

Arkansas Federation of Young Republicans

Constitution

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By-Laws

Enacted by AFYR Executive Committee: October 13, 2003
Ratified and Adopted by AFYR State Convention: August 26, 2005
Amended AFYR State Convention: August 25, 2007
Amended AFYR State Convention: September 26, 2009
Amended AFYR State Convention: August 24, 2013
Amended AFYR State Convention: August 29, 2015
Amended AFYR State Convention: August 24, 2019

Arkansas Federation of Young Republicans

Constitution

PREAMBLE

We believe in the principles of representative government contemplated by the United States Constitution, the defense of free institutions and the encouragement of personal enterprise; that party government by the majority is an integral part of the American system; that to perpetuate popular government, it is essential for the policies and the prosecution of government to be in harmony with the Constitution; that the Republican Party is a party of representative government; and, that with these principles before us, we who are members of the Republican Party bind ourselves together as members of Arkansas Federation of Young Republicans and pledge ourselves to work for the advancement of these principles.

ARTICLE I – NAME AND AUTHORITY

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Arkansas Federation of Young Republicans, hereinafter referred to as the Young Republicans.

Section 2. AFYR shall be a sovereign entity, in support for, yet independent of, the Republican Party of Arkansas, and its chapters shall be separate entities independent of any existing Party structure other than the AFYR.

Section 3. AFYR shall be the sole body of authority over, recognition of, and representation for Young Republican chapters with the State of Arkansas.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Young Republicans are:

1. To develop an intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable Young Republican organization.
2. To build a network of people ages 18 to 40 inclusive within the Republican Party.
3. To provide a forum and opportunity for political expression and activity.
4. To train effective political workers.
5. To work in harmony with the Republican National and State Committees.
6. To support the principles, objectives and platform of the Republican Party
7. To work for the election of all duly nominated Republican candidates.

ARTICLE III – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution shall be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of those voting at any State Convention meeting of the Young Republicans.

Arkansas Federation of Young Republicans

By-Laws

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

- I.** Any resident of the state of Arkansas who is between the ages of 18 and 40 inclusive, is registered to vote in Arkansas, and pays any requisite membership dues may be a member of the AFYR.
- II.** Immediately upon meeting the requirements for membership, the applicant shall become an active member of the AFYR.
- III.** Membership dues for active members shall be \$40 biennially. All membership dues shall be paid directly to the AFYR.
- IV.** Annual membership dues for persons who are active members of either the Arkansas Federation of College Republicans or the Arkansas Federation of Teen-Age Republicans and also meet all the membership requirements for the AFYR shall be \$20 per person.
- V.** Any persons who do not meet all the requirements for AFYR membership may be an Associate Member (Young at Heart Republican). Annual dues for Young at Heart Republicans shall be \$15 per person.
- VI.** All memberships must be renewed biennially. Memberships must be renewed every other year 30 days before convention. Any member or associate member failing to timely renew his or her membership shall be deemed to be inactive.
- VII.** Any elected official within the State of Arkansas, who was required by law to declare as a Republican candidate and is 40 years old or younger, shall be deemed a member of the AFYR upon taking the oath of office and shall remain as such during his/her term. No membership dues are required for elected officials.
- VIII.** The AFYR Executive Committee may waive, suspend, or modify the membership dues upon determination of a particular purpose or need.

IX. A portion of the dues paid by each active member may be designated for use by the respective Chapter to which the member belongs.

X. As part of the requirements of being a member in good standing, each member shall comply with the Do No Harm Clause.

Do Not Harm Clause: No member of AFYR shall in any way slander, libel, harass, or defame the character of another member of the Arkansas Federation of Young Republicans as applicable to Arkansas State Law. Individuals who fail to comply with Arkansas State Law regarding the aforementioned legalities will be subject to executive action and removal from the organization.

ARTICLE II CHAPTERS

I. The AFYR shall consist of Chapters based on the geographical boundaries of the congressional districts of the state, specifically, North East Arkansas Young Republicans (1st District), Central Arkansas Young Republicans (2nd District), North West Arkansas Young Republicans (3rd district), and South Arkansas Young Republicans (4th District), and any additional chartered Chapters.

a. A member shall, by default, be a member of the congressional district Chapter where the member resides, unless a member of a chartered Chapter.

II. A Chapter shall consist of at least five (5) active members of the AFYR within a defined area or locale, except for the congressional district Chapters which may be considered active Chapters with at least one (1) member.

