

South Dakota Firefighters Association, Incorporated

Constitution

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ARTICLE I

The name of the organization is: **SOUTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, Incorporated.**

ARTICLE II PURPOSES

The purposes of the Association as organized shall be to promote the science and methods of fire protection, life safety and emergency safety by increasing the knowledge and awareness of its members and the public. To assist in the training and education of the State Fire service and the public to prevent life and property loss from fire, both by prevention and suppression. The Association, to achieve these goals shall have the power to acquire, receive, and accept by way of gifts, purchase, lease, or otherwise, money and property of every kind and description without limitations as to amount or value as may be received for the benefit of the Fire Service. The Association shall not operate for pecuniary profit. No part of the money or other property shall be for the benefit of any member of the Association or private individual or distributed otherwise than for the business or objects as herein above provided.

ARTICLE III CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

The classes into which members are divided, the designation of each class and a statement of the preferences, voting rights and limitations and related rights in respect of members in each class are as follows:

A. **ACTIVE MEMBERS:** Any person who is an active member of any fire department and who subscribes to and supports the goals and the objectives of the Association may become an active member by paying annual dues.

B. **HONORARY MEMBERS:** Any person of outstanding prominence, who has made significant contributions to the field of fire protection, life safety, and emergency training, may be awarded an Honorary Membership by the Board of Directors.

C. **ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** Any person who believes in and supports the purposes, goals and objectives of the Association may become an Associate member by paying annual dues. This is a non-voting and non-office holding membership.

D. **LIFE MEMBER:** Any active member may be conferred a Life Membership at the discretion of the Board of Directors, for outstanding contribution to the advancement of the Association and its purposes, goals and objectives.

E. **DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP:** A Fire Department in the State of South Dakota can be a Department member by paying the annual dues as set in the By-Laws. This is a non-voting membership.

F. Only active and life members, in good standing, shall have the right to vote or hold office in the Association. In order to be in good standing an active members dues must be paid in full. Life members are considered to be in good standing at all times.

G. There shall be no limit to the number of classes of membership in the Association.

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H. The membership period in the Association, with the exception of Life and Honorary members, shall be set by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There shall be seven (7) directors of the Association. One from each of the seven (7) Fire School Districts. The Board of Directors shall have general charge of the affairs of the Association. The Board shall establish policy of the business of the Association, and conduct the affairs through the Executive Board and such committee or committees as shall from time to time be formed, pursuant to the By Laws of the Association.

A. Suspension: An officer or director may be suspended for cause by a two thirds (2/3) majority of the board members present for such action.

B. Removal: An officer or director may be removed from office for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the board members present. The officer or director is entitled to a hearing before such vote is taken.

ARTICLE V
OFFICERS

The Officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice President, the immediate Past President and one (1) Director chosen from the Seven Districts.

There shall be an Executive Board of the Association made up of the four officers. The Executive Board will, have general charge of the Association and its business between meetings of the full Board of Directors and shall function, within the policy established by the Board of Directors.

The duties and the terms of Officers and Directors shall be those set in the By-Laws of the Association.

ARTICLE VI
MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

An Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held at the time and place determined by the Board of Directors. The purpose of the meeting shall be to hear the reports of the officers, Directors, and Committees, and the transaction of other business relating to the affairs of the Association. The election of Officers and Directors shall be held at this meeting.

There may be held one or more regular meetings of the Association each year at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. Quorum for the conduct of business of the Association shall be fifty (50) voting members.

ARTICLE VII
BY LAWS

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The By Laws shall provide for the management and government of the Association in all its activities, except as provided in the Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended, repealed, or added to only in the following manner:

A. Proposals for the amendment or repeal of existing provisions or the addition of new provisions to the Constitution shall be made in writing addressed to the President of the association by any twenty-five (25) voting members or by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors.

B. Any proposed changes shall be circulated to the membership for public comment forty-five (45) days prior to an Annual Meeting. The proposed change shall be placed on the agenda of the Annual Meeting for a vote requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present for passage.

Revised: June 2000
 August 2005