press releases concerning chapter activities, maintain or cause to be maintained a chapter website, develop working relationships with all local and school district media, ensure a complete photographic record of all chapter activities and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

**Section G.** The sentinel shall have responsibility for all meeting related equipment and shall maintain an inventory of all such equipment, ensure that all meeting and social venues are ready to receive members and guests prior to each function, take charge of candidates for degree and award ceremonies, assist the president in maintaining order, ensure a welcoming environment for guests and perform such other duties and further duties as may be imposed upon him or her by the chapter.

**Section H.** Other offices will follow duties as prescribed by the National FFA Organization and clarified by the Knippa FFA Advisor(s).

## ARTICLE V – Resignation, Removal of Officers, Officer Vacancies

**Section A.** The Advisor(s) or the executive committee with the advice and consent of the Advisor(s), may, with good cause, remove any officer elected by the chapter. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, violation of the provisions of the chapter’s officer contract, violation of chapter or departmental rules of conduct, violation of the school code of student conduct or violation of state or federal laws.

**Section B.** Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Advisor(s), president, or secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice, and, unless otherwise specified in the notice, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

**Section C.** Should the office of president become vacant; the vice president shall assume the title and duties of president. The executive committee may appoint an interim officer to fill any other vacancy until the chapter elects a qualified replacement.

## ARTICLE VI – Committees

**Section A.** The standing committees of the chapter shall be in harmony with the National FFA Organization’s Quality Standards for Local Chapters. Each active member of this chapter shall be assigned to a committee which is deemed commensurate to the member’s interests, talents and skills. The chapter shall not be obligated to staff all committees, but any of the standing committees may be activated by the chapter president without the action of the chapter. The three committees of Student Development, Chapter Development, and Community Development must always be staffed and will encompass their respective subdivisions, unless the subdivision is staffed as a standing committee.

**Section B.** Each standing committee shall develop and submit to the executive committee a plan within the committee’s scope of responsibility and a corresponding budget within the timelines prescribed by the president. Each committee shall make regular and timely reports to the chapter concerning progress towards its respective goals.

**Section C.** The standing committees of the chapter and their respective duties are:

1. Student Development-Leadership shall plan and execute strategies which help each member develop technical, human relations and decision-making leadership skills to enhance personal success.
2. Student Development-Healthy Lifestyles shall plan and execute strategies which promote the well-being and self-esteem of each student, mentally and or physically.
3. Student Development-Supervised Agricultural Experience shall plan and execute strategies which promote universal student engagement and growth through agriculture, food and natural resources related experiences and/or entrepreneurship.
4. Student Development-Scholarship shall plan and execute strategies which develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences and which foster scholastic achievement and improvement.
5. Student Development-Agricultural Career Development shall plan and execute strategies which develop occupational and career skills in agriculture, food and natural resources through a progressive learning environment.
6. Chapter Development-Recruitment shall plan and execute strategies to increase agricultural education enrollment, FFA membership and student engagement.
7. Chapter Development-Budget and Finance shall plan and execute strategies which encourage thrift and sound financial management among members through earnings, savings and investments, shall develop and present an annual budget to the executive committee, coordinate fundraising projects and present an annual financial report to the chapter.
8. Chapter Development-Public Relations shall plan and execute strategies to promote a positive image of agricultural education and FFA and to inform students, parents, school officials and the community about chapter and member accomplishments.
9. Chapter Development-Leader Development shall plan and execute strategies to develop fundamental leadership, teamwork and cooperation skills among chapter officers, committee chairs and all members.
10. Chapter Development-Support Group Relations shall plans and execute strategies to develop and maintain positive relations among the FFA, parents, community leaders and industry.
11. Community Development-Economic Development shall plan and execute strategies designed to improve the economic welfare of the community.
12. Community Development-Environmental Awareness shall plan and execute strategies to conserve natural resources to develop more environmentally responsible individuals.
13. Community Development-Human Resources shall plan and execute strategies intended to improve the welfare and well being of members and citizens of the community.
14. Community Development-Citizenship shall plan and execute strategies to encourage members to become active, involved citizens in their school, community, county, state and nation.
15. Community Development-Agricultural Awareness shall plan and execute strategies to help the public become better informed about the food system and related issues.

## ARTICLE VII – Transactions of the Chapter

**Section A.** The fiscal year of the chapter shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31.

**Section B.** The chapter shall adopt policies and procedures consistent with the fiduciary policies, procedures and audit standards of the Knippa Independent School District. Mandates made by Knippa ISD shall supersede the governing documents of the Knippa FFA Chapter, so long as they do not violate the governing documents of the National FFA Organization or the Texas FFA Association. In those instances, mediation must be made.