III. In order to charter a Chapter, an Application for Charter must be submitted for approval and acceptance to the AFYR Executive Committee.

a. In order to be recognized and remain in good standing, a chapter must renew their charter biennially during the time after the state convention and before the end of that calendar year. A chapter charter is renewed for the purposes of this subsection by submitting an application for membership as approved by the executive board prior to the renewal period.”

b. The executive board of the AFYR shall approve a charter application prior to June 1st of every year. The application must provide and be compliant with Article II, Chapter II for membership requirements. The application must include the recognition of a chapter chairman.

- IV. A Chapter shall be responsible for coordinating, promoting, and executing YR activities and events within its respective area or locale.
- V. The officers of a Chapter shall be, at minimum, a Chapter Chairman who is an active member of the AFYR, member of that particular Chapter, and elected by the active members of that Chapter. A Chapter may elect any other officers and committees necessary for its operation.
 - a. In the event of a vacancy, the AFYR Chairman may appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, a Chairman for a congressional district Chapter.
- VI. A Chapter may establish its own constitution and bylaws, meeting schedule, and activities and events. The Chapter constitution and bylaws must conform to and comply with the AFYR Constitution and Bylaws.
- VII. Every Chapter Chairman shall be a voting member of the AFYR Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II CONVENTION

- I. The AFYR Convention shall be held every odd-numbered year no earlier than June 1st and no later than September 30th. The AFYR Convention shall be held in Little Rock, Arkansas unless the Executive Committee, by majority vote, elects to hold the convention elsewhere.
- II. The Secretary shall send notice to every active member of the date and location of the Convention no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start of the Convention. Postings on the AFYR website and by electronic mail may suffice as notice.
- III. Each active member in good standing for a minimum of forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the Convention under Article One shall be entitled to run for office and/ or one vote at the State Convention.
- IV. For a quorum to exist, at least one (1) representative from a majority of the active Chapters must be present.
- V. The first order of business for the convention shall be to elect a Convention Chairman and Secretary. The Convention Chairman shall preside over the Convention. The Convention Secretary shall record all proceedings at the Convention, shall record all members present, and shall record all votes.

VI. The Convention Chairman may appoint a Parliamentarian who shall assist the Chairman in running the Convention and shall advise the Chairman on maintaining proper parliamentary procedure in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

XI. The Chairman may appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms and any assistants as may be deemed necessary to ensure that the Convention runs in an orderly fashion.

XII. Nominations and elections of AFYR Officers:

- a. Nominations shall be made from the floor at the State Convention.
- b. All Officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the Convention. The votes shall be secret ballot.
- c. In the case where there are more than two candidates for an office and if any one candidate fails to obtain a majority of the votes on the first ballot, then the two (2) candidates who received the highest number of votes shall be paired in a run-off ballot.
- d. Within ten (10) working days after the State Convention, the newly elected Chairman shall submit to the YRNF and the RPA a complete list of the AFYR state officers with contact information. The Chairman shall also periodically update this information as changes occur.

ARTICLE IV AMENDMENTS, RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS

I. Any proposed amendments, resolutions, or other matters to be considered at the Convention must be submitted, in writing, to the Chairman and Secretary at least fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the State Convention.

II. The Chairman and/or the Secretary shall send to each member notice of all proposals to be acted upon at the Convention not less than ten (10) days before the start of the Convention. Posting the proposals on the AFYR website or by electronic mail may suffice as notice.

III. A proposed resolution or other matter for consideration shall become effective upon an affirmative vote at the Convention of two-thirds (2/3) of all the votes cast. A proposed amendment shall become effective upon an affirmative vote at the Convention of three-fourths (3/4) of all votes cast.

IV. Old business, as it relates to the agenda for convention, refers solely to the new business of the previous convention. Any old business or unfinished business left on the table besides as stated above will be considered expired and cannot be brought back up.

