

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of the **Connecticut State Firefighters' Association** in order to form a more perfect organization, establish harmony, of action, insure propriety and success, provide pecuniary support, secure protection, promote the best interests of the firefighters in Connecticut, and to compile statistics of information concerning the practical workings of systems, and the merits of various apparatus in use for the extinguishing of fires, also the cultivation of fraternal fellowship between the several departments of the State, and do hereby establish the By-Laws appearing on the following pages.

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. This organization will be known as the **Connecticut State Firefighters' Association, Inc.**

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1. The members of this Association shall consist of Department and Company Members. All individual members of each fire company, volunteer Fire/Police Patrol and rescue squad, ambulance squad, fire prevention staff, training staff, dispatch staff, repair staff shall by virtue of their membership in such companies be members of this Association and entitled to funds distributed by it, so long as said individual continues as a member by complying with the By-Laws. Whenever, in these By-Laws the words he or she appear, it shall, where appropriate be changed to him or her. Industrial fire companies or fire brigades are not eligible for membership except that are career companies that furnish mutual aid in the area in which they are located. All companies, volunteer, Fire /Police Patrol, Rescue Squads, and Department Members, represented in this Association must be in full accord and in good standing in the fire department where they are located and, if at any time they are not so, they shall forfeit all rights of membership in this Association.

Section 2. Department Members Are, Chiefs, District Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Deputy and Battalion Chiefs, Fire Marshals, Deputy Fire Marshals Master Mechanics, Training Directors, Communications Directors, if they are sole occupants of those bureaus or divisions, State Fire Control Officer, and District Fire Control Officers of the Forestry Division of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection of the State of Connecticut. This section is applicable to career, volunteer or combination fire departments.

Section 3. Application for membership by a company shall be writing and have the endorsement of the Fire Chief of the city, town, district, or municipal district where located, which application accompanied by the prescribed sum or sums as required and

herein after stated, shall be filed with the Secretary and presented to the Executive Committee and thereupon no objections appearing shall be eligible to be become a member. Application for membership as a department member shall be on individual form in writing, endorsed by the proper fire department authority accompanied by the regular amount of the prescribed fee, an application shall be filed with the Secretary that will be presented to the Executive Committee for election and if such applicant is eligible shall become a member. Department members that work part time in more than one jurisdiction, Fire Marshal's Office, are only required to maintain one Department Membership. Additionally, to be eligible for benefits the jurisdiction that the applicable Department Member was working for at the time of the claim must hold Company Membership, as defined in Section 1.

Section 4. All Past Presidents in good standing, shall be Life Members of the Association and members of the Executive Committee, entitled to all privileges of membership and shall be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 5. The **Executive Committee** or the convention in assembly may at its discretion, elect honorary members of the Association. Such members may attend meetings, but shall not participate in discussion or vote on any questions and shall be ineligible to hold office or receive benefits.

Section 6, Sustaining membership shall be open to manufacturers, vendors, and fire/emergency organizations. Representatives of Sustaining Members may attend meetings, other than closed sessions of the Executive Committee, but shall have no voting rights. Certificates of membership shall be annually to sustaining members. Sustaining Members shall also receive permission to use the Association Logo in their advertising and in addition will receive preferred booth space at the Annual Convention and advertisement space on the Association website. Dues will be in accordance with Article III, Section 3.

Section 7. The recognized Connecticut Regional Fire Schools (Eastern Connecticut, Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, Stamford, Valley, Wolcott), and the Connecticut Fire Academy are eligible for membership. The instructional staff, of those facilities shall be covered for applicable injuries, disabilities, or Line of Duty Deaths that may occur, only while performing instructional activities during training programs, being conducted under the auspices of the member facility. Annual dues for these member facilities shall be the current amount specified for Company Memberships, and the benefits shall be current amount applicable to "Full Time Career Members."

ARTICLE III

Dues

Section 1. Each Engine, Truck, Hose or Squad Company, volunteer Fire/Police, Industrial Fire Company, Ambulance Squad, Fire Prevention Staff, Training Staff, Dispatch Staff, Repair staff, shall pay a membership fee per the schedule listed in Section 2. Dues are payable on or before July 1 each year. The dues for the first year of membership will cover the balance of the first year that a member joins the Association.

