



April 10, 2022

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

The following proposed amendments to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws are currently under review by the By-Laws Committee for membership approval at the 2021 Convention (amended portions indicated in bold):

Constitution

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section III (Current)

The roll of this organization shall be comprised of members, five year members, fully paid life members, sustaining members, and honorary members.

Section III (Proposed)

The roll of this organization shall be comprised of members, fully paid life members, sustaining members, and honorary members.

Section V (Current)

Five year members and twenty year fully paid life members shall be those members who qualify as such in accordance with the By-Laws of this Association.

Section V (Proposed)

Twenty year fully paid life members shall be those members who qualify as such in accordance with the By-Laws of this Association.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Section I (Current)

This constitution may be amended on the second day of any annual meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that the By-Laws Committee presents proposed amendments to the convention at the first day's meeting. All proposed amendments must be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting.

Section I (Proposed)

This constitution may be amended on the second day of any annual meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that the By-Laws Committee presents the proposed amendments, submitted in duplicate to the Secretary, at the June Quarterly Meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VI – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS *(Current)*

Section I

The regular Business Meetings of the Association shall be denoted as the quarterly meetings of the Executive Committee in the months of January, April, June, and September as well as the November Work Shop Meeting (actual dates to be determined in concurrence with the Association Executive Committee and the current local Committee).

ARTICLE VI – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS (*Proposed*)

Section I

The regular Business Meetings of the Association shall be denoted as the quarterly meetings of the Executive Committee in the months of ~~January~~, April, June, and September as well as the November Work Shop Meeting (actual dates to be determined in concurrence with the Association Executive Committee and the current local Committee).

Section II (*New Section*)

The regular Business Meetings of the Association shall mean all in person meetings and any “virtual or electronic” meetings if such “virtual or electronic” meeting has been approved by the President. A “virtual or electronic” meeting shall be permitted by means of conference telephone or other communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at such meeting, except where a person participates in the meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

By-Laws

ARTICLE III – STANDING COMMITTEES (*Proposed*)

SECTION 19 (*Remove*)

~~The FIRE CHIEF'S COMMITTEE shall consist of at least five members. They shall be persons who are well versed in fire chief duties and responsibilities. This committee shall serve in an advisory capacity and be available to give aid in this area to all members. They shall set up and maintain an information service at the annual convention.~~

Re-number Section 20 – Section 26 to Section 19 – Section 25 respectively.

ARTICLE IV (*Current*)

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

SECTION 3 (*Current*)

Any person may be elected to fully paid life membership of this Association by the majority vote of all members present at the annual meeting upon the following conditions and restrictions: upon retirement as President of the Association or upon payment of twenty years of dues paying membership in the Association.

Five year members for five consecutive years as an attendant at the annual meetings as a regularly elected delegate from any member organization in good standing, for being five years an attendant at our annual meetings as Chief or President of any fire department or fire company within the Counties holding membership in this Association. After the expiration of five years from the time when he or she first becomes a delegate and the payment of his or her annual dues for the period. In either of the above capacities, he or she shall be entitled to five year membership. Upon fulfilling the said requirements, the Secretary shall issue a certificate and membership pin to such person achieving the status of five year member.

ARTICLE IV (*Proposed*)

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

SECTION 3 (*Proposed*)

Any person may be elected to fully paid life membership of this Association by the majority vote of all members present at the annual meeting upon the following conditions and restrictions: upon retirement as President of the Association or upon payment of twenty years of dues paying membership in the Association.

~~Five-year members for five consecutive years as an attendant at the annual meetings as a regularly elected delegate from any member organization in good standing, for being five years an attendant at our annual meetings as Chief or President of any fire department or fire company within the Counties holding membership in this Association. After the expiration of five years from the time when he or she first becomes a delegate and the payment of his or her annual dues for the period. In either of the above capacities, he or she shall be entitled to five year membership. Upon fulfilling the said requirements, the Secretary shall issue a certificate and membership pin to such person achieving the status of five year member.~~

ARTICLE V - DUES

SECTION 1 (Current)

Initiation Fee for all Organizations\$10.00
Annual Dues for all Organizations\$15.00
Annual Dues for all Chiefs, Presidents,
Individual Members, and Fire Year Members\$ 5.00
Initiation Fee for Individual Members \$ 5.00

SECTION 1 (Proposed)

Initiation Fee for all Organizations\$10.00
Annual Dues for all Organizations\$15.00
Annual Dues for all Chiefs, Presidents,
Individual Members, ~~and Fire Year Members~~\$ 5.00
Initiation Fee for Individual Members \$ 5.00

SECTION 2 (Current)

After five years of service, one shall be considered a Five Year Member and receive a membership pin. Upon completion of another fifteen (15) years of paying dues, or completion of a term as President, one shall receive a Fully Paid Life Membership Card and Certificate of Fully Paid Life Membership and no further dues shall be required.

SECTION 2 (Proposed)

Upon completion of twenty (20) years of paying dues, or completion of a term as President, one shall receive a Fully Paid Life Membership Card and Certificate of Fully Paid Life Membership and no further dues shall be required.

ARTICLE VIII –AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 (Current)

These By-Laws may be amended on the second day of any annual convention by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting provided the By-Law Committee presents the proposed amendments to the convention at the first day’s meeting. All proposed amendments must be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting.

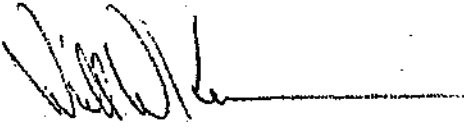
SECTION 1 (Proposed)

These By-Laws may be amended on the second day of any annual convention by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting that the By-Laws Committee presents the proposed amendments, submitted in duplicate to the Secretary, at the June Quarterly Meeting of the Association

It was the decision of the Committee to recommit to the Executive Committee the number of and county makeup of the various Standing Committees discussed at the November 14, 2021 Workshop Meeting. In addition, since we should be continually working to grow this Association, any committee that requires county representation from each of our member counties be filled by the Trustee from that respective county. This would encourage our Trustees to reach out and recruit qualified members from their respective counties to recommend as appointment to the Association President.

The Committee continues to welcome 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