



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT THE 2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Changed the opening paragraph from "Preamble" to "Mission Statement".

Article II, Section 2 - Department Members are Chiefs, District Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Battalion Chiefs, Fire Marshals, Deputy Fire Marshals, Master Mechanics, Training Directors, Communication Directors, if they are sole occupants of those bureaus or divisions, State Fire Control Officers, and District Fire Control Officers and Forestry Division of the Department of Environmental Protection of the State of Connecticut. This section is applicable to Career, Volunteer or Combination Fire Departments.

(Changed Department of Environmental Protection to Department of Energy & Environmental Protection)

Proposed - Department Members are Chiefs, District Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief, Fire Marshals, Deputy Fire Marshals, Master Mechanics, Training Directors, Communication Directors, if they are sole occupants of those Bureaus or Divisions, the State Fire Control Officer, and District Fire Control Officers, of the Forestry Division of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, of the State of Connecticut. This section is applicable to Career, Combination and Volunteer Fire Departments. .

Article II - Section 1 - Membership – (Existing) - The members of this Association shall consist of Department and Company Members. All individual members of each Fire Company, Volunteer Fire/Police Patrol and rescue squad, ambulance squad, fire prevention staff, training staff, dispatch staff, repair staff, shall by virtue of their membership in such companies be members of this Association shall be entitled to funds distributed by it, so long as said individual continues as a member by complying with the By-Laws. The minimum age shall be sixteen (16) years. Whenever in these By-Laws the words he or she appear it shall, where appropriate, be changed to he or she. Industrial fire companies or fire brigades are not eligible for membership except those that are full time paid companies that furnish mutual aid in the area in which they are located.

Proposed: The members of the Association shall consist of Department and Company Members. All individual members of each Fire Company, Volunteer Fire/Police Patrol and Rescue Squad, Ambulance Squad, Fire Prevention Staff, Training Staff, Dispatch Staff, and Repair Staff shall by virtue of their membership in such Companies, be members of this Association and entitled to funds distributed by it, so long as said individual continues as a member, by complying with the By-Laws. Whenever, in these By-Laws the words he or she appears, it shall, where appropriate, be changed to he or she, Industrial Fire Companies or Fire Brigades are not eligible for membership, except those that are full time, paid Companies that furnish Mutual Aid, in the area in which they are located. All Companies, Volunteer Fire/Police Patrol, Rescue Squads, and Department Members, represented in the Association must be in

full accord and in good standing in the fire department where they are located and, if at any time they are not so, they shall forfeit all rights of membership in this Association.

Article II - Section 4 - Moved all language up to Section 1

Article II – Section 6 - (Existing) - Sustaining membership shall be open to manufactures, vendors, and fire/emergency organizations. Representatives of Sustaining Members may attend meetings, other than closed sessions of the Executive Committee, but shall have no voting rights, Certificates of membership shall be issued annually, to Sustaining Members. Sustaining Members shall also receive permission to use the Association Logo in their advertising and in addition will receive preferred booth space at the Annual Convention. Dues will be in accordance with Article III, Section 3.

(Added the word Web-Site)

Proposed - Sustaining Membership shall be open to Manufactures, Vendors, and Fire/Emergency Organizations. Representatives of Sustaining Members may attend meetings, other than closed sessions of the Executive Committee, but shall have no voting rights. Certificates of Membership shall be issued, annually, to Sustaining Members. Sustaining Members shall also receive permission to use the DUESthe Annual Convention. Dues will be in accordance with Article III, Section 3.

