

**CLEVELAND COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1

Any member of a rated Fire Department, whether the department is paid or volunteer, shall, upon payment of dues as prescribed by the By-Laws of this Association, qualify as a member of this Association.

SECTION 2

The term of membership in this Association shall be one year, commencing at the first of each year. New members may be admitted, however, at any time during the year upon compliance with the By-Laws of this Association.

**ARTICLE II
DUES**

SECTION 1

The monies necessary to further the objectives and purposes of the Association may be raised by the assessment of dues against each member department in an amount to be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors once a year at the commencement of each fiscal year, the payment of such dues as are determined and assessed also being a prerequisite to membership in this Association.

SECTION 2

Members who fail within thirty (30) days from the time dues are assessed to pay their dues, shall be notified by the Treasurer by mail at the last known address of such member, and if payment is not received of such member on or before the next meeting of the Board of Directors, occurring more that seven (7) days after the mailing of such notice, the Treasurer shall report this fact to the Board of Directors who shall order that such delinquent member be dropped from the rolls of the membership of the Association and thereupon forfeit all rights, title, and privileges of membership.

ARTICLE III
MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1

The regular meetings of members of the Association shall be held quarterly, the Fourth Thursday night during the months of January, April, and July, and October at such places as determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2

The regular meeting held each year during the month of October shall be and constitutes the Annual Meeting of the Association.

SECTION 3

Special meetings of the members shall be held upon the call of the Board of Directors, a majority thereof, the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, at such time and place as may be fixed and stated in the special called meeting notice.

SECTION 4

Notice of the time, place, and purpose of every meeting of the members shall be given, by an official notice to each Fire Department, by the Secretary at least one week prior to the date of such meeting.

ARTICLE IV
DELEGATES

SECTION 1

All members of member departments in good standing shall be delegates in the Association.

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1

The Board of Directors shall have the duty, power and authority to direct the management of the business of the Association and may adopt such rules and regulations as it shall deem proper and consistent with the law, the charter and the By-Laws of the Association.

SECTION 2

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Chief, or his/her authorized representative of each department in good standing, the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate Past President of the Association.

SECTION 3

Members of the Board of Directors shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors in the office are determined. Vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors from the membership of the Association.

SECTION 4

The Board of Directors shall meet from time to time and at such place or places as may be necessary for the proper and effective management and control of said Association upon a call or notice from the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or any five members of the Board of Directors, provided that written notice be sent to every member of the Board of Directors at the last known email/USPS address of such member not less than one week prior to such meeting.

SECTION 5

All voting to control the affairs of the Association shall be by a roll call vote by departments. The Chief, or his/her authorized representative of each department in good standing, shall cast one (1) vote for each department present. A majority vote of the departments present shall be required to pass any motion.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

SECTION 1

The delegates (members) shall at the Annual Meeting of the Association, elect from the membership of the Association, a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain. Election of Association Officers shall occur every two years.

Each delegate shall be given a paper ballot containing the names submitted by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Each member shall also be given the right to write-in one (1) additional nominee for each Officer position.

Nominees for each Officer position receiving the majority of the votes shall be elected to the respectful position.

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for generating, distributing, collecting, and tallying the ballots at the Annual Meeting of the Association.

SECTION 2

The President shall be the chief executive officer and presiding officer of the Association and the Board of Directors, and shall be charged with the duty, authorized, and empowered to employ, on behalf of the Association, such technical, legal, and professional assistance and personnel for such purpose or purposes as he may deem in the best interest of the Association.

The President shall make a report to the members of the corporation at the Annual Meeting of the Association covering briefly the activities and the accomplishment of the corporation during his term of office, and any plans or projects which have begun but Incomplete at the time of the meeting.

The President will have the authority to spend up to \$300 at one time without the consent of the Board of Directors of the Association.

SECTION 3

The First Vice-President shall be the principle assistant to the President, shall in the absence of the President perform all duties of the President, and shall, in case of death, resignation or other disability of the President, succeed to the Office of President. The First Vice-President shall serve as the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

SECTION 4

The Second Vice-President, in the absence of the President and the First Vice-President, shall perform all duties of the President. The Second Vice-President shall serve as the training liaison and Chairman of the Training/Fire College Committee.

