

Constitution and By-Laws
Of the
Rhode Island State Firefighters League



Rhode Island State Firefighters League
1898

As amended and revised
January, 2014

Preamble

The object and purpose of this League is to unite the firefighters of the State of Rhode Island, through the local Fire/EMS Associations for social, instructive, educational and legislative purposes, and to establish and perpetuate a mutual benefit for all firefighters in the State of Rhode Island, who are Members of Fire/EMS Associations, affiliated with the League.

Article I – Name and Seal

Section 1: This Association shall be known as the Rhode Island State Firefighters League.

Section 2: The seal shall be a circle with two concentric lines between which are the letters 'Rhode Island State Firefighters League.' Within the inner circle a Fire Hat with the figures "1898" on the flap.

Article II – Membership And Dues

Section 1: The membership of this League shall consist of two Delegates from each of the Fire/EMS Associations in the State of Rhode Island who have affiliated: each Association electing two Delegates and one alternate for a term of two years. Each Delegate and Alternate shall be members of the Association they represent. In addition to the Fire/EMS Associations, the Chiefs, Chief Officers, and all individual members of such Fire/EMS Association shall be "members" of the Rhode Island State Firefighters League; provided, however, that such individuals' names appear on the roster of the respective Fire/EMS Association and such Fire/EMS Association has paid the annual dues for each individual member or such individual has paid their own dues.

Section 2: Every Association in the League shall annually, on or before the January Meeting, pay to the Treasurer of the League upon receipt of a prepared, itemized bill the sum established by the membership at the October meeting to defray the expenses of the League. Any Association failing to pay said assessment on or before April 1st of that year shall stand suspended and receive no further notice of meetings or other communications except for an annual bill. Any organization which had been a member of the League any time in the past may apply in writing for reinstatement as a member in good standing with the payment of current year's dues plus any past dues.

Section 3: Fire/EMS Association, for the purposes of this article, shall be a bone fide service organization, either career or volunteer, or a recognized Firefighters Veteran Organization.

Section 4: All ex Presidents of this League shall be members in good standing and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges.

Section 5: Any delegate to the League who has served six years are eligible to request, in writing, their intent to be voted as a Life Member. The vote for Life Membership status will take place at the next Regular meeting.

Section 6: Life Members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of a delegate. In the event of a roll call vote and any member organization does not have the two (2) votes, either by delegate or alternate, then life members may exercise the vote of the member organization as a delegate. In any event, no organization shall have more than two (2) votes. They shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

Section 7: Honorary Membership: The name of any person, who in the judgment of the League has rendered conspicuous service in behalf of the firefighters of Rhode Island, may be presented at a regular meeting of the League, in writing stating fully the service rendered. It shall be laid upon the table until the succeeding regular meeting when it shall be acted upon. In case of rejection, the name shall not be presented again for a period of one (1) year from the date of rejection. Honorary members shall have the privileges of the floor, but shall not be eligible for office, except as a member of a committee, nor shall they be eligible to vote. They shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

Section 8: Sustaining Membership – A sustaining member is any person, organization, corporation representing manufacturers, corporations, vendors, or fire service or emergency services organizations, with no voting power. A sustaining member does not have to be physically located within the State of Rhode Island. Sustaining members shall not qualify to hold any officer position in the League. Sustaining Membership Dues structure to be suggested by the Fundraising committee to the Executive Board.

Section 9: Although membership in the League is not a requirement to receive financial awards from the League, preference will be given to those applications submitted by organizations that are members of the League in good standing.

Section 10: Fees and Dues: All fees and dues shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Board.

Article III - New Members

Section 1: Any Fire or Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Association, in any town or city in the State of Rhode Island, not already fully represented in the League, who desire to be represented, shall make a written application stating the name of the organization, and the entrance fee equal to the first year's dues, must be forwarded to the President of the League at least fifteen (15) days prior to a meeting of the League.

Section 2: The League will then vote upon the application of the Association for membership. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be necessary to admit the applicant.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1: The officers of the League shall consist of a President, five (5) Vice Presidents, one from each county in the State, a Recording Secretary a Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary, an Executive Secretary and Chaplain(s). The President, Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Secretary shall constitute the Executive Board. The Officers shall be elected by a plurality vote of the members of the League present and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Vacancies shall be filled at the next meeting after they occur and notice shall be given upon the call of the meeting. For the purposes of the Rhode Island Charter form, each county Vice President shall be designated as a Director. All officers of the League shall serve for a term of one (1) year.

