

OSFA Constitutional Resolution 18-01

W

hereas the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association has always been and continues to be an inclusive organization; and

*W*hereas the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association (OSFA) creates a bond and a brother/sisterhood among its members; and

*W*hereas the OSFA has long been known for its exchange of ideas, camaraderie, and get things done attitude; and

*W*hereas the OSFA is the voice of all firefighters in the State of Oklahoma; and

*W*hereas the OSFA works closely with other organizations, associations, and State Departments advocating for firefighter related issues; and

*W*hereas fire departments throughout the state as it has developed and grown over the last 124 years since the inception of the OSFA, have expressed interest in becoming members of the OSFA; and

*W*hereas those interested departments who are not in the Statewide Pension System for firefighters are currently limited in membership scope;

*T*herefore be it resolved that Articles 2 and 8 of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association Constitution be amended as follows:

ARTICLE 2 — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of this Association shall consist of Active Members, Active Non-Pension Members, Active Life Members, Honorary Life Members, Associate Members, Pension Members, Honorary Members, Honorary Associate Members, and Limited Members. All members will pay dues in accordance with ARTICLE 8 of this constitution.

Section 2. Active Members: All members of fire departments, participating in the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, who are not receiving pension benefits, shall be eligible for active membership in this Association upon the payment of the annual dues for every member of that department as provided by Article 8, Section 1 of this constitution. They shall have the right to attend the annual conventions, to take part in the discussion of and participate in all deliberations of the Association and shall be entitled to vote, through their delegates, on all matters coming before the Association convention. The basis of Active Member representation shall be determined according to Article 9, Section 1, of this constitution.

Section 3. Active Non-Pension Members: All members of fire departments, not participating in the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System and who are still active on their fire department, shall be eligible for active non-pension membership in this Association upon the payment of the annual dues for every member of that department as provided by Article 8, Section 1 of this constitution. They shall have the right to attend the annual conventions, to take part in the discussion of and participate in all deliberations of the Association and shall be entitled to vote, through their delegates, on all matters coming before the Association convention. The basis of Active Non-Pension Member representation shall be determined according to Article 9, Section 1, of this

constitution. Active Non-Pension Members may run for the Executive Board and serve fully in that capacity if duly elected. There may only be one Active Non-Pension Member representative on the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association Board at any given time.

Section ~~3~~ 4. Active Life Members: Any person who has rendered the Association, or the purposes thereof, some especially meritorious service may be elected to Active Life membership by a unanimous vote of all delegates present and voting at the annual convention, and shall have the rights and privileges of Active members, but shall not be required to pay dues. All Past Presidents of this Association shall automatically become Active Life members and upon proper registration at the annual convention shall be a Delegate at Large. Retired Active Life Members cannot run for an elected Board office.

Section ~~4~~ 5. Honorary Life Members: Any person who has rendered this Association, or the purposes thereof, some meritorious service may be elected to Honorary Life Membership by a majority vote (50% plus 1 vote) of the delegates present and voting at the annual convention and shall be entitled to admission to the Annual Convention, but shall have no vote nor be required to pay dues.

Section ~~5~~ 6. Associate Members: All companies engaged in the manufacture or sale of apparatus, appliances or devices for fire prevention, fire protection or firefighting, and other kindred organizations, shall be eligible for an Associate membership in this Association upon payment of the annual dues as provided by Article 8, Section 3 of this constitution and upon presentation of certificates showing their dues have been paid shall be entitled to admission to the annual conventions, but shall have no vote.

Section ~~6~~ 7. Pension Members: All persons receiving a pension may become Pension Members of the Association upon submission of annual dues according to the provisions of Article 8, Section 2 of this constitution. Failure to submit dues will serve to forfeit the right of said member to participate actively in the annual convention as stated in Article 9, Section 2 of this constitution. Said member shall be entitled to receive all newsletters, bulletins, and other pertinent information published and mailed from the Association.

Section ~~7~~ 8. Honorary Members: Persons having rendered this Association, or the purposes thereof, some meritorious service may, by a majority vote (50% plus 1 vote) of the delegates present and voting at the annual convention, be enrolled as honorary members for the current year. Honorary Members shall have the right to attend the convention, but shall have no vote nor be required to pay dues.

Section ~~8~~ 9. Honorary Associate Members: Various State Agencies and Departments, Fire Inspection Bureaus, other State Associations, and other kindred organizations, may, by a majority vote (50% plus 1 vote) of the delegates present and voting at the annual convention, be enrolled as Honorary Associate members of the Association. Honorary Associate Members shall have the right to attend the convention, but shall have no vote nor be required to pay dues.

Section ~~9~~ 10. Limited Members: Any Oklahoma fire department not eligible for pension benefits with an annual budget that does not exceed the limits specified in Article 9, Section 5 of this constitution shall be eligible for Limited Membership in the Association upon payment of annual dues as provided by Article 8, Section 4 of this constitution. Said department shall be entitled to use the film library, to receive one copy of each newsletter, bulletins, and other pertinent information published and mailed from the Association. Limited members shall have the right to attend the convention, and shall have one delegate per department at the annual convention. Departments whose budget exceeds the limits set forth above and whose members are Limited Members as of June 16, 2017, shall be grandfathered and may remain Limited Members as long as dues remain current. Once

dues are delinquent or the department chooses to adopt the membership status of Active Members or Active Non-Pension Members, they shall no longer remain grandfathered under this clause.

Section ~~10~~ 11. All members shall continue as such as long as they remain qualified for their respective class of membership and otherwise comply with the constitution and by-laws of the Association.

ARTICLE 8 – MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1. Active members as defined in ARTICLE 2, Section 2 of this constitution and Active Non-Pension Members as defined in ARTICLE 2, Section 3 of this constitution shall submit annual dues in the sum of fifty-six dollars (\$56) per member of which three dollars (\$3) will be placed in the firemans museum and memorial account to be used for continued maintenance and possible future expansions of the memorial and/or museum.

ARTICLE 15 – INCLUSION ON THE WALL OF VALOR

Section 1. Inclusion on the Wall of Valor shall be applicable to Active Members, Active Non-Pension Members, Active Life Members, and Pension Members, as defined in Article2, Sections 2, 3, 4, and 6 ~~7~~ of the Constitution of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association, who die from the following causes:...

Respectfully Submitted:

OSFA Membership Committee, David Thompson, Chair

OSFA Executive Board, Matt Lay, President