

# Vermont State Firefighters' Association Inc



## CONSTITUTION

As amended August 14 1993

### ARTICLE I NAME

The organization shall be known as the Vermont State Firefighters' Association, Inc., and hereafter shall be known as the Association.

### ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be:

- A.** The Association shall have as its primary objective at all times to serve its constituents in the best possible manner, preserving life, limb and property.
- B.** To promote the membership of all members of fire departments, rescue and ambulance squads, and to solicit their participation in training, public education, and to promote fellowship among its members
- C.** To promote the best methods and procedures of fire and rescue training for fire, emergency and comparable organizations.
- D.** To cooperate with any organization and agencies for the general improvement of safety for the public.
- E.** To promote and support all legislation that will make Vermont a safer place to live, through the efforts of the fire, rescue/ambulance services.

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

The Association shall be comprised of active, associate, honorary, and life members

#### **A. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP**

Shall consist of anyone in good standing of any fire organization, fire brigade, rescue or ambulance squad within the State of Vermont, upon payment of annual dues.

#### **B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Shall consist of any person, firm or corporation interested in the purposes and objectives of the Association, but who are not members of an organized fire department, rescue or ambulance squad.

#### **C. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

May be conferred upon the following;

The Governor,  
Lieutenant Governor,  
Commissioner of Public Safety,  
Commissioner of Education,  
Commissioner of Motor Vehicles,  
Commissioner of Labor & Industry,  
Director of Emergency Management,  
Chief of Forest Resource Protection,  
Executive Director and Coordinator of Vermont Fire Service Training,  
State Fire Investigators.  
Asst. Fire Marshals

Or anyone so designated by the Executive Board.

#### **D. LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Shall be conferred on all Past Presidents of the Association upon completion of the first term of office and shall become a delegate-at-large with voting privileges. Life Membership is given in recognition of outstanding service to the Association and may be conferred upon a firefighter, rescue or ambulance squad member. The applicant must have attained at least fifteen years of membership in the Association and at least twenty years of membership in an organized fire department, rescue or ambulance squad.

A qualifying member may be nominated by his or her department or squad in writing to the Secretary of the Association, stating the nominee's qualifications, which will be verified by record, reviewed by and approved at a meeting of the Executive Board. A majority vote of those present at a meeting of the Executive Board shall be required. Life membership shall retain all the privileges of active membership without the requirement of dues.

#### **E. ANNUAL DUES**

For active and associate members will be established by vote of the Association. No dues will be assessed to honorary or life members.

## **F. RESCISSION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Board of Review may, by a two-thirds affirmative vote, rescind any membership for any reason deemed by the Board of Review not to be in the best interest of the Association, after a hearing is requested. The member involved shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Board at its next meeting.

A Board of Review appointed by the President. shall consist of two past presidents two representatives at-large, and two fire officers-at-large with the Association President to serve as Chairman of the Board with a vote only in case of a tie, The Association President will be responsible for calling the Board of Review into session, for notifying all persons involved by certified mail with return receipt and for conducting the hearing. Any charge concerning rescission of membership shall be given to the Association President in writing, stating the reason for concern. Should the Board of Review deliver a decision to vote affirmatively regarding the rescission of membership, annual dues for that year will be returned to the member so involved.

## **ARTICLE IV MEETINGS**

### **A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE / MEETING**

1. Requests to host the annual meeting/ conference shall be determined at the annual meeting and should be two years in advance.

2. Requests should be submitted in writing by departments or organizations interested in hosting the event. The Executive Board shall decide dates of the meeting and conference. The host shall decide where the meeting is to be held. If no requests are received, it will be the sole responsibility of the executive board to solicit a site for the meeting.

3. Each department or organization will be entitled to one delegate for the first and succeeding ten or fraction thereof. Only certified delegates present may vote at the annual or special meetings of the association. Delegates shall be active members of the association and the fire department, rescue or ambulance squads they represent, and must be duly elected and certified by their respective organizations.

### **B. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

1. Upon receipt of a properly signed petition by a minimum of twenty members of the ASSOCIATION, from at least eight of the fourteen counties, the President shall call a special meeting of the Executive Board.

### **C. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS:**

1. The executive Board shall hold at least four meetings a year exclusive of the annual meeting.

2. The President will announce the dates of the Executive Board meetings at the first meeting of the Executive Board after the annual meeting.

### **D. NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL / SPECIAL MEETINGS:**

1. Secretary shall notify all member departments and others, who are entitled, by mail, of the annual or any special meetings, thirty days prior to the scheduled date.

**E. All meetings** shall be conducted according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the ASSOCIATION, or if situations arise that are not covered, then Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail.

## **ARTICLE V OFFICERS**

**The officers of the Association shall consist of;**

President,  
First Vice President,  
Second Vice President,  
Secretary, Treasurer.

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be filled separately or jointly.

## **ARTICLE VI Quorum**

A. A Quorum, at the annual meeting or at a special meeting of the ASSOCIATION, shall consist of a minimum of fifty eligible voting delegates.

B. A quorum at an Executive board meeting shall consist of a minimum of fifteen eligible voting members.

C. Quorum requirements for committee meeting shall be fifty percent of the appointed committee.

## **ARTICLE VII Voting**

A. Each office shall be voted on separately and following the nominating committee's recommendations for President, first and second Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, the chair shall call three times for additional nominations for each office before taking the vote.

B. If more than one nomination for office is presented; a ballot vote must be taken. If only one candidate is presented a motion to accept is all that is necessary.

C. The presiding officer shall vote only when a tie occurs.

## **ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS**

### **A. The Constitution shall only be amended in the following manner;**

- 1.** Upon receipt of a proposed amendment to the Constitution, which has been signed by a minimum of twenty active members of the Association, the President shall refer it to the By-Laws Committee for its review, study and return of a written recommendation at the next Executive Board meeting.
  
- 2.** If the By-Laws Committee reports out the proposed change favorably, copies will be distributed to all departments and organizations with VSFA members at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting, and then voted on by ballot.
  
- 3.** A two-thirds majority shall be required to approve the proposed amendment.