SECTION 5

The Treasurer shall oversee all the financial operations of the corporation and shall keep financial records of the corporation. He shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors and general membership with respect to financial matters. The Treasurer is authorized to assume the duties of the Secretary in the event of his absence, illness, or disqualification. The treasurer shall be bonded in at least the amount of money under his control and such bond premiums shall be paid from the Treasury.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for administrating the Fraternal Benefit Fund.

SECTION 6

The Secretary shall keep a complete record of all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors and shall have general charge and supervision of the books and records of the Association. He shall sign all papers with the President and such other papers pertaining to the Association as he may be authorized and directed by the Board of Directors. Upon the election of his successor, the Secretary shall turn over to him all books and other property belonging to the Association as he may have in his possession.

SECTION 7

The Chaplain shall act as counselor and advisor and shall promote the spiritual and Physical welfare of the members and their families. He shall open all meeting of the Association and shall visit members in the hospital. He shall deliver suitable eulogy before the Association upon the passing of any of its members. He

Shall accept any other duties assigned by the Officers of the Association.

SECTION 8

All Officer and Officer-elects shall meet the last week of December at a pre-designated place and make the necessary transactions for the change of positions.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

SECTION 1

The President shall, with the advice and assistance of the Board of Directors, appoint a By-Laws Committee consisting of three (3) members and a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members and any other committees he deems necessary for the successful operation of the Association.

SECTION 2

The Scholarship Committee shall be a standing Committee of the Association and the Board of Directors shall adopt a policy to properly administer the scholarship program. The Scholarship Committee shall consist of the First Vice-President and four Chief Officers. The four Chief Officers shall be one each; residents from within each of the CCS High School Districts (Burns, Crest, Kings Mountain, and Shelby). The President shall, with the advice and assistance of the Board of Directors, appoint the four Chief Officers to the Scholarship Committee. The First Vice-President of the Association shall serve as the Chairman of this Committee. The Committee shall make a report at each meeting of the Association on the Scholarship Program. A final

report, including all awarded scholarships, will be due at the annual meeting of the Association.

SECTION 3

The Training/Fire College Committee shall consist of the Second Vice-President, the Cleveland Community College's Fire/Rescue Coordinator, and each Training Officer of the member Departments of the Association. The Second Vice-President of the Association shall serve as the Chairman of this Committee. The Committee shall make a report, including financial statements, at each meeting of the Association on the Fire College. A final report of the previous Fire College will be due at the annual meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII FRATERNAL BENEFIT FUND

SECTION 1

The purpose of the Fraternal Benefit Fund shall be to reinforce more firmly the bonds of fraternity and friendship now existing between the members of the Firefighters Association.

SECTION 2

All members and/or Board of Directors of member departments in good standing shall be eligible for membership in the Fraternal Benefit Fund. To become a member of the Fraternal Benefit Fund, the standard application shall be completed and sent to the Treasurer of the Association.

SECTION 3

Each member shall be assessed \$5.00 for each death of a member of the Fraternal Benefit Fund.

SECTION 4

Upon receiving satisfactory notice of a death of a member of the Fraternal Benefit Fund the Treasurer shall promptly forward to the beneficiary identified in Association Records a sum equal to \$5.00 times the total number of members enrolled in the Fraternal Benefit Fund.

SECTION 5

The Board of Directors shall assess additional fees to each member of the Fraternal Benefit Fund as may be needed to keep the viable for future benefit expenditures.

SECTION 6

If a fire department is over 30 days delinquent in payments to the Fraternal Benefit Fund, no death benefit shall be paid to the family of a member of that department until all delinquent payments are resolved.

ARTICLE IX

SEAL

SECTION 1

The Association shall have a corporate seal with name of the Association inscribed thereon and such other appropriate legend as the Board of Directors may determine.

ARTICLE X

BY-LAWS

SECTION 1

The By-Laws of the corporation may be amended, altered, supplemented, or repealed at any meeting of the Board of Directors, if two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors present are in favor of the changes.

SECTION 2

These By-Laws as amended will take effect the 24 January 2020.