## ARTICLE VIII – Grievances and Appeals

Grievances and appeals shall be addressed under the auspices of the student grievance policies and procedures of the Knippa Independent School District.

**Knippa FFA Chapter**

# Policies and Procedures

## ARTICLE I. – Election of Officers

**Section A.** Pursuant to the Bylaws of the Knippa Chapter of FFA, officers shall complete an application process, an interview process, and provide a speech at a regular or special meeting of the chapter.

**Section B.** The application shall be developed by the agricultural science teacher and made available to all qualified members. The agricultural science teacher will also set the due date for the application. The due date will be at least 15 days after the application is made available and announcement of the application window is made.

**Section C**. The application will be provided to an interviewing committee assembled by the Adviosr(s). Members should be unbiased and may include parents, community supporters, administrators, teachers, and senior FFA officers ineligible for re-election. The committee will review the applications and formulate a slate of questions to ask candidates. Each officer candidate will be interviewed individually and must be present in official dress (or professional attire if an FFA jacket is not owned). The committee will use a rubric and scoring method developed by the Advisor(s).

**Section D**. The Advisor(s) will develop the test portion of the election process. Questions will be derived from the Official FFA Manual, The *Parliamentary Guide for FFA* by Jarrell D. Gray, and the current year’s District Officer Study Guide/Leadership Guide developed by the Texas FFA Association. The test will mirror the tests developed to assess the knowledge of district FFA officer candidates and/or the Agricultural Quiz Career Development Event.

**Section E.** Officer candidates will be required to provide a speech to members at a regular or special meeting of the chapter. The speech will be limited to 5 minutes. Speeches lasting longer will result in “time” being called and the candidate will be required to stop speaking. Members will then vote on officer candidates by secret ballot, choosing two candidates. Incomplete votes, invalid selections, or ignorance of voting procedures will result in the dismissal of any votes made by the offending member.

**Section F.** Unless the chapter adopts another date, the speeches will be given at the last regular meeting of the year. Balloting will occur at the same meeting. The interview and test portion will be held after the speeches are given, but before the chapter banquet (or final meeting of the year). The Advisor(s) will post the specific date for interviews and testing on the officer application. The Advisor(s) will combine the scores of each portion of the election process and will announce the results at the chapter banquet (or final meeting of the year).

**Section G.** On the application, candidates will indicate if they wish to run for President, Vice-President, or Secretary as their highest office. The officer with the highest score will be awarded the highest office they choose. The second highest score will be placed next, unless their chosen office is taken. Then, they will be awarded the next highest office, etc. (I.e. The president may not have received the highest score, but did receive the highest score of all members running for president, just as the treasurer might have had the second highest score, but only wished to be secretary at highest).

**Section H.** The procedures above will also be utilized to elect students to offices above the chapter level, with the exception of time. All events will be on a shorter schedule. The Advisor(s) will create a timetable that is in line with the district, area, and state election schedule. Candidates will be given notice and a schedule at least 10 days before the applications are due, speeches are to be made, and elections to be held. Once elected, candidates will follow the procedures of the Revaldina District, the Area VII Association, the Texas FFA Association, and the National FFA Organization, respectively.

**Section I.** The FFA Advisor(s) will be the custodian of the specific scores, votes, and details of the election process. The principal and superintendent (or other senior administrators) of Knippa ISD will be allowed to inspect the detailed scores, votes, etc. upon request to facilitate transparency.

## ARTICLE II. – Greenhand Officers

**Section A.** In order to facilitate continued leadership opportunities, the chapter may vote to elect a Greenhand officer team. The team will be comprised of 7th and 8th grade students. The Greenhand officer team will complement the chapter officer team and assist with chapter activities and make decisions specific to the Greenhand members.

**Section B.** The officers will be elected in a similar fashion as the chapter officers as described in Article I of the Policies. At the discretion of the Advisor(s), Greenhand officers may be elected by a popular vote of Greenhand officers only, or complete the same process as the chapter officers. In either scenario, the Greenhand officers will still complete an application.

**Section C.** If they are to be elected, Greenhand officers will be elected at the beginning of every school year.

## ARTICLE III. – Amendments

**Section A.** Amendments to these policies may be made by either the executive committee with majority vote ratification by the chapter or by a main motion made at any chapter meeting. These policies will serve at the chapter’s standing rules.