Article III - Section I – Dues - (Existing) - Each Engine, Truck, Hose or Squad Company,, volunteer Fire/Police, Industrial Fire Company, Ambulance Squad, Fire Prevention Staff, Training Staff, Dispatch Staff, Repair Staff, shall pay a membership fee per schedule listed in Section 3. Dues are payable on or before July 1st of each year. The dues for the first year of membership will be covered for the balance of the first year that a member joins the association. The Secretary of the Association may request a current roster of any fire company of fire department upon written notice to the Captain or Lieutenant of the Company or the Chief of the department. Unless this is received by the Secretary within 30 days, any claim of the firefighter in this unit may be held and not processed pending the receipt of the list of names. In volunteer fire companies or departments with stations in addition to the headquarters company, each station be considered by this Association to be a separate company, even though they made have the same Company or Department Officer's and each company must join the Association as a separate member.

(Deleted the words Captain and Lieutenant)

Proposed – Each Engine, Truck, Hose or Squad Company, Volunteer Fire/Police, Industrial Fire Company, Ambulance Squad, Fire Prevention Staff, Training Staff, Dispatch Staff, and Repair Staff, shall pay a Membership Fee, as per the schedule listed as Addendum to this document. Dues are payable on or before July 1st of each year. The dues for the first year of membership will be covered for the balance of the first year that a member joins the Association. The Secretary of the Association may request a current roster of any Fire Company of Fire Department, upon written notice to the Chief of the Department. Unless this is received by the Secretary, within 30 days, any claim of the firefighter, in this unit, may be held and not processed, pending the receipt of the list of names. In Volunteer Fire Companies or Fire Departments, with Stations in addition to the Headquarters Company, each Station shall be considered, by this Association as a separate Company, even though they have the same

Company or Department Officer's, and each Company must join the Association as a separate Company Member.

Article III - Section 3 - Dues Schedule – Deleted this Section, but added the current amounts to the end of the document, as an Addendum. The dues amounts can be changed by the Executive Committee without the need to do a full By-Law change vote.

Article IV - Section 2 – Officers – (Existing) - The officers, except the County Vice Presidents, shall be elected at the Annual Convention of the Association by ballot or otherwise, the candidates receiving the majority of all votes cast to be declared elected and will hold their respective offices until the next Annual Convention and/or until the successors are elected, for a maximum of two consecutive years. All Officers and Executive Board Members shall remain members in good standing in their Department or Company for their term of office and the Department or Company shall remain current in payment of their dues to the Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

(Added language that clarified the maximum 2 year term for the President)

Proposed: The Officers, except the County Vice Presidents, the Assistant Secretary Assistant Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Convention of the Association, by ballot or otherwise. The candidates, receiving the majority of all votes cast, are to be declared elected and will hold their respective offices until the next Annual Convention and/or until their successors are elected. The term of the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, shall each be for a maximum period of two (2) years. All Officers and Executive Board Members shall remain members, in good standing, of their Fire Department or Fire Company, for their term of office, and that Fire Department or Company shall remain current in payment of their dues to the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Chaplain(s) are exempt from the requirement of being an Active Member, in a Fire Service Organization, and are exempt from paying dues. Chaplain(s) shall be covered under the Association's insurance rules, as governed by the rules set forth for individual membership, while performing duties directly related to responsibilities for the Association, as described in Article IV, Section 10.

Article IV - Section 5 - (Existing) - Assistant Treasurer - It shall be the duty of the Assistant Treasurer to perform the duties of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer will also perform any other duties that the Treasurer may assign him or her.

(Added language that the Asst. Treasurer is not entitled to an Executive Committee vote).

Proposed: The Treasurer shall make a recommendation of a candidate, to serve as an Assistant Treasurer. The Office of the Assistant Treasurer shall be filled annually, by appointment of the Executive Committee, which appointment shall continue at the pleasure of the Executive Committee and the President of the Association. The Assistant Treasurer may receive up to \$1,000.00 per year, for his or her expenses and is not entitled to a vote on Executive Committee matters. However in the absence of the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer has the authority to vote.

Article IV - Section 6 - (Existing) - Assistant Secretary – It shall be the duty of the Assistant Secretary to perform the duties of the Secretary in the absence of the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary will also perform any other duties the Secretary may assign him or her.