The Secretary of the Association may request a current roster of any fire company or fire department upon written notice to the Chief of the department. Unless the Secretary receives this within 30 days, any claim of the firefighter in this unit maybe held and not processed pending the receipt of the list of names. In volunteer fire companies or departments with stations in addition to the headquarters company, each station shall be considered by this Association to be as a separate company, even though they may have the same company, department officer's, and each company must join the Association as a separate company member.

Section 2. The annual dues shall be paid on or before the first day of July in each year, in advance, for the ensuing year and all company and departments who fail to pay said dues Within six months after said first day of July shall there upon, and because of such failure cease to be members of this Association, and cannot again become members except by new application made in regular form and paying the prescribed fee for new membership. Sustaining memberships are due and payable on the first day of July of each year. Sustaining membership shall be for a period of one year.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall consist of President, First Vice President Second Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Three Chaplains, Eight County Vice Presidents,

Section 2. The Executive Officers except the County Vice Presidents shall be elected at the Annual Convention of the Association by ballot or otherwise; the candidates receiving the majority of all votes cast to be declared elected and will hold their respective offices until the next Annual Convention and/or until their successors are elected. The term of the offices of President, First Vice President and Second Vice President, shall be for a maximum period of two (2) years. All Officers and Executive Board Members shall remain members in good standing in their Department or Company for there term of office and the Department or Company shall remain current in payment of their dues to the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Chaplain(s) are exempt from the requirement of being an active member, in a fire service organization, and are exempt from paying dues. Chaplain(s) shall be covered under the association's insurance rules, as governed by the rules set forth for individual membership, while performing duties directly related to responsibilities for the Association, as described in Article IV, Section 10.

Section 3. The delegates to the Annual Convention from each county, shall elect by ballot or otherwise, one County Vice President. Should, however the delegates of any county fail to elect such Vice President within thirty minute's time, the Executive Committee will assume the authority to make such appointment. Said County Vice Presidents will hold their office until the Annual Convention and until their successors are elected or appointed.

Section 4. If any vacancy shall occur because of death, resignation of office, or loss of membership of any officer of this Association, such vacancy maybe filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired term for which the officer was elected or otherwise indicated in these By-Laws.

Section 5. It shall be the duties of the Assistant Treasurer to perform the duties of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer will also perform any other duties that the Treasurer may assign him or her. The Assistant Treasurer may receive up to \$1,000.00 per year, for his or hers expenses and is entitled to a vote on Executive Committee matters.

Section 6. It shall be the duties of the Assistant Secretary to perform the duties of the Secretary in the absence of the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary will also perform any other duties that the Secretary may assign him or her. The Assistant Secretary may receive up to \$1,000.00 per year, for his or hers' expenses, and is entitled to a vote on Executive Committee matters.

Section 7: The **Executive Committee** may remove from office any office for just cause. Removal of an officer requires two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee

Section 8: Chaplain(s)-The Association shall maintain three (3) Chaplains. The Chaplain position is a volunteer position. He or she must be mature individuals with a sound, moral and spiritual background. It is the responsibility of the Chaplains to visit with sick or injured members of the association, attend at least three (3) association meetings per year, one of which must be the Annual Meeting held in September of each year. The Chaplains shall also provide guidance and counseling to all members of the Association upon request communication. Based on the provisions of religious privilege, a privileged communication/exception of privacy shall exist in communication between members of the Association and the Chaplain. By definition, a communication is "confidential" if made privately and not intended for further disclosure to other persons present in furtherance of the purpose of the communication.

ARTICLE V

Committees

Section 1. The Officers of the Association, together with the immediate Past President Shall constitute an Executive Committee.