Section 2: Duties of the President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the League, and to call special meetings whenever he/she may deem it expedient. He/She shall, at the request of five (5) representatives; they each belonging to different Associations, call special meetings of the League. He/She shall appoint all committees, except as otherwise provided for, and perform all duties pertaining to his/her office.

Section 3: Duties of the Vice Presidents: The Vice Presidents shall be styled first, second, third, fourth and fifth Vice Presidents, according to seniority. In the absence of the President from any meeting of the League, the Vice President next in order shall perform his duties. The order of seniority shall be from the following Counties; Newport, Washington, Kent, Bristol, Providence.

Section 4: Duties of the Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to attend all meetings of the League, to receive all moneys due, and give his/her receipt therefore. He/She shall pay all bills approved by the body at a regular meeting or if required between meetings approved by the President and two (2) Vice Presidents, and also by the Fundraising/Grant Committee provided that all authorized disbursements shall be supported by written documentation in the form of a receipt, an invoice, or a written signed statement as to the exact expenditures and purpose thereof. He/She shall also be empowered to pay bills received in between meetings up to \$2,000.00 each with the proper documentation submitted to the body for final authorization at the next meeting. He/She shall keep a true and correct account of all money received and paid for the League. He/She shall keep his/her accounts posted so that they may be audited at any time. He/She shall deposit in some federally insured institution, in the name of the Rhode Island State Firefighters League no less than fifty percent (50%) of all money in his/her possession belonging to the League, and shall submit at the annual meeting and whenever called upon to do so by the League, a full report of all money received and paid out by him/her. Such other moneys in his possession, in excess of those deposited in a federally insured institution, may be deposited in such other investments as the Executive Board may direct. He/She shall be sworn to a faithful performance of the duties before entering office.

Section 5: Duties of the Assistant Treasurer: In the absence of the Treasurer from any meeting of the League, the Assistant Treasurer shall perform the duties of the Treasurer.

Section 6: Duties of the Recording Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a correct record of all proceedings of the League. He/She shall keep a roll call sign-in log for both Delegates and Life Members for every regular and special meeting, such log shall be kept as part of the permanent record. Whenever the yeas and nays are ordered, he/she shall call the roll based upon that sign-in log. He/She shall also be the custodian of all records of the League.

Section 7: Duties of the Executive Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Executive Secretary to attend all meetings of the League to handle all correspondence for the League, to notify representatives and delegates of all meetings, and chairmen of all committees of their appointment, with the names of members composing the Committee, and subject matter referred to them. It shall be his/her duty to receive and forward any and all correspondence or request to the chairman of the proper committee. He/She shall send out bills and dues to all member organizations according to these by-laws in the month of December.

Section 8: Duties of the Executive Board: It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to transact all business as necessary in the absence of a regular meeting.

Section 9: Duties of the Chaplains: The Chaplains shall attend to the spiritual needs of the members of the League and perform such other duties as their office calls for, when properly notified.

Article V – Committees

Section 1: There shall be five (5) standing committees, namely Legislative, Social, Auditing, Budgeting, Fundraising/Grant committees. It shall be the duty of all committees to submit a report to the body annually summarizing their activities over the previous year.

Article VI – Duties of Committees

Section 1: The Legislative Committee shall consist of five (5) members, one from each County, to be appointed at the November meeting. They shall present on behalf of the League all matters to be introduced in the General Assembly in the interest of the firefighters of Rhode Island. They shall appear before committees as necessary, watch and track all bills pending in the General Assembly that pertain to the fire community, and make a report of their findings to the League.

Section 2: The Social Committee shall consist of five (5) members, one from each county. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan and execute social and special events as directed by the President or by a vote of the body.

Section 3: The Auditing Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members, each one from a different county, appointed at the November meeting, who shall audit all books, account vouchers and financial transactions of the Treasurer, all such records, etc. Having been delivered to said committee at least ten (10) days after year end bank statements have been received.