(Added language that the Asst. Secretary is not entitled to an Executive Committee vote).

Proposed: The Secretary shall make a recommendation of a candidate, to serve as an Assistant Secretary. The Office of Assistant Secretary shall be filled annually, by appointment of the Executive Committee, which appointment shall continue at the pleasure of the Executive Committee and the President of the Association. The Assistant Secretary may receive up to \$1,000.00 per year, for his or her expenses, and is not entitled to a vote on Executive Committee matters. However, in the absence of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary has the authority to vote.

(Added language to regarding Convention Advisory, Firefighter Memorial and Cancer Benefit Committees. Also, under Education Committee added, or his or her designee after Association President)

Article V - Section 2 – (Existing) - Committees – There shall be an Auditing Committee, a Legislative Committee, Credential Committee, Convention Advisory Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, Education Committee and a Memorial Committee appointed annually. The Auditing Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members appointed by the President, the Legislative Committee to comprise of eight members, one from each county appointed by the President, and the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as member's ex-officio, the Credential Committee to consist of four members to be appointed by the President. In making appointments to the Credential Committee, the President shall appoint as two (2) members who have had previous experience on the committee. The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members appointed by the President. The Education Committee shall be appointed by the President and shall consist the Association President, Association Treasurer, State Fire Administrator, two (2) representatives of the Commission on Fire Prevention & Control, and two (2) representatives of each of the recognized Regional Fire Schools. The Memorial Committee shall consist of a minimum of nine members appointed by the President. All appointments to these six committees must be made before January 1st and shall terminate on adjournment of the next annual convention.

Proposed: There shall be an Auditing Committee, a Legislative Committee, a Credential Committee, a Convention Advisory Committee, a Hall of Fame Committee, an Education Committee, a Firefighters Memorial Committee, and a Cancer Relief committee appointed. The Auditing Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members appointed annually by the President: the Legislative Committee is to be comprised of eight (8) members, one (1) from each county, appointed by the President, and the current President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as members ex-officio: the Credentials Committee is to consist of a minimum of four (4) members to be appointed by the President. In making appointments to the Credential Committee, the President shall appoint two (2) members who have had previous experience on the committee. The Convention Advisory Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members, appointed y the President. At least one (1) member shall have had a previous experience serving on the Local Convention Host Committee and one (1) member shall be affiliated with the Connecticut Parade Marshals Association. The Hall of Fame Committee shall consists of a minimum of three (3) members, appointed annually, by the President. The Education Committee shall be appointed by the President and shall consist of the Association President, (or his or her designee), the Association Treasurer, the State Fire Administrator, two (2) representatives of the Commission of Fire Prevention and Control and two (2) representatives of each of the recognized Regional Fire Schools. The Firefighters Memorial Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members appointed by the President. Appointed Firefighters Memorial Committee members shall represent a cross-section of both Volunteer and Career Fire Departments. The Cancer Relief Committee,

established by authority and in accordance with the State of Connecticut's public Act 16-10, and "Act Establishing a Firefighters Cancer Relief Program" – shall consist of five (5) members, One (1) member representing the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, appointed by the Connecticut State Firefighters Association President, one (1) member representing the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, one (1) Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut, one (1) member representing the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association and one (1) member representing the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, All appointments to those committees must be made before January 1st and shall terminate upon adjournment of the next Annual Convention.

Article VI - Section 2 – Duties - (Existing) - It shall be the duty of the First Vice President to perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President or, if the President is unable to perform the duties of his or hers office. Should both the President and the First Vice President be absent or disabled, their duties shall be performed by the Second Vice President. In the absence of all three their duties shall be performed by the senior member of the Executive Committee.

(Added the language Temporary Chairperson)

Proposed - It shall be the duty of the First Vice President to perform the duties of the President, in the absence of the President, or if the President is unable to perform his or her duties of his office. Should both the President and the First Vice President be absent or disabled their duties shall be performed by the Second Vice President. In the absence of all three (3), their duties shall be performed by a Temporary Chairperson, elected by the members of the Executive Committee that are present.