Section 2. There shall be an Auditing Committee, a Legislative Committee, a Credential Committee, a Convention Advisory Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, Education Committee, Firefighters Memorial Committee and a Cancer Relief Committee. Appointed annually. The Auditing Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members appointed annually by the President, the Legislative Committee to consist of eight members, one from each county appointed by the President, the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as member ex-officio. the Credential Committee to consist of a minimum of four members to be appointed by the President. In making appointments to the Credential Committee, the President shall

appoint as two members who have had previous experience on the committee. The Convention Advisory Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members appointed by the President. At least one member shall have had previous experience serving on the Local Host Convention Committee, and one member shall have affiliation with the Connecticut Parade Marshals Association. The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members appointed by the President. The Education Committee shall be appointed by the President and shall consist of the Association President, (or his or hers' designee) the Association Treasurer, the State Fire Administrator, two representatives of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and two representatives of each of the recognized Regional Fire Schools. The Firefighters Memorial Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members appointed by the President. Appointed Firefighter Memorial Committee shall represent a cross section of both volunteer and career fire departments. The Cancer Relief Committee was established by the Legislature in accordance with the State of Connecticut Public Act 16-10. The act was established as a Firefighter Cancer Relief Program that shall consist of five members, one representing the Connecticut State Firefighters Association appointed by the President, one member representing the Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association, one representing the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut, one representing the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association and one representing the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. All appointments to those committees must be made before January 1st and shall terminate upon adjournment of the next Annual Convention of the Association.

ARTICLE VI

Duties of Officers and Committees

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee and to approve all orders for the disbursement of Association funds, which have been authorized to pay by the Association or Executive Committee. He or she is authorized to approve Benefit Claim Papers for the payment of relief funds provided by the State of Connecticut. He or she may, with the approval Executive Committee appoint Special Committees necessary for the transaction of Association business. He or she shall be authorized to expend the sum of \$1,200.00 a year for expenses.

Section 2, It shall be the duty of the First Vice President to perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President or, if the President is unable to perform the duties of his or hers' office. Should both the President and the First Vice President be absent the Second Vice President shall perform their duties. In the absence of all three, a temporary chairperson of the Executive Committee shall perform their duties.

Section 3. The County Vice Presidents shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Executive Committee or the President.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a complete record of the proceedings of association meetings and its standing committees, to cosign all orders for the disbursements of association funds authorized by the association or executive

committee and Benefit Claim Papers for payment of relief with the funds provided by the State of Connecticut. To receive and answer all communications pertaining to the Association; to collect all dues of the Association, depositing the same in an Association account. The Secretary shall furnish a surety bond of \$150,000.00 or in such larger amount as shall be required by the Executive Committee, which bond will be paid for by the Association and filed with the President. The Secretary shall receive a sum of \$6,000.00 per year for expenses. The Secretary with approval of the President may from time to time employ temporary clerical help to aid the Secretary in the discharge of his duties.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies belonging to the Association, including the dues collected by the Secretary, and disburse such funds only on order of the President, countersigned by the Secretary. He shall invest the surplus funds of the Association. At the annual meeting of the association, he or she shall make a full report of all monies received and disbursed. He or shall furnish a surety bond that will be paid for by the Association and filed with the President. The amount of such bond is to be established by the Executive Committee but will not be less than \$150,000.00. He shall receive for his expenses the sum of \$6,000.00. The Treasurer, with the approval of the President, may from time to time employ temporary clerical help to aid in the discharge of his duties.

Section 6. The **Executive Committee** shall constitute a Board of Directors to transact all business of the Association at all times when the Annual Convention is not in session. It shall be the duty of said committee to have prepared and published annually a report of the officers and proceedings of this Association. Said Committee shall have the power to engage the services of an attorney when they deem it necessary and may appoint Special Committees for the transaction of business of the Association. At all meetings of the Executive Committee, a majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum and a majority of such quorum may determine all questions.

Section 7. The **Executive Committee** shall meet quarterly, in the months of November, February, June, August, and the day before the Annual Convention, the exact dates and places to be decided by the President. The President also may call a special meeting when he or she deems it necessary. A majority of the Executive Committee may also petition the President for a special meeting of the Committee at any time during the year, and being so petitioned, he shall call such meeting promptly

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee, at the end of each fiscal year, to examine the accounts of the Secretary, Treasurer and to examine the required Surety Bonds of each and report the results of their examination to the next Annual Convention.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the Legislative Committee to review all suggested additions or modifications of the General Statutes or Special Acts that the State of Connecticut will affect the fire service. They shall, after approval of the Executive Committee, endeavor to have the approved legislation enacted. They may oppose any

legislation considered inimical to the best interest of this Association and of the fire service.