**ARTICLE V
OFFICERS**

SECTION 1. CHAIRMAN

- I.** The Chairman shall be the chief executive officer of the AFYR and shall preside at all AFYR meetings
- II.** The Chairman shall have the right and duty to issue statements on current affairs and other political matters on behalf of the AFYR.
- III.** The Chairman, along with the Treasurer, shall be one of two required signatures on the checking account.
- IV.** The Chairman shall attend all YRNF Board meetings.
- V.** The Chairman shall periodically provide reports on AFYR activities to the Republican Party of Arkansas and shall represent the AFYR at any RPA meetings or any of its affiliates.
 - a. In the event of his or her unavailability, the Chairman shall appoint a proxy.
- VI.** The Chairman may appoint officers as necessary to fill a vacancy or to carry out a specific function with the approval of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN

- I.** The First Vice Chairman, in the absence or disability of the Chairman, shall perform each of the duties of the Chairman.
- II.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chairman, the First Vice Chairman shall serve as acting Chairman.
- III.** The First Vice Chairman shall also serve as director of membership and chapter development with all such responsibilities as is necessary.
- IV.** The First Vice Chairman shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

SECTION 3. SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN

- I.** The Second Vice Chairman, in the absence or disability of the Chairman and the First Vice Chairman, shall perform each of the duties of the Chairman.
- II.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chairman and the First Vice Chairman, the Second Vice Chairman shall serve as acting Chairman.

III. The Second Vice Chairman shall also serve as director of campaigns and elections with all such responsibilities as is necessary.

IV. The Second Vice Chairman shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

SECTION 4. SECRETARY

I. The Secretary shall keep records of all proceeding of the AFYR.

II. The Secretary shall read the minutes of the meetings of the AFYR.

III. The Secretary shall maintain a database of the AFYR membership.

IV. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

SECTION 5. TREASURER

I. The Treasurer shall collect, receive, deposit and have custody of all funds of the AFYR.

II. The Treasurer shall be responsible to maintain the AFYR funds in accordance with all state and federal laws.

III. The Treasurer shall make disbursements as approved by the Executive Committee.

IV. The Treasurer, along with the Chairman, shall be one of two required signatures on the checking account.

V. The Treasurer, with the approval of the Chairman, may make disbursements, not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100), as is necessary for the business of the AFYR.

VI. The Treasurer shall maintain a checking account for the AFYR.

VII. The Treasurer shall make a financial report at each AFYR meeting.

VIII. An audit of all AFYR accounts shall be made at the end of each year, or at another reasonable time provided by the Executive Committee so long as an audit occurs once per year. The Executive Committee shall appoint an individual, other than the Treasurer, to perform the audit of the AFYR. This individual may be, but is not required to be, an internal or external auditor. The Treasurer will work with the person appointed by the Executive Committee to assist him or her in the carrying out of the audit if requested by such person. The person appointed to carry out the audit shall report the results of the audit to the Executive Committee at a time set by the Executive Board.

- IX.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting all statements, filings, financial disclosures and similar documents required by the laws and regulations of Arkansas and the United States, including, but not limited to, state and federal tax codes, so that AFYR will be in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and codes.

SECTION 6. NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN AND COMMITTEEWOMAN

- I.** The National Committeeman and Committeewoman shall represent the AFYR with the Young Republican National Federation.
- II.** The National Committee and Committeewoman shall attend all YRNF Board meetings.
- a. In the event of his or her unavailability, the National Committeeman or Committeewoman shall appoint a proxy.
- III.** The National Committeeman and Committeewoman shall report to the Executive Committee on the activities of the YRNF.
- IV.** The National Committeeman and Committeewoman shall perform such other duties as may be assigned.

SECTION 7. IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

- I.** The Immediate past Chair shall sit ex-officio on the executive board, sans a vote.

SECTION 9. QUALIFICATIONS

- I.** To be eligible to serve as an officer of the AFYR, a person shall be an active member in good standing.

SECTION 10. TERM OF OFFICE

- I.** The officers of AFYR shall be elected at each Convention and shall hold office until their duly qualified successors are elected.
- II.** An appointed officer shall hold office at the pleasure of the Chairman.

SECTION 11. VACANCY

- I.** A vacancy in an elected office may be filled by appointment by the Chairman with the approval of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 12. ADVISORY BOARD

- I. The Chairman may appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, an Advisory Board to offer counsel, guidance and support.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP

- I. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elective offices of Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, and each Chapter Chairman; as well as any appointive offices. It shall also consist of the Immediate Past Chairman, sans a vote.
- II. Appointed officers shall attend meetings of the Executive Committee but will not have a vote on the Committee.

SECTION 2. MEETINGS

- I. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four (4) times a year.
- II. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman as needed.
- III. The Chairman shall provide a minimum of five days notice of the meeting time and place to all members of the Executive Committee of any meeting.
- IV. The Executive Committee may conduct meetings by telephone conference.

SECTION 3. POWERS

- I. The Executive Committee shall carry out and direct all AFYR business and activities and may have such powers as may be delegated by the AFYR.
- II. Funding Caps: An annual spending cap of \$500 will apply to the state Chairman and each club. Any member or club requesting funds exceeding the \$500 cap must bring their request before the Executive Committee to be approved by a two-thirds majority vote.

