



Volunteer Fire Officers Section

Florida Fire Chiefs' Association
221 Pinewood Dr
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Volunteer Fire Officers Section

By-Laws

Article I: Names and Addresses

The name of the section shall be the Volunteer Fire Officers Section (herein after referred to as the “Section”). The principal office of the Section shall be located as directed by the Florida Fire Chief’s Association Board of Directors (herein after referred to as the “Board”).

Article II: Purpose and Objectives

The purpose and objectives of this Section are to bring together, at least once a year, volunteers fire officers interested in saving of life, protection of properties, preventing and extinguishing of fires; to discuss ways and means for the betterment of the volunteer fire service, the reduction of the unnecessary loss of life and property, and the promotion of legislation for same; the distribution of donated surplus fire equipment, conducting fire research, making fire safety surveys, cooperating with the Board, and governmental agencies, and for the development of service through educational programs and for all other purposes permitted by law.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Membership classification: Within the Section, there shall be the following membership classification; Active, Affiliate, Educator, International Affiliate, Retired, Honorary and Corporate Partner.

Section 2. Active membership in the Section shall be limited to active members of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association who are volunteer administrative fire chiefs, other chief officers, and second ranking officers with administrative command in fire/rescue agencies charged with fire/rescue services within the State of Florida. Active members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership.

Section 3. Affiliate membership shall be available to persons not covered in Section 2 of this Article who are involved in volunteer fire and emergency services. Affiliate members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership except to vote and hold office.

Section 4. Educator membership shall be available to educators who are employed by a state or national fire college or earn a majority of their income from teaching or advising students at an accredited college or university who are in the position to encourage students to consider a fire service career. Educator members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership except to vote and hold office.

Section 5. International Affiliate membership shall be available to individuals who are involved in volunteer fire and emergency services outside the United States and its territories. International Affiliate members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership except to vote and hold office.

Section 6. Retired Membership shall be available to any member of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association who has maintained membership in good standing in accordance with Section 6 of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association by-laws.

Section 7. Honorary membership may be conferred by the Section Officers upon persons who have rendered conspicuous service to the Florida Volunteer Fire Service and/or the Section. Nominations for Honorary membership shall be submitted to the Section Officers, for consideration and upon approval by the Section Officers shall be recommended to the Florida Fire Chiefs' Board of Directors for final approval. Honorary members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership except to vote and hold office.

Section 8. Corporate Partner membership shall be available to companies providing products and service to volunteer fire and emergency services. Corporate Partner members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership except to vote and hold office.

Section 9. Application for membership – All applications for membership shall be made through the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association.

Section 10. Voting – On all membership votes, each section member shall be allowed one vote.

Section 11. Transferability – Membership shall be limited to individuals and is not transferable.

Section 12. Termination of membership

- (A) Any member may resign from the Section by submitting a written resignation to the Section Officers. Such a resignation shall be effective as of the date received by the Section Officers, unless it specifies another date.
- (B) The Section Officers may recommend in writing to the membership that any member be expelled from the Section for conduct contrary to the objectives of the Section or the Association. After having given the member an opportunity to be heard in his/her own defense at the next Section meeting after such recommendation has been presented to the membership and after having given the member an opportunity to present the reasons why he/she should not be expelled, the membership shall vote on the question of whether the member shall be expelled. A two-thirds affirmative vote of members present shall be necessary to expel a member.
- (C) Any member who resigns or is expelled shall forfeit any and all rights and privileges in the affairs and/or property of the Section, including dues already paid. Any member who resigns or is expelled shall remain liable for any dues or other charges due and owing at the time of his/her resignation or expulsion.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. Officers – The officers of the Section shall consist of a Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, 2nd Vice Chairman, and a Secretary-Treasurer, all of who shall serve without salary, and such salaried Chief Executive Staff Officer as may be determined by the Board, who shall serve without vote.

Article V: Section Officers

Section 1. Section Officers – The Section Officers, herein called the Officers, shall supervise the activities of the Section. The Officers shall have (5) members and shall consist of the following: Chairman, 1st Vice-Chairman, 2nd Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and an Executive Staff Officer, who shall serve without vote.

