

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF DECA**

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this chapter of DECA, Inc. shall be “Tennessee Distributive Clubs of America” and may be referred to as “DECA.”

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Association are:

1. To further develop education in marketing which will contribute to career and technical success.
2. To promote understanding and appreciation for the responsibilities of citizenship in our free enterprise system.
3. To assist local chapters in their contribution to the growth and improvement of DECA.

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

Section 1 The Tennessee Association of DECA, hereafter referred to as the State Association, is composed of chartered local chapters.

Section 2 Chapters shall be chartered only in such schools that have Marketing Education programs as part of the high school or post-secondary curriculum – same being offered under the provisions of the State Plan for Career and Technical Education.

Section 3 At such time as the State DECA Youth Consultant, the Teacher-Coordinators, and members of post-secondary programs agree that a “Post-Secondary Division” of the Tennessee Association is necessary and feasible, such a Division may be established. A specific constitution and by-laws shall be written and adopted by the Post-Secondary Division for its operation.

Section 4 Enrollees in secondary and post-secondary Marketing Education programs shall meet, elect officers, adopt by-laws in conformity with the State constitution, develop a program of work, and then apply to the State Association for a chapter authorizing the chapter to operate. In the event of one or more months delay in the issuance of the

charter, a local Marketing Education chapter may officially meet and transact business under dispensation granted by the State Association.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Membership in a local DECA chapter shall be of three kinds: (a) Active, (b) Professional, (c) Alumni.

- A. Active Membership: Active Members shall be students enrolled in secondary or post-secondary Marketing Education programs chartered by the State Association. In addition, at the discretion of the individual Marketing Education teacher/DECA Advisor, active Members may be students who have completed a Marketing Education class but are not currently enrolled a Marketing Education class or are students with a strong interest in marketing, hospitality, management, or finance. An active member must pay dues as established by the State Association and shall be eligible to hold state office, participate in state competitive events, serve as a voting delegate and otherwise represent chapters in State Association affairs.
- B. Professional Membership: Professional members shall be persons who have been outstanding in their contributions to the progress and welfare of the career and technical Marketing Education program. Professional members shall pay dues as established by the State Association but shall not be eligible to hold state office nor serve as a voting delegate to State Career Development Conferences. Professional Members may include enrollees in Marketing Education teacher preparation programs.
- C. Alumni Membership: Alumni members shall be students who have previously been members of DECA at the high school level and are no longer enrolled in high school. A member shall pay dues as established by the State Association and National DECA.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Section 1 The emblem and colors shall be the same as those of National DECA. The wearing of the emblem shall be governed by the State Association of National DECA.

Section 2 All members shall be eligible to wear the emblem of the organization.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1 State Association: The officers of the state association shall consist of: President, Vice-President from each of the grand divisions of the state, and Secretary.

Section 2 District Organization: Each district is to be formed by the DECA Youth Consultant, with the advice of the responsible Marketing Education personnel.

Section 3 Local DECA Chapters: Local chapter officers shall consist of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, and reporter. Other officers may be elected at the discretion of the local chapter.

- A. The advisor for each local chapter shall be the teacher-coordinator of the career and technical Marketing Education program.
- B. The titles and duties of any local chapter officers not set out herein shall be included in the constitution and by-laws of the local chapters.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1 Meetings of the State Career Development Conferences:

- A. The Annual Career Development Conference of the State Association shall meet at the call of the State DECA Youth Consultant.
- B. Each local DECA chapter shall be eligible to send two (2) voting delegates to represent it at the Annual Career Development Conference. Active state officers are also eligible to attend. No additional student members may attend unless so specified in the written call of the State DECA Youth Consultant.

Section 2 Meetings of the District Career Development Conference: District Career Development Conferences shall convene at the call of the DECA Youth Consultant and shall operate under arrangements and procedures specified and with the responsible chairperson.

Section 3 Meetings of the National Organization:

- A. The State Association shall be represented at the Annual National Career Development Conference by as many voting delegates as are allowed under the National Constitution.
- B. By virtue of their office, the president, the secretary, and the Grand Division vice-presidents shall be voting delegates to the annual meeting of the National Career Development Conference. The alternative voting delegates, should any of the above officers be unable to attend, would be selected by the DECA Youth Consultant.
- C. Should the National Voting Delegates allowed be fewer in number, the decrease shall be satisfied by Grand Division Vice-Presidents or their alternate delegates drawing lots at the National Conference for the privilege of casting the allowed number of votes.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

Section 1 Dues of Members: Each member shall pay state dues of Seven dollars and national dues of eight dollars per year through the local chapter.

- A. Total annual dues shall be submitted to DECA INC with the local chapter roster.
- B. Dues shall be allocated to cover the payment of National Organization dues and other expenses of the State Association.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 This Constitution may be amended only at the official meeting of the Annual Career Development Conference of the State Association.

Section 2 Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to the DECA Youth Consultant forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual State Conference, and a copy of proposed changes sent to each chapter in the state by those chapters proposing the changes.