Section 10. It shall be the duty of the Credential Committee to examine the credentials of all individuals claiming to be delegates or alternates to the Annual or any Special Convention and shall have the power, after conferring with the Secretary, to reject the credentials of any individual that the committee feels to be illegal or improper for any reason.

Section 11. The Education Committee was organized in a collaborative effort to support the firefighters of the State of Connecticut, by promoting the regional fire schools as a means to providing firefighter and fire officer training at a local level, support the efforts of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, to provide quality training through the Connecticut Fire Academy. Also, develop and to promote short and long range plans for capital improvements to the regional fire schools, develop recommendations for standardizing the delivery of firefighter and fire officer certification training at the regional fire schools, coordinating training initiatives between the regional fire schools and the Connecticut Fire Academy, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas relating to firefighter training in the state.

Section. 12 The Firefighters Memorial Committee is in place, in a collaboration effort, to remember those Connecticut Firefighters, who have given the ultimate sacrifice. They are charged to plan for the Annual Firefighters Memorial Ceremony and support the Monument, located at the Connecticut Fire Academy. The date of the Annual Firefighters Memorial Ceremony on the last Sunday in the month of September or on any Sunday during the month of October. The committee shall choose a date for the memorial ceremony and publicize same, in advance of the Annual Convention Meeting. Additionally, the committee receives and reviews all Line of Duty Death Benefit applications for Connecticut Firefighters and approves their names to be on the Memorial Wall.

Section 13. It shall be the duty of the Convention Advisory Committee to establish an advisory relationship, with the newly designated Local Convention Host Committee, and educate the local representative about the criteria and expectations for hosting this event. This relationship shall continue until the actual event is successfully over. A copy of the current edition of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association Convention Guidebook will be provided to the local committee for their reference.

Section 14. The Cancer Relief Committee was established as a Connecticut State Firefighter Association sub-committee in accordance with the State of Connecticut's Public Act 16-10, an Act establishing a Firefighters Cancer Relief Program, in compliance with the criteria and coverages provided by the statute. This committee is charged with reviewing and determining the eligibility of claims, submitted by "Firefighters", as defined in the Act, for benefits related to lost wages, due to the diagnosis of certain conditions of cancer, as a condition of their firefighting service, as

listed in the Statute. The committee is also charged with determining the weekly wage replacement benefits, to be rewarded, in accordance with Chapters 104 and 56B of the Connecticut General Statutes. Approved claims, under the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, shall be processed for payment, by the State Treasurer, through the Office of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Section 15. Chairpersons, for their respective committees shall be nominated and elected by the current committee membership and shall serve, as Chairperson, for a maximum of a single two (2) year term.

Section 16. With the understanding that certain committees of the association may, within the scope of their role and purpose, undertake events and activities that will generate financial income revenue or require expense payment disbursements, all accounts related to these functions shall be under the custody and jurisdiction of the association Treasurer. It shall be one of the responsibilities, of the Association Treasurer, to take custody of and deposit all committee financial income and make all committee financial disbursements, in a timely manner. Said committee related income and expenses shall also be documented, in an accepted format, for the purpose of review, by the associations Auditing Committee, while conducted in the mandated, annual financial report.

ARTICLE VII

Association Conventions

Section 1. The delegates at the Annual Convention shall decide the location of the next Annual Conventions. The annual convention will held on the third weekend in September. If the delegates fail to choose a site, the Executive Committee is empowered to choose a site. The month, day and time of any annual convention shall be determined by the Executive Committee, and if they fail to so determine, then by the President. Special Conventions maybe called by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine the place and time of the special convention. Convention host departments should plan for the convention events by referring to the Convention Guidebook, as provided by the Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

Section 2. A failure to hold any annual Convention shall in no way work dissolution of the Association.

Section 3. Every fire company volunteer fire/police patrol or rescue squad in the state that is a member of this Association, shall elect one delegate and one alternate to the Annual Convention.