Article VI - Section 7 - (Existing) – The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly, approximately during the first week in November, February, May and the day before the Annual Convention, the exact dates and places to be decided by the President. A special meeting may also be called by the President when he or she deems it necessary. A majority of the Executive Committee may also petition the President for a special meeting of the Committee at any time during the year, and being so petitioned, he or she call such meeting promptly.

(Deleted the words first week)

Proposed – The Executive Committee shall meeting quarterly, in November, February, June and the day before the Annual Convention, the exact dates and places to be decided by the President. A Special Meeting may also be called by the President when he or she deems it necessary. A majority of the Executive Committee may also petition the President for a Special Meeting of the Committee, at any time during the year, and being so petitioned he or she shall call such meeting promptly.

Article VI - Section 8 - (Existing) - It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee, at the end of each fiscal year, to examine the accounts of the Secretary and the Treasurer and examine the required fidelity bonds of each and report the results of their examination to the next Annual Convention.

(Changed the language from Fidelity to Surety Bonds)

Proposed – It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee, at the end of each fiscal, to examine the accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer, examine the required surety bonds of each and report the results of their examination to the next Annual Convention.

Article VI - Section 12 - (Existing) - The Memorial Committee is organized in a collaboration effort to remember those firefighters who have given the ultimate sacrifice, annually provide a memorial service in the month of October, maintain the memorial and periodically review the line of duty deaths.

(Added new language for the Duties of the Committee)

Proposed – The Firefighters Memorial Committee is in place, in a collaborative effort, to remember those Connecticut Firefighters, who have given the ultimate sacrifice. They are charged to plan for the Annual Firefighters Memorial Ceremony and support the Monument, located at the Connecticut Fire Academy. “The date of the Annual Firefighters Memorial Ceremony shall be held on either the last Sunday of the month of September or on any Sunday during the month of October. The Committee shall choose a date for the Memorial Ceremony and publicize same, in advance of the Annual Convention Meeting. Additionally, the committee receives and reviews all Line of Duty Death Benefit Applications for Connecticut Firefighters and approves for their names to be installed on the Memorial Wall.

(NEW)

Article VI - Section 13 - Proposed – It shall be the duty of the Convention Advisory Committee to establish an advisory relationship, with all newly designated Local Convention Host Committees, and educate the local representatives about the criteria and expectations for hosting this event. This relationship shall continue until the actual event is successfully held. A copy of the current edition of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association Convention Guidebook shall also be provided to the local committee for their reference.

(NEW)

Article VI - Section 14 - Proposed - The Cancer Relief Committee is established as a Connecticut State Firefighters Association Sub-Committee by authority and in accordance with the State of Connecticut’s Public Act 16-10, “an Act Establishing a Firefighters Cancer Relief Program”, in compliance with the criteria and coverages provided by this statute, this committee is charged with reviewing and determining the eligibility of claims, submitted by “Firefighters”, as defined in the Act, for benefits related to lost wages, due to the diagnosis of certain conditions of Cancer, as a result of their Firefighting Service, as listed in the Statute. The Committee is also charged with determining the weekly wage replacement benefits, to be awarded, in accordance with Chapters 104 and 568 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Approved claims, under the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, shall be processed for payment, by the State Treasurer, through the Office of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

(NEW)

Article VI - Section 15 - Chairpersons, for the respective Committees, shall be elected from and by the current Committee membership and shall serve, as Chairperson, for a maximum of a single two year term.

(NEW)

Article VI - Section 16 - With the understanding that certain committees of the Association may, within the scope of their role and purpose, undertake events and activities that will generate financial income revenue or require expense payment disbursements, all accounts related to these functions shall be

under the custody and jurisdiction of the Association Treasurer. It shall be one of the responsibilities, of the Association Treasurer, to take custody of and deposit all Committee financial income and make all Committee financial disbursements, in a timely manner. Said Committee-related income and expenses shall also be documented, in an accepted format, for the purpose of review, by the Association's Auditing Committee, while conducted the mandated, annual financial audit.