- a. Such proposed amendments shall be referred to a committee on amendments for study, which committee shall, in turn, submit them to the Conference with recommendations.
- b. No proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be adopted unless passed by a two-thirds vote of the eligible voting delegates present.

Section 3 Only such amendments shall be made as are in keeping with the objectives set forth in ARTICLE II of this Constitution.

ARTICLE X – RULES, REGULATIONS, AND BY-LAWS

Section 1 No rules, regulations, or by-laws may be adopted by or for any division of the State Association (district or local) which are contrary to this Constitution.

ARTICLE XI – ADOPTION

This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by a two-thirds vote of the qualified delegates of the first Annual Career Development Conference of the State Association held after its writing.

DECA

TENNESSEE STATE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 State Association

- A. The President: It shall be the duty of the president to preside over the Annual State Career Development Conference. With advice of the State DECA Youth Consultant, the president shall appoint committees of the Association and may serve as an ex-officio member of these committees. The president shall head the State Delegation to the Annual Career Development Conference of DECA and shall work with the State DECA Youth Consultant in making the necessary arrangements for the delegation's participation.
- B. Vice-President: The duties shall include presiding at the respective District DECA Conferences and assisting the president as called upon.
- C. Secretary: The duties of the secretary shall be to keep minutes of the business sessions of the Annual State Career Development Conference and supplying each local chapter with a copy thereof, after review by the State DECA Youth Consultant. The secretary, as a voting delegate to the Annual Career Development Conference of DECA, shall work with the state consultant in the preparation and delivery of such reports as may be required of the State Association at the National Conference.

ARTICLE II – PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION AND SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 Election Procedures

- A. All officers shall be elected at the regular Annual Career Development Conference of the State Association by and from a quorum of eligible delegates.
- B. To be eligible as a candidate for state office, the student must be an "Active Member" of the Tennessee Association of DECA. A candidate must be at least 16 years of age by the end of the State Career Development Conference. All candidates shall complete the prescribed nomination form and submit it to the state consultant by the deadline set by the state consultant. All candidates shall take a qualifying test at their respective District Career Development Conference. All candidates shall follow the procedures and rules as set by the state consultant. All candidates shall be interviewed by the Nominating Committee during the State Career Development Conference. The Nominating Committee shall select one (1) candidate for each office and may declare additional candidates eligible for nomination from the floor. Appearing before the Nominating

Committee shall not guarantee nomination nor shall declaration of eligibility by the Committee guarantee nomination. A candidate who has been declared eligible but not been nominated by the Committee **must be nominated** by a voting delegate from a school other than the candidate's school. No delegate may present himself as a candidate who has not been declared eligible by the Nominating Committee.

Section 2 Vacancies on Office – State Association

- A. When the office of president, secretary or grand division vice-president is vacated, the office may be filled at the discretion of the DECA Youth Consultant.

ARTICLE III – PROCEDURE FOR CHARTERING LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1 Issuance of Charters of Membership: Charters to local chapters shall be issued as a part of the official business of each State Career Development Conference.

Section 2 Revoking Charters: Any local chapter found guilty of violating the provisions of the constitution, or any edict, resolve, or directive of the State Association may have its charter revoked.

Section 3 Pre-Requisites: The State Association shall determine what pre-requisites must be met before a charter will be granted to a local chapter. Upon majority vote of the voting delegates to the State Conference, the State Association may defer granting of a charter until such time as the pre-requisites are met. In the event granting of a charter(s) is deferred and pre-requisites are met, upon application to the president of the State Association and with approval of the State DECA Youth Consultant, the deferred charter may be granted.

ARTICLE IV – PORCEDURES GOVERNING STATE AND DISTRICT MEETINGS

Section 1 State Meeting: Two voting delegates shall be selected at the discretion of the respective chapter's advisor to attend the meeting of the State Career Development Conference.

Section 2 District Meetings: District meetings shall convene at the call of the State Youth Consultant and shall operate under arrangements and procedures specified by the state office and approved by the executive committee.

ARTICLE V – PROCEDURES GOVERNING FINANCES

Section 1 Receipts and Disbursements: All receipts and disbursements shall be handled according to the Tennessee state policies for Career and Technical Education.

Section 2 Audit: The records of the Association shall be audited each year. Audit findings are available for review.

ARTICLE VI – NAME AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

Section 1 Executive Committee:

- a. The executive committee of the State Association shall be composed of the president, secretary, grand division vice-presidents, the State DECA Youth Consultant and Marketing Education Consultant.
- b. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Executive Committee to initiate plans and develop ways and means of promoting the welfare, growth, and public relations of the State Association. It shall be the specific duty of this committee to give directions and guidance to the activities of any component part of the State Association (state, district, or local).

Section 2 Standing Committee of the State Association:

- a. Constitutional Amendment Committee: The Constitutional Amendment Committee shall be comprised of the Marketing Education Teachers of Tennessee Executive Council. The Committee shall receive and study all proposed amendments to the Constitution submitted in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, interpret the effect of the amendment if adopted and recommend action.
- b. Additional Committees: Other committees may be appointed as deemed appropriate by the president and the State DECA Youth Consultant.

Constitution and Bylaws – Revision March 2010