Section 4. Voting delegates at the Association convention shall consist of properly elected company delegates, department members in good standing and Past Presidents. All delegates making nominations shall approach the podium and state their name while making said motion. Credential badges shall be worn and in view.

ARTICLE VIII

Definition of Fire Duties

Section 1 The term fire duties include duties performed while at fires, while answering alarms of fires, while directly returning from fires, while at fire drills, parades, or going directly to or returning directly from fire drills, parades, at tests, trials of any of the apparatus or equipment normally used by the fire department, going directly to or directly returning from such test or trials, while instructing or being instructed in fire duties while answering or returning from ambulance calls where the ambulance service is part of the fire service, while answering or returning from fire department emergency calls and any other fire duty ordered to be performed by a superior or commanding officer in the fire department, also any duty in connection with the requirement in construction and maintenance of apparatus and appliances, operation and upkeep of the fire alarm telegraph, engagement in fire protection activities and investigation.

ARTICLE IX

Benefits for Disability or Injury

Section 1. Members shall be compensated for disability, disease or injury incurred while performing fire duties as defined in Article VIII if funds have been provided for that purpose by the State of Connecticut as follows:

a. Full-time career members shall be compensated 5 days a week at a per diem rate as set per vote by the Executive Committee at the time of injury. (Saturday and Sundays omitted). Said benefit will not be paid for the first seven days of any period of sickness or injury. Members submitting more than one set of claim papers for the same injury and fire duty date shall not have the first seven days omitted on their second or subsequent set of papers if they have not returned to fire duty, however, if they return to duty, but again request claim papers due to recurrence, the first seven days of any period of sickness or injury shall be omitted.

b. Any volunteer member shall be compensated 6 days per week, as a per diem rate set per vote by the Executive Committee at the time of the injury. (Sunday omitted) for each day of the period of sickness or injury.

c. Said benefits will continue so long as the member is unable to perform the duties of a firefighter as defined in Article 8 Section 1 because of such injury due to sickness, unless terminated by action of the Executive Committee. Full-time career members shall cease to be eligible for benefits on the day of their retirement from any career or industrial fire department; this will not affect any benefits as defined in Article X, Section 1.

Section 2. Except for sub-sections (a) and (b) listed below, any career firefighters assigned to a volunteer fire company by the proper fire department authority shall be considered, for the purpose of the Association, to be a member of the said volunteer fire company. The firefighter shall be entitled to benefits as provided in Article IX, Section 1a provided the volunteer fire company to which the said career firefighter is assigned, shall be a member of this Association.

a. Whenever the number of career personnel in a single volunteer company exceeds sixteen, they will be their separate entity and must have their own company membership.

b. Whenever the number of career personnel in multiple volunteer companies or fire stations in a municipality exceeds thirty they must have their own company

memberships. Each additional increment of thirty (30) must also have a separate company membership.

Section 3. No claim for benefits except for Section 5 shall be considered for a recurrence of an injury unless such recurrence shall incapacitate the claimant within one year from the date of the return to duty from the injury for which the recurrence was claimed.

Section 4. In case of corrective surgery directly attributable to a previous injury, the time limit may be extended to two years provided that: (a) The claimant notifies the CSFA Secretary prior to the expiration of the time limit as provided for in Section 4 of this article, or (b) the claimant submits an affidavit from the surgeon in charge, if they are different persons, linking the surgery to the original claim, and (c) the Extension is approved by the Executive Board of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

Section 5. In case of exposure to chemicals, other materials or infectious diseases, which might prove to be injurious to the firefighter's health, a claimant will be given ten years from the incident date to file claim papers, provided a claim report had been filed with Secretary of this Association within one year of the incident, which caused his disability. The Executive Committee must approve a claim of this type.

Section 6. From time to time, but not less than annually, the Executive Committee shall establish per diem rates for benefits to be paid, pursuant to Article IX, Section 1. In establishing said per diem rates, the Executive Committee shall consider funds available from state appropriations, if any, as well as funds from all other sources. The per diem rate for new claims shall be the rate in effect when the claim is presented, and not the rate as of the time of occurrence. The per diem rate for all claims maybe amended by action of the Executive Committee so long as said amendment is consistent with the availability of funds. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Executive Committee from establishing a per diem rate of no dollars (\$0.00) if funds are not available for the payment of benefits.