Section 4: The Budgeting Committee shall create a budget and submit same to the body for adoption at the annual meeting. They shall have the books audited by Certified Public Accountant if and when needed. The Budgeting Committee shall consist of all Vice Presidents.

Section 5 The Fundraising/Grant Committee shall consist of a minimum of four (4) members, one of which will be Chairman as determined by committee members, they shall be in charge of all fundraising activities for the League, inclusive of the annual golf outing. They shall be responsible to review and grant to applying organizations money requested for education and training or whatever that may be requested by the League. They shall maintain records and a log book on all financial rewards which will be available to be inspected by the League at any time.

Section 6: If a County does not desire to be represented on any committee, an alternate may be appointed from another County.

Article VII – Amendments

Section 1: The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the League, providing such amendment be submitted in writing at a regular meeting and continued until the next meeting for action, due notice having been given to every member of the League.

Section 2: No section of this Constitution or By-Laws shall be suspended, except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.

Section 3: All previous Constitution and By-Laws of this League, parts thereof or amendments thereto, are hereby annulled and are null and void.

Section 4: This Constitution and By-Laws shall become effective and in full force upon its adoption.

Article VIII – Meetings

Section 1: The Annual Meeting shall be held on the second Wednesday in January of each year, and the regular meetings shall be held on the second Wednesday in February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November at such place as has been decided upon at a meeting previously held.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the President, or the request of five (5) members, each belonging to different associations. Ten (10) member organizations shall constitute a quorum.

Article IX – Dissolution of the League

Section 1: Should any member organization decide that dissolution would be made at a regular meeting. If approved, the matter will be placed on the agenda of the next meeting and written notification shall be made to all member organizations no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting of dissolution. For the motion to pass, it must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the League at two (2) consecutive meetings with a roll-call vote. If the motion is approved, the Treasurer would follow all necessary legal procedures to see that the League fulfills any and all financial obligations within sixty (60) days of the final vote to disband. The remaining assets shall be divided among all member organizations in good standing at that time with the agreement that said money would be used exclusively for education and training purposes.

ARTICLE X – Order of Business

Moment of Silence
Roll Call of Officers
Reading of minutes of previous meeting
Communications
Bills and Accounts
Report of Committees
Application for membership
Unfinished business
New business
Adjournment
Education and Informational Program

Second Wednesday in January shall be the Annual Meeting, reports of the Executive Secretary providing a complete list of current members, Treasurer's Annual Report and all committee reports: Election of Officers.

Second Wednesday in February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November shall be regular meetings. Selection of a place for regular meetings: time and place for committee meetings: and all other business that may be legally come before the League.

Firefighters MEMORIAL Sunday

Section 1: The second Sunday in June of each year shall be the Firefighters Memorial Sunday of the Rhode Island State Firefighters League

Section 2: On that day, each Firefighters Association shall meet at their headquarters and at a stated time proceed to the burial places of deceased firefighters in their respective districts, and after appropriate services, decorate the graves of their departed comrades.

Section 3: Meetings of the League shall be governed by Robert's Rules Of Order.

PAST PRESIDENTS

*John H. Davis	Pawtucket	1898
*John H. Davis	Pawtucket	1899
*John H. Davis	Pawtucket	1900
*Levi S. Winchester	Riverside	1901
*Levi S. Winchester	Riverside	1902
*Adelbert D. Roberts	Woonsocket	1903
*Leroy R. Whitman	Cranston	1904
*Leroy R. Whitman	Cranston	1905
*William H. Erskine	Albion	1906
*Daniel G. Coggeshall	Bristol	1907
*George A. Dunham	Westerly	1908
*Jeremiah McCarthy	Woonsocket	1909
*Ira D. Goff	Riverside	1910
*Thomas H. Rhodes	Pawtucket	1911
*John A. Hamilton	Cranston	1912
*William A. Brown	Wakefield	1913
*John J. Mullen	East Providence	1914
*Everett F. Fiske	Fiskeville	1915
*Fred H. Clark	Lippitt	1916
*Napoleon Tremblay	Manville	1917
*David Robertson	Westerly	1918
*George H. Merrill	Pawtucket	1919
*George Hunt	Providence	1920
*John H. P. Burdick	Wickford	1921
*William R. Comrie	East Providence	1922
*Everett I. Patt	Central Falls	1923
*George W. Smith	Wakefield	1924
*Edward A. Brennan	East Greenwich	1925
*Dennis F. Bristow	Warren	1926
*James B. Handy	Crompton	1927
*Walter H. Hildreth	Providence	1928
*Fred Shortman	Westerly	1929
*Philiber Bouchard	Johnston	1930
*Benjamin S. Lee	Pawtucket	1931
*Rufus J. Sprague	Lakewood	1932
*Robert M. Hay	Riverside	1933
*Robert J. Anderson	Bristol	1934
*Harry R. Howe	Greenville	1935
*Patrick J. Harrington	East Providence	1936
*William Fearn	Apponaug	1937
*John J. O'Reilly	Pawtucket	1938
*Clifford Wilbur	Peace Dale	1939
*Frank Charlesworth	Providence	1940
*William H. Pendleton	Westerly	1941