Section 2. Duties of the Chairman – It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at meetings of the Section. The Chairman shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Section and shall sign, as Chairman, all contracts and other instruments of writing.

Section 3. Duties of the 1st Vice-Chairman – The 1st Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman in conducting the business of the Section and perform such other duties as may be required in the conference assembled. In the absence or inability of the Chairman to perform prescribed duties, the 1st Vice-Chairman shall perform all duties of that office.

Section 4. Duties of the 2nd Vice Chairman - The 2nd Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman in conducting the business of the Section and perform such other duties as may be required in the conference assembled. In the absence or inability of the 1st Vice Chairman to perform prescribe duties, the 2nd Vice Chairman shall perform all duties of that office. The 2nd Vice Chairman shall automatically serve as Chair of the VFOS Membership Committee and as Member of the FFCA Membership Committee.

Section 5. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer – The Secretary-Treasurer shall authorize procedures for receiving and disbursing monies of the Section. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record all minutes of all Section meetings and insure disbursing these minutes to the member of the Section. The Secretary-Treasurer shall further assist with duties as described by the Chairman of the Section.

Section 6. Vacancies

- (A) Chairman – In the event a vacancy should occur in the office of the Chairman, the 1st Vice-Chairman shall at once assume all duties and responsibilities of that office.
- (B) 1st Vice-Chairman – In the event a vacancy should occur in the office of the 1st Vice-Chairman, the 2nd Vice Chairman shall at once assume all duties and responsibilities of that office.
- (C) 2nd Vice Chairman – In the event a vacancy should occur in the office of the 2nd Vice Chairman, the members shall appoint an active member in good standing who will serve in the 2nd Vice-Chairman position.
- (D) Secretary-Treasurer – In the event a vacancy should occur in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, the members shall appoint an active member in good standing who will serve in the Secretary-Treasurer position.

Article VI: Meeting

The section shall hold meetings at such time and place as determined by the Officers. At least 30 days notice in writing shall be given to members prior to each meeting. One meeting each year shall be designated as the Annual Meeting.

Article VII: Financial Matters

Section 1. The fiscal year – The fiscal year of the Section shall coincide with the Association. For the purpose of dues, the fiscal year will also coincide with the Association.

Section 2. Membership Dues – Membership dues shall be at rates established by the Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association.

Section 3. Non-payment of Dues – Members may be expelled by the Officers for failure to pay dues within 60 days after the beginning of the fiscal year.

Section 4. Roster and Records – The Section shall publish annually a membership roster designating the type of membership of each member. The minutes and records of the Section shall be open to inspection by any member in good standing at any time.

Section 5. Expenses – The Officers and committee members shall serve without pay except as otherwise provided herein, but may be reimbursed for their travel and other necessary business expenses, within such limit and according to such procedures as the officers may from time to time approve.

Article XI: Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be offered by any member of the Section proposing the same in writing and service the Chairman and Secretary with a copy thereof. Said proposed amendment must be read or distributed in writing in open conference at one meeting and shall not be voted upon until the following meeting of the Section. Amendments may be made to these bylaws only upon approval of two-thirds of the members present and voting. All amendments, alterations or revisions of any part of the bylaws shall take effect upon their adoption at the meeting to which it is voted upon unless otherwise provided.

Article XII: Rules of Order

In the event any question comes before the meeting for which no provision has been made in the Associations Charter or Section Bylaws, the presiding officer shall be guided by rules laid down in “Robert Rules of Order.”

Article XIII: Term

The term of this section shall be perpetual.

Article XIV: Dissolution

The Section shall use its funds only to accomplish the objectives and purpose specified in these bylaws and the Association Charter, and upon dissolution of the Section any funds remaining shall be distributed to the Association. Dissolution may be affected only by an affirmative vote of the membership and shall be in compliance with the applicable laws of the State of Florida and pertinent laws and regulations of any other governmental authority.