ARTICLE X

Total Permanent Disability

Section 1. When any member of this Association has sustained disability, injury, or sickness arising out of fire duty as defined in Article VIII and has received benefits as provided in Article IX, the member may establish said disability as Total and Permanent and be able to receive benefits as provided in said Article IX provided.

a. Proper application must be made for benefits as provided in Article XIII.

b. The disability has been established as permanent by a physical examination made by a physician appointed by the Executive Committee. Said physician must is not be the applicant's regular physician. The expense of the examination shall be borne by the Association.

c. The member submits to additional physical examinations as the Executive Committee may, from time to time direct.

d. During the period in which benefits are paid, the member is strictly prohibited from engaging in any active firefighting capacity. (Volunteer/Career). The member can be employed with the stipulation that it is not in any means of active Firefighting, nor that said employment would further complicate the conditions that required the member be granted the disability benefit. If it is found that the member is to be in violation of this criteria the Executive Committee may discontinue benefit payments forthwith.

e. That before any benefits are paid under this article, they be approve from year to year *at* the Annual Convention.

f. That before being acted on by the Annual Convention, the Executive Committee shall have considered the matter and made a recommendation to the Annual Convention. In making said recommendation, the Executive Committee shall consider the amounts of funds available from state appropriations, if any as well as funds from other sources.

g. The rate for new claims shall be the rate in effect when the claim is presented, not at the rate as of the time of the occurrence.

h. The rate for all claims maybe amended at the Annual Convention or by the action of the Executive Committee at any regular meeting, so long as said amendment is consistent with the availability of funds. Nothing in this Article shall prohibit the setting of a rate of (\$0.00) if funds are not available for the payment of benefits.

I. Upon approval of a claim for Total Permanent Disability, the disabled member will not be required to file periodic claim papers as required in Article XII.

Section 2. Any member receiving benefits under Article X shall receive in addition for each natural dependent (as defined in the United Sates Internal Revenue Code), or legally adopted child of said member under eighteen years of age (as further qualified in paragraph F of Article X), a sum set by the Executive Committee per day until each child reaches eighteen years of age, and such child becomes eighteen years of age, said payments for such child shall cease.

Section 3. Upon the death of any member receiving benefits under Article X, death benefits will be paid as provided in Article XI.

ARTICLE XI

Death Benefits

Section 1. In case of death of a member due to disability, disease, or injury arising out of fire duty as defined in Article VIII, there shall be paid from funds provided for the purpose, by the State of Connecticut, such amounts as hereinafter indicated:

a. (1) To the beneficiary of the deceased a benefit, in the amount of which shall be determined at the end of the fiscal year during which the death occurs. The Executive Committee shall determine the amount of funds available or the payment of death claims from state appropriations and shall divide said funds equally among the spouses of said deceased firefighters. The maximum death benefits so determined shall be set by the Executive Committee.

a. (2) (a.) To each natural dependent (as defined in the United States Internal Revenue Code) or legally adopted child of the deceased under eighteen years of age (as further qualified in paragraph F of this section) a sum set by the Executive Committee per week until each child becomes eighteen years of age, and as each child becomes eighteen years of age, said weekly payments for such child shall cease.