*Clarence G. Cook	Harrisville	1942
*George N. Buckhout	Newport	1943
*Michael F. Fogerty	Johnston	1944
*James F. O'Leary	Warren	1945
*Adolph Alsfeld	Conimicut	1946
*Joseph J. Ellis	Providence	1947
*John H. Hannon	North Tiverton	1948
*Columbus J. Pasetti	Westerly	1949
*Manuel F. Cooney	Lakewood	1950
*Fred Guevremont	Bristol	1951
*Willard B. Hall	North Providence	1952
*Michael J. Lynne	Newport	1953
*Earl F. Wills	Westerly	1954
*J. Richard Hill	Coventry	1955
*Ralph Albro	West Greenwich	1955
*Raymond S. Brightman	Bristol	1956
*William Pettiford	Providence	1957
*Joseph J. Slinn	Tiverton	1958
*Thomas J. Salzer	Peace Dale	1959
*Frank H. White	Warwick	1960
*Norman Servant	Bristol	1961
*Joseph W. Sullivan	Saylesville	1962
*Ernest R. Brown	Tiverton	1963
*Alexander Smith	Hope Valley	1964
Ralph Albro	Kent County	1965
*Charles Andrade	Bristol	1966
*Henry Cesana	North Providence	1967
Frank Droham	North Tiverton	1968
David Greene	Dunn's Corners	1969
Charles Carlson	Warwick	1970
*Robert B. Munroe	Barrington	1971
John Kazynski	Pascoag	1972
Robert Wilder	Portsmouth	1973
*Howard Shortman	Westerly	1974
*Charles Murphy	Warwick	1975
Burton West	Bristol	1976
Donald Brown	Smithfield	1977
John M. Gough	Newport	1978
*Pasquale Frisella	Wakefield	1979
Albert E. Andrews	Warwick	1980
*Raymond Monast	Warren	1981
Robert Gagnon	Tiverton	1982
Tom Keena	Westerly	1983
Otis Wyatt	Narragansett	1984
Russell Head	Bristol	1985
Harold French	Georgiaville	1986

Alan Souza	North Tiverton	1987
*Wilson Sprague	Warwick	1988
*Wilson Sprague	Warwick	1989
Richard Ferrari	Bristol	1990
John Lyman	Harmony	1991
George Pennanchi	Newport	1992
Kevin D. Quinn	South Kingstown Forest Fire	1993
*Donald Montgomery	Warwick	1994
Marc Puleo	Hampton Meadows	1995
Bill Sundberg	North Scituate	1996
Douglas Crook	Little Compton	1997
Henry Wright	Exeter # 2	1998
James Mederios	Bristol	1999
*Joe Connelly	West Gloucester	2000
Douglas Crook	Little Compton	2001
Tony Cinquegrana	South Kingstown Forest Fire	2002
Walter Krychta	Warren	2003
George Leach	Greenville	2004
Joe Orlean	Westerly	2005
Jason Rhodes	Harrisville	2006
Buzz Hagarty	Dunns Corners	2007
Ron Smith	Little Compton	2008
Paul Sweet	Hianloland	2009
Richard DiCarlo	West Gloucester	2010
Tom Algeire	Dunns Corners	2011
Robin Winemiller	Special Signal Fire Assoc	2012
Christine Monez	Central Coventry	2013
Robert Peacock	Watch Hill	2014

*Deceased

