



June 9, 2019

Officers and Members of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association

The By-Laws Committee will present the following proposed amendments to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws. These have been discussed and vetted at the April 14, 2019 meeting and will be presented for membership approval at the 2019 Convention as such and unless modifications are recommended at this meeting this will serve as final reading prior submission to general membership at the Annual Convention.

Amended portions indicated in *bold italics*:

Constitution

Article III Membership

Section IV

For the purpose of this article, *organizational* members shall be defined as any Volunteer Fire Company or Fire Department, and Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Association, or Firemen's Benevolent Association, or organizations thereof, volunteer ambulance services, including organizations striving to enhance the fire service of New York State and all those other Volunteer Fire Organizations who comply with the By-Laws of this Association.

Individual members shall be defined as any individual who served as a duly elected delegate or other individual accepted as member upon completion of membership application and paying an initiation fee and first year's dues as outlined in Article IV of this Association's By-Laws.

ARTICLE V – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section I

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Resolutions | N. By-Laws |
| B. Legislative | O. Topics |
| C. Nominating | P. Audit |
| D. Membership | Q. Past Presidents |
| E. Emergency Medical Services | R. Bowling |
| F. Fire Prevention | S. Queen's Pageant |
| G. Steering | T. Tournament & Drill |
| H. Budget | U. Nozzle Practice |
| I. Convention | V. President's Participation Award |
| J. Parade Rules | W. Service Award & 2% Tax |
| K. Fireman of the Year | X. Memorial Scholarship |
| L. Fire Police | <i>Y. Fire Officers</i> |
| M. Public Relations | |

By-Laws

ARTICLE I – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – PRESIDENT

A. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings of the Association, both regular and special. He shall call special meetings at the request of the majority of the Executive Committee or when he deems a call of the Association necessary, at such time and place as he or the Executive Committee shall designate. He shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, and the following standing committees; A) Resolutions; B) Legislative; C) Nominating; D) Membership; E) Emergency Medical Services; F) Fire Prevention; G) Steering; H) Budget; I) Convention; J) Parade Rules; K) Firemen of the Year; L) Fire Police; M) Public Relations; N) By-Laws; O) Topics; P) Audit; Q) Past Presidents; R) Bowling; S) Queen's Pageant; T) Tournament & Drill; U) Nozzle Practice; V) President's Participation Awards; W) Service Award and 2% Tax; X) Memorial Scholarship; *and Y) Fire Officers.*

ARTICLE III – STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 16

The AUDIT COMMITTEE shall consist of six Trustees, minimum of three to function, appointed by the chairman of the Board of Trustees. *They shall audit the all the financials of the Association including but not limited to the books of the Secretary, Treasurer, Bowling and Program Book Committees twice a year. The first audit should take place on a time set forth by the Committee on the Thursday of the Convention.* The second Audit shall take place at 11:00 AM on the Sunday of the September meeting. Other audits may be conducted at such times as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 27 (New Section)

The FIRE OFFICERS COMMITTEE shall consist of at least five (5) members who duties will be to work with the Host Committee to arrange appropriate guest speaker(s) and/or seminars providing fire protection and suppression training for our membership at the Annual Convention.

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS, FIVE YEAR MEMBERS, FULLY PAID LIFE MEMBERS, AND DELEGATES

SECTION 6

Any active member of a department belonging to the Western New York Firemen's Association may become an individual member of this Association without becoming a delegate to the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association from their respective Company. Each prospective applicant may become a member after completing the membership application and paying an initiation fee and first year's dues. *All individual members must maintain membership in a respective Fire Company or Fire Department, or Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Association, or Firemen's Benevolent Association, or organizations thereof, volunteer ambulance services, including organizations striving to enhance the fire service of New York State and all those other Volunteer Fire Organizations who comply with the By-Laws of this Association at all times in order to retain membership privileges in the Western New York Volunteer Firefighter's Association.*

SECTION 7 (New Section)

The Executive Committee will be empowered to remove or suspend members due to malfeasance including but not limited to actions deemed detrimental to the Association including but not limited any failure to support this Association's Officers and/or Constitution and By-Laws.

The Committee welcomes any input from membership regarding these current proposals and additional proposals maybe submitted to the Committee prior to and/up to the June quarterly meeting of the Association.

Firematically submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William W. Kershner', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

William W. Kershner, Chairman
WNYVFA By-Law Committee