- b.** In the event that no spouse survives the decedent but there are children under eighteen years of age, then said weekly benefit set by the Executive Committee for each child shall be paid to the legally appointed guardian of said child or children under the same conditions as provided in "a" above. The proper officers of this Association shall authorize the payment of the sum set by the Executive Committee for funeral expenses of the decedent and the sum set by the Executive Committee to be paid to legal guardian of the said child or children for the benefit or education of said children.
- c.** If there is no spouse or children under eighteen years of age, but there is a child or children over eighteen years of age, said death benefit may be expended by the proper officers of this Association toward funeral expenses, any unexpended balance shall be paid to such child or children.
- d.** If there is no spouse or children but there is a dependent parent or parents, then said death benefits may be expended by the proper officers of this Association towards funeral expenses, and any unexpended balance shall be paid to said dependent parent or parents.
- e.** If there is no spouse or children or dependent parent or parents, then the proper officers of this Association may expend an amount set by the Executive Committee toward funeral expenses.
- f.** Provided further: That no weekly benefits as herein before provided shall be paid to or for the benefit of any minor child or children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years unless it is affirmatively shown to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee of this Association that such child or children are regularly attending a duly constituted and accredited day school during regular school periods, and the Executive Committee's decision as to whether or not such child or children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen are entitled to weekly benefits, shall be final.
- g.** The term "parent" herein includes the natural parents, the parent by adoption or the stepparent; but such parent shall not receive any of the benefits for which provision is herein made unless such parent shall have been actually dependent for support on the decedent at the time of the firefighter's death Dependency, in every case, shall be determined by the Executive Committee of this Association and its decision shall be final.
- h.** The term "proper officers of the Association" shall mean a committee consisting of the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

ARTICLE XII

Association Funds

Section 1. No claims for benefits of any nature shall be paid from the Association funds.

ARTICLE XIII

Filing of Claims

Section 1. It shall be the duty of any member who may be entitled to benefits, as provided in Article IX, to notify the officer in charge of his company or department of his sickness or injury. Said officer shall notify the Chief of the department who shall apply to the Secretary of the Association for a form "Application for Benefit Claim Papers". Said form "Application for Benefit Claim Papers" must be requested, filled out and returned to the Secretary of the Association within sixty (60) days after receiving the injury or contracting the sickness. In case of reoccurrence within twelve (12) months (as provided

in Article IX, Section 4) the "Benefit Claim Papers" must be made to the Secretary within sixty (60) days of the first day the claimant cannot report to his regular occupation. The time for requesting for "Benefit Claim Papers" may be extended beyond sixty (60) days by the Executive Committee for good reason shown, but said extension will not exceed twelve (12) months from the date of injury or sickness, except, in the case where a firefighter's health may have been affected by exposure to chemicals, other materials or infectious diseases, in which case said extension shall not exceed one hundred months (120) months from the date of the incident, providing Hazardous Exposure Verification Form has been filed within the time limits of Article IX. When the "Benefit Claim Papers" are received, they shall be filled out and certified by the Chief of the department. If no company, volunteer fire/police patrol, rescue squad or department officer enables the claimant to conform to the requirements of the prescribed forms, the claimant may make a written application, for relief, to the Executive Committee, who are empowered to make any order that justice may require, and, if said Executive Committee refuses relief, as asked for in , said applicant may appeal to the association, at its annual meeting, to refer his or hers claim to the Executive Board, for final action.

Section 2. No claim papers shall be sent in to the Secretary of the Association covering a period of more than 100 days of disability. When a disability extends more than 100 days, additional claim papers must be filled out for each 100 Day period or less.

ARTICLE XIV

Local Host Convention Committee

Section 1. A Fire Company or any group of fire companies desiring to have the Annual Convention in their own town or city shall make application to the Executive Committee thirty days prior to the Annual Convention. A non-refundable cash bond of \$500.00 will be required by the Association from the Convention Committee to guarantee that all conditions for the convention herein after set forth shall be complied with. The first \$100.00 shall be accompanied with the application for the convention; the company or group of companies awarded the convention shall pay \$200.00 by February 1st and \$200.00 by May 1st of the year of the convention. A company or a group of companies not awarded the convention shall receive back their \$100.00 within 30 days after the award of the convention. Said Company or group of companies awarded the convention shall give certified proof that all bills have been paid and that no claims have been filed against them and that all sections of the By-Laws of the Association pertaining to the convention have been complied with.

