

ARTICLE 1

Name

The name of the society shall be “The New Haven Fire Department Emerald Society”

AMENDED IN 1998 TO READ: The name of the society shall be “The New Haven County Firefighters Emerald Society”

ARTICLE 2

Objectives of the Society

Section 1 THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

- (a) To develop a spirit of brotherhood and fellowship amongst its members.
- (b) To encourage a fuller participation in the activities of our Society and other organizations existing within the Fire Department and other Emerald and Irish Societies.
- (c) To encourage members to fully familiarize themselves with the prescribed, authorized, and accepted practices and procedures of fire regulations and safety enforcement, to the end that they will be able to serve their City or Town in a more courteous, intelligent and efficient manner.
- (d) To generate exemplary deportment on the parts of its members, thereby creating respect and good will for firefighters.
- (e) To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States and the State of Connecticut at all times.
- (f) To encourage its membership to improve themselves in, and to promote the study of and research into Irish civilization with special emphasis upon the inter-relationship between Gaelic and American cultures.
- (g) To preserve and make known the spirit and tradition of craftsmanship, technical proficiency, and American ideals in the heritage of persons of Irish ancestry and lineage.
- (h) To advance the welfare and interests of all members.
- (i) To sponsor conferences, seminars, various social gatherings and outings for its members
- (j) All members being equal, rank will not exist in the Emerald Society. No member shall be addressed by a Fire Department title or other title at any meeting of this Society.
- (k) To sponsor and award scholarships.
- (l) This Society shall be absolutely non-political and will not participate in any political campaigns, nor will it attempt to influence any legislation.

ARTICLE 3

Membership

Section 1 TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the Society shall be divided into three classes; Active Membership, Life Membership, and Honorary Membership.

Section 2 ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP shall consist of members, active or retired, who are or were Professional Fire Service members and who themselves or their spouses were either born in Ireland or are of Irish descent.

Section 3 LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Any active member in good standing who in the opinion of the Society, and subject to a unanimous vote of the Executive Board is deemed worthy of this honor. (Life membership is a very coveted award and should be awarded only after much serious consideration.)

Section 4 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Any and all persons who are not qualified to become Active Members, but who the Society may deem worthy of the honor of this membership subject to a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.

Section 5 ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP OF ALL MEMBERS OTHER THAN LIFE OR HONORARY: Application for membership must be made in writing on forms provided by the Society. All applicants must be proposed by a member in good standing. The application shall be returned to the Society and forwarded to the Membership Committee for investigation and approved. If approved, application shall be submitted to the membership present at a regular meeting. If disapproved, the Membership Committee shall state its objections at a regular meeting. The Membership Committee's objections may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the members present and the application shall be accepted. Applicants for membership must produce documentary or other proof of Irish lineage, if requested to do so by the Membership Committee.

Section 6 RESIGNATIONS: Any member shall have the privilege of resignation from the Society at any time. Resignations may be submitted to the Society in writing or given verbally to a member of the Executive Board. Dues are non-refundable.

Section 7 REINSTATEMENTS: A member who has voluntarily resigned may apply for reinstatement at any regular meeting of the Society. The member shall be reinstated upon approval of two-thirds of the members present and upon payment of the members current dues. Any member whose membership was terminated may be reinstated upon payment of ALL dues owed to the Society but not to exceed more than three previous years dues.

Section 8 REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP: A member may be removed or suspended from the Society for misconduct or performing other acts prejudicial to the good of the Society. Such action can only be taken after charges are preferred and removal or suspension is recommended by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board followed by a majority vote of the membership at the following regular meeting.

ARTICLE 4

Dues

Annual membership shall be \$25.00 per year for active firefighters and \$15.00 per year for retired firefighters. Dues shall be paid for the calendar year (Jan.1-Dec. 31). Dues will be collected in the month of January. Prompt payment is appreciated as dues are the primary source of revenue for the Society. Under no circumstance will unpaid members be allowed to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

ARTICLE 5

Meeting of the Society

Section 1 REGULAR MEETINGS: Regular meetings of this Society shall be held on a regular basis, the time and place stated in a meeting notice which will be sent to each member in good standing and/or each firehouse. There shall be at least four (4) Regular Meetings of the Society held each year.

Section 2 SPECIAL MEETINGS: Shall be called by the President when;

- (a) the President deems it necessary for the best interest of the Society.
- (b) the President is requested to do so by a three- fourths vote of the Executive Board.
- (c) the President is requested to do so by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting.
- (d) upon written request of twenty-five (25) members in good standing.

Written notice stating the purpose for which the Special Meeting is to be called shall be sent to each active member in good standing and/or each firehouse. No other business except that specified in the notice will be discussed.

Section 3 QUORUM: The presence at any meeting of this Society of not less than twenty-five (25) active members in good standing shall constitute quorum and except as provided in these by-laws a quorum shall be necessary to conduct the business of this Society at any of its meetings.

AMENDED ON 12/09/2004: Change quorum to ten (10) members from

twenty-five (25) members.

Section 4 VOTING: Voting at all meetings, except for elections of officers, shall be oral. If a majority of the members present so request, any question may be voted upon by secret ballot.

Section 5 BALLOTS: When the voting is by ballot, the Chairman of such meeting shall immediately prior to the commencement of the voting appoint a committee of members to act as Tellers of Elections and report the results of said voting to the Chairman.