Article VII - Section 1 - Association Convention - (Existing) – The location of the Annual Convention shall be decided by the delegates at the Annual Convention preceding such Annual Convention. The Annual Convention will be held on the third weekend in September. If the delegates fail to choose a site, the Executive Committee is empowered to choose a site. Special Conventions may be called by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine the place and time of the special convention.

(Added reference to Convention Guide Book)

(Proposed) - The location of the Annual Convention shall be decided by the Delegates at an Annual Convention, preceding such Annual Convention. The Annual Convention will be held on the third weekend in September. If the delegates fail to choose a site, the Executive Committee is empowered to choose a site. The month, day and time of any Annual Convention shall be determined by the Executive Committee and if they fail to so determine, then by the President. Special Conventions may be called by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine the place and time of the Special Convention. Convention host departments are advised to plan for the Convention Events by referring to the Convention Guidebook, as provided by the Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Article VIII - Section 1 - Fire Duties - (Existing) - The term fire duties include duties performed while at fires, while answering alarms of fires, while directly returning from fires, while at drills or parades, while going directly to or returning from fire drills or parades, while at tests or trials of any of the apparatus or equipment normally used by the fire department, while going directly to or directly returning from such test or trials, while instructing or being instructed in fire duties, while answering or returning from ambulance calls where the ambulance service is part of the fire service, while answering or returning from the department emergency calls and any other fire duty ordered to be performed by a superior or commanding officer in the fire department., also any duty in connection with requirements in construction and maintenance of apparatus and appliances, operation and upkeep of the fire alarm telegraph, engagement in fire protection activities and investigation.

(Changed language to match the context of the State Statute)

(Proposed) - The term fire duties include duties performed while at fires, while answering alarms of fires, while directly returning from fires, while at fire drills or parades, while going directly to or returning directly from fire drills or parades, while at tests or trials of any of the apparatus or equipment normally used by the Fire Department, while going directly to or directly returning from such test or trials, while instructing or being instructed in fire duties, while answering or returning from ambulance calls, where the ambulance service is part of the fire service, while answering or returning from fire department emergency calls and any other fire duty, ordered to be performed by a Superior or Commanding Officer in the Fire Department: also any duty in connection with requirements in construction and maintenance of apparatus and appliances, operation and upkeep of the fire alarm telegraph, engagement in fire protection activities and investigation.

returned to the Secretary of the Association, within sixty (60) days after receiving the injury or contracting the sickness. In the case of reoccurrence, within twelve (12) months, as provided in (Article IX – Section 4), the “Benefit Claim Papers” request must be made, to the Secretary, within sixty (60) days of the first day that the claimant cannot report to his or hers regular occupation. The time for requesting “Benefit Claim Papers” may be extended, beyond sixty (60) days, by the Executive Committee for good reason shown, but said extension will not exceed twelve (12) months from the date of injury or sickness, except, in the case where a Firefighter’s health may have been affected by exposure to chemicals, other materials or infectious diseases. In which case, said extensions shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) months from the date of the incident, providing a Hazardous Exposure Verification Form has been filed within the time limits of Article IX. When the “Benefit Claim Papers” are received, they shall be filled out and certified by the Chief of the Department. If no Company, Volunteer Fire-Police Patrol, Rescue Squad or Department Officer enables the claimant to conform to the requirements of the prescribed forms, the claimant may make a written application, for relief, to the Executive Committee, who are empowered to make any order that justice may require, and, if said Executive Committee refuses relief, as asked for in application, said applicant may appeal to the Association, at its Annual Meeting, to refer he claim to the incoming Executive Board, for final action.

Article XIV - Proposed - Changed Title of Article XIV from Convention Committee to Local Convention Host Committee.