SECTION 4. QUORUM

- I. Five (5) voting members of the Executive Committee must be present for a quorum to exist.

SECTION 5. ABSENCES

- I. Any officer of the Executive Committee who misses two (2) consecutive Committee meetings shall be given notice that if he or she misses three (3) consecutive meetings, the Committee may by two-thirds (2/3) vote remove him or her from office.
- II. Any officer of the Executive Committee who is consistently and unreasonably absent may be admonished by the Committee to improve his or her attendance and participation. Subsequently, if the officer's attendance and participation does not improve, he or she may be given notice that the Committee may by two-thirds (2/3) vote remove him or her from office.

SECTION 6. COMMITTEES

- I. The Executive Committee may create any committee as may be deemed necessary.
- II. All committees created by The Chairman and Executive Committee shall have an odd number of members and shall not exceed a total of seven (7) members.

ARTICLE VII NATIONAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

- I. The Chairman shall appoint, with the approval of the Executive Committee, all delegates and alternates to the Young Republican National Convention to which the AFYR is entitled.
- II. The Chairman shall strive to ensure that all regions of the state be fairly represented in the delegation.
- III. The Chairman shall give preference for selection as a delegate to those Young Republicans who will be attending the YRNF Convention.
- IV. The Chairman or his or her appointed representative shall head the delegation.
- V. The AFYR delegation shall vote unit rule at the YRNF Convention, unless unit rule is removed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire delegation.
- VI. The AFYR delegation must decide prior to convention how the delegation will vote in each election at the National Convention. All delegates in attendance shall determine how the delegation will vote in each election by having a delegate vote for each position. The candidate receiving the majority of the delegate votes shall be rewarded the full vote of the AFYR delegation. No proxies will be allowed in these votes. Alternates who have replaced a missing delegate shall be able to vote."

**ARTICLE VIII
DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

I. Any dispute arising out of an incident, election, or other event or action of the AFYR, the executive committee as a whole, any officer, any member, or chapter, or these constitution and by-laws shall be resolved in accordance with the following dispute resolution procedure:

- i. Any party to such a dispute must be an active member of the AFYR and may initiate proceedings under this Article by filing a written complaint with the AFYR Chairman no later than thirty (30) days following the incident, election, or other event from which the dispute arises.
 1. If the dispute pertains to the AFYR Chairman, the complaint shall be filed with the 1st Vice Chairman.
- ii. The Chairman, (or the 1st Vice Chairman in a dispute involving the Chairman), shall provide a copy of any such complaint to the AFYR Executive Committee within ten (10) days of receipt.
- iii. No later than fourteen (14) days following receipt of any complaint filed in accordance with this article, the Chairman (or 1st Vice Chairman in a dispute involving the Chairman) shall appoint a Committee to investigate the dispute and make a final decision.
 1. The Committee shall be composed of three (3) members, which shall be members of the AFYR for at least six (6) months prior to the filing of the complaint.
 - a. One (1) of which shall be appointed by the Chairman (or 1st Vice Chairman in a dispute involving the Chairman).
 - b. One (1) of which shall be appointed pursuant to a recommendation by the Complainant.
 - c. One (1) of which shall be appointed pursuant to a recommendation by the Respondent (or Respondents collectively).
- iv. The Committee shall render a written decision within thirty (30) days which shall be the final disposition of the matter for the AFYR.

**ARTICLE IX
DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

I. Any officer, member, or chapter who egregiously violates the rules and objectives of this organization may be subject to actions of discipline or expulsion.

- II. Actions of discipline or expulsion shall be determined by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE X
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT**

- I. Neither the AFYR, nor the executive committee as a whole, nor any officers in their official capacities, nor any chapter as a whole shall in any way endorse or oppose the candidacy of any Republican in a primary election or any individual running for Republican Party office at any level.
- II. Neither the AFYR, nor the executive committee as a whole, nor any officers in their official capacities, nor any chapter as a whole shall endorse any candidate who is a member of any party other than the Republican Party.

**ARTICLE XI
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The procedure of the AFYR shall be governed by these Constitution, By-Laws, and Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).

**ARTICLE XII
SEVERABILITY**

The provisions of these By-Laws are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision of these By-Laws shall ever be deleted or amended, such deletion or amendment shall not affect the validity of any other section or provision thereof.