

**BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA  
TEXAS ASSOCIATION  
Associate Division**

**CONSTITUTION  
(Amended March, 2006)**

**ARTICLE I. NAME/COMPOSITION**

The official name of this organization shall be the Business Professionals of America, Texas Association, Associate Division, hereinafter referred to as Associate Division. The organization is chartered by Business Professionals of America, Inc., and is comprised of chartered local chapters within the state of Texas whose members are enrolled in a secondary business and/or office education course and/or former member who are identified as Special Populations.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSES**

The purposes of the Associate Division are:

- to assist local chapter members in leadership and development
- to unite in a common professional bond without regard to race, creed, sex, or national origin of students enrolled in classes with business employment as their objective
- to develop leadership abilities through participation in business and/or office education, civic, recreational, and social activities
- to assist students in establishing realistic employment objectives
- to create enthusiasm for learning
- to promote high standards in ethics, workmanship, and scholarship
- to develop the ability of students to plan together, organize, and carry out worthy activities and projects through the use of democratic processes
- to foster an understanding of the functions of labor, entrepreneurial, and management organizations in the American free enterprise system
- to develop competent, aggressive leaders in business and/or office education
- to develop and strengthen members' confidence in themselves and their work
- to provide satisfactory social and recreational activities
- to foster practical application of business and/or office education skills through competition.

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERS**

Section 1. The membership of the Associate Division shall be comprised of the individual members of the chartered chapters and the members of the Board of Directors. Corresponding membership in Business Professionals of America, Inc. is mandatory.

Section 2. Classes of membership shall be Active, Professional, and Honorary Life.

- a. Active members shall be students interested in education for business, identified as Special Populations in Texas, and who have paid state and national Business Professionals of America dues. Delegates to the Annual meeting will be chosen from the active membership.
- b. Professional members may be persons or businesses associated with, or participating in, the professional development of Business Professionals of America. Such members may include advisors, teacher-coordinators, teacher-

educators, and supervisors; employers and/or training station sponsors of office education students; advisory committee members; and others willing to contribute to Business Professionals of America growth and development. Professional members will pay dues as established by the Board of Directors.

- c. Honorary life members may be individuals approved by the Business Professionals of America, Texas Association, Board of Directors.

Section 3. All membership applications shall be maintained in the state office.

#### **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

Section 1: State Officers: One (1) Associate Vice-President shall be elected at the State Leadership Conference who shall serve on the Executive Council of the Secondary Division and work with them in conducting the business of the Associate Division.

- a. The officers shall be elected at the State Leadership Conference
  1. All candidates for the office of Associate Vice-President must be current active members of the Associate Division who will be returning as active members the following year.
  2. Officer candidates must meet the requirements as established by the Business Professionals of America Board of Directors, Texas Association.
  3. Officer shall be elected by following the procedures in the Policy and Procedures Manual.
  4. Officer shall assume office at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected and shall serve until the close of the following annual meeting.
- b. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy in the position, it shall be left open until the next election.

#### **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

Section 1. The annual State Leadership Conferences shall convene during each school year as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The State Leadership Conference shall be conducted by the Executive Council, the State Advisor, and the contracted services providers, and the local advisors from the host city.

Section 3. Delegates. Members shall be represented at the Annual meeting by duly selected delegates of local chapters, who shall be chosen from the active members.

- a. All votes allocated to a local chapter may be cast by the duly selected delegates of that chapter.
  1. Each local chapter with one teacher shall have two votes; with two teachers, four votes.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the registered delegates.

#### **ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The elected officers of the Secondary Division and the Associate Division shall serve as the Executive Council of the Association.

Section 1. The council shall plan for the welfare of the Texas Association, shall represent the Association as required, and act on behalf of the Association as occasions may demand.

Section 2. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be at the call of the President or the Executive Council Coordinator.

Section 3. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The Board of Directors of Business Professionals of America, Texas Association, will conduct the policy and procedure affairs of the Associate and Secondary

Division.

- a. The local advisors shall elect five local advisors as members of the Board of Directors.
  - A. The Board of Directors should be comprised of the following:
    - 1) Chairman of the Secondary Advisory Committee, serving in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity.
    - 2) Chairman of the Associate Advisory Committee, serving in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity.
    - 3) One to three business representatives, approved by the Board of Directors.
    - 4) One former Business professionals of America State Officer recommended by the State Officer Coordinator and approved by the Board of Directors
    - 5) One local advisor from each of the five designated BPA geographic areas, elected by the local advisors of each area.
    - 6) The State Advisor will serve in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity.
      - a) Nomination forms for business representatives and former BPA State Officer must be submitted to the Board Chairman by May 31. Local advisors will be nominated from the floor at each of the Regional Leadership Conference Advisor meetings. Exception would be the first election after the constitutional change is approved, in which case the local advisors will be nominated from the floor in called area meetings to be held at the State Leadership Conference, March 2001, following approval of the constitutional change. Term of office is September 1 through August 31.
      - b) Board elections will take place through area-wide mail outs in May.
      - c) Term of office shall be for three years and a member may not serve more than two consecutive terms. If a Board member resigns during his/her term, the position will be filled by the first runner-up in that particular area. Should there be no runner up, the posit-on will remain unfilled until the next spring election.
      - d) Terms of office will be staggered for local advisors, with the even-numbered areas being elected in even years and those odd-numbered areas being elected in odd years. Exception would be the first election after the constitutional change takes effect, in which case, the even-numbered local advisors would serve for one year.
- b. The Board of Director shall appoint a Treasurer who shall be bonded.
- c. The Treasurer shall submit an annual financial report to the budget committee of the Advisory Committee for input and audit.

- Section 2. The State Advisor shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. An Advisory Committee shall be elected for the purpose of advising and helping to plan the affairs of the Secondary Division.
- a. There shall be two chapter advisors from each administrative area elected by the local advisors from that area.
  - b. Each member shall be elected for a three-year term.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. EMBLEM AND COLORS**

- Section 1. The emblem of the local chapters shall be the official emblem of the national organization of Business Professionals of America.
- Section 2. The colors of Associate Division shall be the official colors of the national organization which are navy blue, tan, and red.
- Section 3. All students who are members in good standing of the Associate Division and whose dues are fully paid shall be eligible to wear the official membership pin of Business Professionals of America.
- Section 4. Organization uniforms may be adopted by local chapters as desired.

#### **ARTICLE IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Associate Division in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution, the bylaws and any special rules of the Associate Division may adopt.

#### **ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. Proposed amendments to the constitution shall be presented in writing by a local chapter through its secretary to the State Advisor at least sixty days (60) prior to the State Leadership Conference. The State Advisor shall submit the proposed amendments to the Board of Directors for approval. The approved proposed amendments will then be published and circulated to all chapters for consideration at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual conference.
- a. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required for adoption.
  - b. No amendment shall be in conflict with the purposes of the Associate Division as stated in Article II.