

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

SONOMA COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE ONE

Section 1. This Association shall be known as the "Sonoma County Firemen's Association", State of California

ARTICLE TWO

~~-Objects-~~

Section 1. The Objects of this Association shall be:

- (a) To unite the members of the Sonoma County Fire Services for the purpose of promoting and protecting their common, mutual and collective interests.
- (b) To promote efficiency in the Sonoma County Fire Departments.
- (c) To promote harmony among members of the Fire Services by bringing them closer together through meetings where common problems can be discussed, ideas exchanged, and the policy of the Association established.

Section 2. This Association shall be founded on the democratic principle of "Individual Expression and United Action."

ARTICLE THREE

~~-Membership-~~

Section 1. Any organized or volunteer fire department in Sonoma County may become a member. This automatically includes all members of said department. These members are eligible to vote and hold office.

Section 2. Any individual, whose vocation is confined to the Fire Service Field, may upon approval of the membership, be granted an Associate Membership in the Sonoma County Firemen's Association. Such Associate Members will not have the right to vote.

FILE

Constitution

ARTICLE FOUR

-Officers-

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers shall comprise the Executive Board, which shall carry on the affairs of the Association between meetings and shall act as an advisory and investigating body.

ARTICLE FIVE

-Meetings-

Section 1. There shall be regular monthly general meetings except for the months of July, August, September and December.

ARTICLE SIX

-Dues-

Section 1. There shall be yearly dues.

ARTICLE SEVEN

-Assessments-

Section 1. Assessments shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present.

ARTICLE EIGHT

-Recall-

Section 1. Any elective officer, who becomes negligent in the performance of his duties, or guilty of any acts inimical to the welfare of the Association, may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership. This vote shall be taken in the same way prescribed for the regular elections for officers.

Section 2. To institute recall proceedings, a recall petition over the signature of not less than fifteen (15) members in good standing must be submitted to the Secretary of the Association. This petition shall have the same standing and shall be handled in the same way as in initiative petition.

FILE

Constitution

ARTICLE NINE

-Initiative and Referendum-

Section 1. Any proposition shall be submitted to a referendum vote to the membership at any general meeting after having been passed by a two-thirds majority at a previous meeting.

Section 2. Any official stand by the Association in regard to working conditions affecting salaries, pensions, working hours, civil service provisions, etc., can only be taken through a referendum vote of the membership present.

ARTICLE TEN

-Amendments-

Section 1. All amendments to this Constitution must be in writing, signed by five (5) members in good standing, and read at a meeting. Written notice must be given at least four days prior to the meeting. A majority of the vote of the members present at this meeting shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted to a referendum vote of the membership present. If an amendment be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, it shall be adopted and become a part of this Constitution.

Section 2. Amendments to the By-Laws shall be accomplished in the same way as provided in Article Ten, Section 1, for amendments to the constitution, except that they shall only require a majority vote of the membership present.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

-Incorporation-

Section 1. This Association may be incorporated under the laws of the State of California if it is so decided by a majority of the combined vote of the members attending the meeting.

FILE

BY -- LAWS

SONOMA COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

-Membership-

- Section 1. Any Fire Service or associate group interested in fire suppression or prevention may become a member of the Sonoma County Firemen's Association upon payment of dues.
- Section 2. Any applicant for active membership in the Sonoma County Firemen's Association shall be authorized by the department represented.
- Section 3. Any member of a fire service in good standing shall be eligible to attend meetings.

ARTICLE II

-Nomination of Officers-

- Section 1. The elective officers shall be nominated and elected annually during the period set by the President.
- Section 2. At the last meeting prior to the nomination period, the President shall announce the nomination period established.
- Section 3. All nominations for elective officers shall be made at an open meeting.
- Section 4. Nomination and election shall be for one officer at a time.
- Section 5. Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination to an elective office.
- Section 6. The President and Vice President shall not succeed themselves in office.

ARTICLE III

-Election of Officers-

- Section 1. All elections shall be by secret ballot at a regular meeting held in January.
- Section 2. The checking and counting of the ballots shall be done by three (3) man election board appointed by the President, and they shall notify themselves at the election meeting, and the officers shall take office at the next meeting following their election.

FILE

ARTICLE IV

-Installation of Officers-

Section 1. Any vacancy that may occur between elections shall be filled by a vote of the members to complete the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V

-Terms of Office-

Section 1. The terms of office for all officers shall be one(1) year.

ARTICLE VI

-Meetings-

Section 1. Regular general meetings shall be rotated as much as possible among the Fire Services, or associates, in the County of Sonoma.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the officers, or by a petition submitted to the Secretary, signed by twelve (12) departments in good standing.

Section 3. Any proposition, except when the constitution or by-laws state otherwise, shall be considered passed when it carries by a majority of the combined vote of the departments attending the meeting.

Section 4. Any fire department in good standing shall be entitled to one vote only on all matters brought before the members.

Section 5. Since this Association is a democratic organization, all members shall be on an equal footing, and official titles and ranks shall be disregarded at meetings.

ARTICLE VII

-Duties of Officers-

Section 1. The duties of officers shall be such as are implied by their respective titles, and such as are specified in these By-Laws and the Constitution.

Section 2. The President shall preside at the meetings of the Association. He shall appoint all such committees as may be authorized from time to time, unless otherwise directed by the vote of the members or by the By-Laws. He shall be, ex-officio, a member of same without the right to vote.

FILE

By-Laws

Section 3. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President during the absence of the latter.

Section 4. The Secretary shall receive all applications for membership; keep an accurate classified list of the membership of the Association with the address and telephone number of each member; keep a permanent and accurate record of the proceedings of every meeting of the Association; and issue all communications and notices not otherwise provided for.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect and receipt for all funds due to the Association. He shall keep proper accounts of all funds received and expended. He shall render monthly a detailed report of the financial standing of the Association, funds received and expended during the preceding month, the total amount received from the Services the preceding month, and the names of members in arrears for non-payment of dues. He shall, whenever called upon, submit his books for investigation by the Auditing Committee.

- (a) He shall make no expenditures and pay no bills for any indebtedness incurred by the Association except when such bills have been presented and approved, or appropriations made, by a majority of the combined vote of the members present at the meeting.
- (b) He shall make no expenditures except by bank check.
- (c) The President shall appoint an auditing committee from the membership to make an audit once a year.

ARTICLE VIII

-Financial-

Section 1. After the required approval has been given for an expenditure, the Treasurer shall draw a check for the expenditure.

Section 2. All checks drawn shall require at least the signature of the Treasurer and that of the President or Secretary.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall deposit in any bank that may be convenient to him, in the name of the Sonoma County Firemen's Association, all money received by him, not later than five days after the receipt of same.

FILE

By-Laws

ARTICLE IX

-Violations and Penalties-

Section 1. Any Department who becomes two months and up to six months in arrears in dues shall be considered a member in poor standing, without rights in the Association, and can only become a member in good standing again by paying up delinquent dues in full and all assessments.

Section 2. If any officer absents himself from three successive meetings without a satisfactory excuse, his office shall be declared vacant, and the vacancy shall be filled by vote of the members.

ARTICLE X

Section 1. The attendance of ten departments at a general meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI

-Nomination, Election and
Installation of First Officers-

Section 1. For the purpose of expediting the establishment of this Association by installing officers as soon as possible, Article II, Nomination of Officers, and the dates and times established, will be disregarded for the election of the first officers.

ARTICLE XII

Section 1. These By-Laws shall be in full force and effect immediately upon adoption.

FILE