Section 2. The following rules must be adhered to by the Convention Committee:

- a.** Program advertisement solicitors shall not use the name of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, Inc. when making solicitations. Solicitors must be members of the Fire Company or group of companies holding the Annual Convention. No professional solicitors shall be used.
- b.** No convention host, fire organization or entity of any sort, whether fire related or not, may use the Connecticut State Firefighters Association logo (seal) of any purpose without the express consent of the Associations Executive Committee.

c. No fire company or group of fire companies awarded the convention may offer for sale raffle tickets, merchandise of any description, or other fund raising items pertaining to their convention, until at least one day following the parade of the convention prior to their own. This prohibition applies only to areas outside the municipal territorial boundaries of the company or companies involved.

d. Said Convention Committee shall furnish for the Association a suitable meeting hall and a soloist for the Memorial Services.

e. Said convention meeting site shall be approved by the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Association.

f. Said Convention Committee shall furnish public liability insurance, the minimum amount of which shall be set by the Executive Committee, to cover any possible claims arising during the convention and associated activities. The Connecticut State Firefighters Association, Inc. shall be named in the policy as co-insurer. The policy or copy thereof must be sent to the Secretary of this Association not less than ten days prior to the date of the convention.

g. If any fire company or group of fire companies awarded the convention meeting, fail to abide by any of the provisions of this section, and fail to provide for the Convention and or fail to hold the parade, the Executive Committee shall have the power to remove the convention from that city or town.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall donate a suitable trophy each year to the Convention Committee to be awarded to the best all-around company or department in the annual parade, provided however, that said trophy must be given to a fire company or department located within the State of Connecticut, which is a member of this Association.

Section 4. The Convention Advisory Committee of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association Executive Board will act to provide the host department with information, and assistance necessary to provide a quality convention.

ARTICLE XV

Fiscal Year

Section 1. The fiscal year of this Association shall begin the first day of May in each year.

ARTICLE XVI

Section 1. (Severability) The invalidity or illegality of any apart of these By-Laws shall not impair or affect in any manner the validity, enforceability, or affect of the balance of these By-Laws.

Section 2. (Captions) The captions herein are inserted only as matter of convenience and for reference, and in no way define, limit, or describe the scope of these By-Laws or the intent of any provisions thereof.

Section 3. (Gender) The use of the masculine gender in these By-Laws shall be deemed to include the feminine gender, and the use of the singular shall be deemed to include plural, or ever the context so requires.

Section 4. (Waiver) No restriction, condition, obligation, or provision contained in these By-Laws shall be deemed to be abrogated or waived because of any failure to enforce the same irrespective of the number of violations or breaches there of which may occur.

ARTICLE XVII

Amendments

Section 1. This Association shall have the full power at any Annual Convention to alter, amend, or revise these By-Laws. It shall be necessary for a two-thirds vote of the members of this Association present and entitled to vote to do the same. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least ninety (90) days before any annual meeting, and when so submitted shall be transmitted to the company and department members of the Association for their information at least thirty (30) days before said convention.

An Act Amending the Act Concerning Relief To Members of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, Inc.

Public Act 98-263-Section 7 amends Section 3-123 of the CT. Statutes as follows:

Whenever a person under the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the **Connecticut State Firefighters' Association Inc.** is entitled to relief from said Association as a firefighter injured in the line of duty or rendered sick by disease contracted while in the line of duty, or as the widow or child of a firefighter killed in the line of duty, the Comptroller shall, upon the delivery to him the proper proofs from said Association the right of such person to relief as aforesaid, draw his order upon the Treasurer in favor of the person or persons entitled to such relief, or their legal representative, for the amount to which such person or persons are entitled as relief as aforesaid, provided such orders shall be limited to available appropriations.

ADDENDUM - CURRENT DUES SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2020

New Membership and Reinstatement:	
Company Dues:	\$80.00
Annual Dues:	
Company Dues:	\$80.00
New Membership and Reinstatements:	
Department Members:	\$35.00
Annual Dues:	
Department Members:	\$35.00
Sustaining Membership:	
Annual Dues:	\$250.00

The dues schedule shall be determined a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee members at the February meeting of the committee.

Preamble and By-Laws

In

Effect as of September 15, 1997

Revised September 16, 2006

Revised September 15, 2007

Revised September 17, 2011

Revised September 15, 2012

Revised September 19, 2015

Revised September 19, 2020

Revised September 18, 2021

Revised September 17, 2022