Section 6 ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- (a) Call to order.
- (b) Pledge of Allegiance.
- (c) Moment of silent prayer for the deceased members and friends of the Society.
- (d) Roll Call of Officers.
- (e) Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and any Special Meetings intervening.
- (f) Treasurer's Report.
- (g) Acting on applications whereby new members shall stand and be introduced by name, department and company.
- (h) Reading by the President or Secretary all communications and disposition of same.
- (i) Reports of Officers, Executive Board Members, and Committees.
- (j) Old Business.
- (k) New Business.
- (l) Good and Welfare.
- (m) Adjournment.

Section 7 DEBATES: All members of this Society shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order

ARTICLE 6

Officers

Section 1 The officers of the Society shall be: 1. President, 2. Vice-President, 3. Treasurer, 4. Secretary, 5. Sergeant-at-Arms, 6. Three (3) Trustees. Members of the Executive Board shall be all of the above mentioned officers.

AMENDED IN 11/2001: To change the number of Trustees from three (3) to seven (7).

Section 2 TERMS OF OFFICE:

- (a) The term of office shall be for two (2) years beginning in January.
- (b) Eligibility for the offices as listed in Article 6, Sec. 1(a) or 1(b) shall be any and all active regular members in good standing.
- (c) Nomination of Officers shall be held at the Society's regular meeting in November. No member of this Society shall be nominated for more than one (1) office. Anyone nominated at the November meeting, if not present to accept nomination, will give written acceptance to the person who will nominate them. This written acceptance is to be presented to the Secretary upon nomination. No nomination will be accepted under any other conditions at this meeting.
- (d) The Elections of Officers to be chosen for the ensuing two (2) years shall be held at the regular meeting in December. Nominations will not be accepted under any conditions at this meeting.
- (e) It shall be the policy of this Society that the Vice-President be elected as the Society's next President, if this person so desires.

Section 3 DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS:

- (a) The President shall preside at all meetings, enforce all rules and regulations of the organization, and appoint all committees.
- (b) The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and perform other such duties of the President as required by the organization. Such Officer shall serve as Historian of the Organization, keeping records of the organizational activities.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep a true record of the business of the organization, conduct all correspondence, and perform other such duties as directed by the organization.
- (d) The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds from any sources, and shall make disbursements as directed by the body, and shall keep permanent and accurate records so as to be able to give an accurate report of finances at anytime.
- (e) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be the custodian of the organization's property (except money, accounts, and records of officers), and shall keep such property in proper condition. Such officer shall be responsible for the parade information and bear overall authority for such information.
- (f) The Trustees shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer in June and December and report their findings to the body at the next regular meeting.
- (g) The Executive Board shall rule over the voice of all committees appointed by the President in emergency matters or expenditures over fifty (50) dollars necessary between regular meetings, with a majority vote being five (5) members.

ARTICLE 7

Executive Board

- Section 1 MEMBERS: The business of the Society shall be managed by the Executive Board (see Article 6 Sec. 1 (b) for membership of the Executive Board).
- Section 2 DUTIES: The Executive Board shall have control and management of the affairs and business of the Society, subject to the provisions set forth in these By-Laws. The Executive Board shall present at the first meeting of the year of the Society, a verified report by the Treasurer showing the whole amount of money received and expended. The report shall be filed with the records of the Society, and an extract thereof entered into the minutes of said meeting.
- Section 3 QUORUM: For the business of the Society to be conducted, it shall be necessary for five (5) Executive Board Members to be present. This number may be comprised of any combination of titled officers.
- Section 4 CHAIRMAN: The President of the Society, by virtue of his office, shall be chairman of the Executive Board. If the President is not present, the Vice-President shall be the chairman of the meeting.
- Section 5 REMOVAL: An Executive Board Member may be removed for misconduct in office, neglect of duty, incompetence, or other acts prejudicial to the good of the Society. Such action can be taken only after charges, a hearing, and a vote.

ARTICLE 8

Amendments

- Section 1 ALTER, AMEND, REPEAL, OR ADD: Any article of this Constitution may be altered, amended, repealed, or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds vote of members of the Society in good standing, present at a Regular or Special Meeting. All amendments to the Constitution must be presented in writing to the Secretary at the meeting preceding the meeting at which the proposed amendments will be acted upon.
- Section 2 DONATIONS: All motions pertaining to the donating of money in excess of One Hundred (100) dollars made from the floor and seconded shall be discussed and voting deferred until the next meeting. In the interim, the Executive Board will meet, discuss, and consider the motion. At the next regular meeting, the report of the Executive Board shall be given, the motion discussed, and a vote taken. Three-quarters majority will be needed to pass this motion.

ARTICLE 9

Military Personnel

Section 1 All members in good standing of this organization upon entering the Armed Forces of the United States shall be extended the courtesy of retaining their membership privileges without payment of any dues or assessments during the period of their active participation as members of the aforementioned Armed Forces.

ARTICLE 10

Good and Welfare

Section 1 CHAIRMAN: The Good and Welfare Chairman shall be appointed by the President from the Executive Board. The Good and Welfare Committee will consist of all member of the Executive Board.

Section 2 DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Good and Welfare Committee thru the members of the Executive Board will see that all injured and sick members are remembered by the Society. In case of the death of a member or immediate family as defined as spouse, children, or parents of a member, the Chairman shall see that an appropriate remembrance from the Society is sent to the bereaved family of the deceased.

ARTICLE 11

THE ARTICLES AND BY-LAWS IN THIS WRITTEN CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY SHALL CONSIST OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY, PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT NOTHING ELSE IN THESE BY-LAWS MAY BE CONSIDERED BY LAW, TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE NEW HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Section 2 COPIES OF BY-LAWS: A copy of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be presented to all members at the time of their acceptance as members of the Society.