



**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF  
THE TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOCIATION**

Revised: July 25, 2023



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I: NAME .....	2
ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP .....	3
ARTICLE III: OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS .....	4
ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS .....	7
SECTION 1. The duties of the Executive Officers .....	7
SECTION 2. Board of Directors .....	11
SECTION 3. Executive Committee.....	12
ARTICLE V: MEETINGS .....	12
ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS.....	13
ARTICLE VII: BYLAWS .....	13
ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES .....	15
ARTICLE IX: SECTIONS.....	16
ARTICLE X: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS .....	18
ARTICLE XI: CODE OF ETHICS.....	19
ARTICLE XII: MISCELLANEOUS.....	20
RULES OF ORDER .....	20
REVISION AND APPROVAL LOG .....	23



## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

**SECTION 1. Name.** This organization shall be known as The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, herein called the Association.

**SECTION 2. Purpose.** The purpose of this Association is to further the professional advancement of the fire service to ensure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire, natural and man-made-disasters, or other sudden emergencies. To carry out this purpose, the association shall:

- A. Assemble in the conference and devise ways and means of improving the fire service through appropriate discussion, lectures, debates, and mutual exchange of ideas.**
- B. Cooperate with all organizations to promote programs that further the goals and objectives of the fire service and with various state departments to suggest helpful legislation; And**
- C. Do everything possible to educate its membership, improve the service they are called to render, and enhance its profession's value and dignity.**

**SECTION 3.** There shall be maintained a permanent address in Nashville, Tennessee, or at such place as the Board of Directors shall decide.

**SECTION 4.** The Treasurer and officers authorized by the Board of Directors shall be bonded by the Association in an amount approved by the Board of Directors.



## ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

**SECTION 1.** The membership of this association shall consist of Active, Associate, Affiliate, Honorary, and Life Members.

**A. Active Members.** Active members shall include:

1. The Chief of the fire department and all Chief Officers, as designated by the Chief of regularly organized public, private, governmental, or industrial fire departments.
2. Fire Commissioners and/or Fire Directors who devote full time to administrative and firefighting operations.
3. Officials of the State Department of Commerce and Insurance.
4. Fire Service Consultants from the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service.

**B. Associate Members.**

Associate members shall be fire service members, including company officers and firefighters, as well as any public safety-first responders, including fire, EMS, TEMA, EMA, police, etc. They shall be entitled to join sections of the Association and serve on committees. Associate Members shall be entitled to participate in the Association, except they are not eligible to hold elective office, serve on the Board of Directors, or have voting privileges.

**C. Affiliate Members**

Affiliate members shall include members of educational, healthcare, industrial, or other interested associations, services, or groups interested in the goals and objectives of the Association. They shall be entitled to join section(s) of the Association and serve on committees. Affiliate Members shall be entitled to participate in the Association, except they are not eligible to hold elective office, serve on the Board of Directors, or have voting privileges.



**D. Honorary Members.**

Fire chiefs or others having rendered this association or the purposes thereof, some meritorious service may, by the majority vote of the delegates present, be enrolled as honorary members. Honorary members shall have the right to attend and address the convention and otherwise participate in its deliberations but shall have no vote nor be required to pay dues.

**E. Life Membership.**

Life memberships shall include active members who have retired from the fire service, provided they have been members of the Association continuously for ten (10) years immediately preceding their retirement or have served as an Officer or a Board Member of the Association and further provided they have not become a Chief, Assistant Chief, Commissioner, Fire Marshal, or Fire Director of another public, governmental, or industrial fire department, or any other of the services that would make them eligible for either active, associate, or affiliate membership. Life membership may be obtained by application to and certification by the secretary and approval by the Board of Directors. Life Members shall have the right to vote in elections and issues before the Association. Additionally, Life Members are eligible to serve as Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, Chaplain, and Committee or Section Chair/Member.

**ARTICLE III: OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY.** Any member of the Association seeking election to Presidency or Vice Presidency specified in Article III of the Constitution shall:

- A. Be a chief of a fire department in the State of Tennessee and an active member in good standing of the association; And**



- B. Have served on the Board of Directors for at least one (1) year before nomination.**
- C. If a member separates from or leaves the fire service while holding an elective office but remains in good standing with the association, the member may continue to hold said office until the next annual conference, when a successor shall be elected.**
- D. No member may hold more than one elective office simultaneously.**

**SECTION 2. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and Business Manager. The Vice Presidents shall rotate between each grand division of the State. Vice Presidents automatically advance one position each year through the Presidency. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Presidents shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present on the last day of the annual meeting at which the officer's terms expire. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Business Manager and Chaplain at the Annual Conference for the ensuing year. Newly elected officers take office at the conclusion of the Annual Conference.**

**SECTION 3. There shall be a Board of Directors, which shall consist of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, three active members from each grand division of the state, and the State Fire Marshal, totaling sixteen (16) members. All members shall be voting members except the President, who, in case of a tie vote before the said board, shall have a vote, but not otherwise.**

#### **SECTION 4. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- A. All active Past Presidents of the association shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. (An active Past President is a member who is in good standing with the Association and is still serving as a chief officer of a fire department).**
- B. Ex-officio members of the Board of Directors are expected to attend meetings and assist the Board by providing pertinent information on issues and shall have the same rights as regular Board members to be heard and speak on issues and to propose motions for consideration.**



- C. Ex-officio members shall be non-voting.
- D. Ex-officio members shall not be counted for determining a quorum.
- E. The Board of Directors shall have the right, by a majority vote of the voting members present, to close a Board of Directors meeting to members of the Association, including such ex-officio members.

**SECTION 5.** Three (3) directors shall be elected, one (1) from each grand division of the state, from the eligible members of the Association present by a vote the Active and Life members present at the annual conference business meeting for a term of three (3) years.

**SECTION 6.** Any member of the Board of Directors who misses three consecutive meetings may be removed by the Board of Directors. His/her replacement shall be recommended by the board members of the grand division from which the vacancy occurs.

**SECTION 7.** There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, State Fire Marshal, Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager, one member at large from the Board of Directors, and the Immediate Past President. The member at large shall be selected from alternate grand divisions each year during the annual conference at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 8.** No officer or member of the Association shall incur any expenses in the name of the Association without the approval of the Board of Directors except that, in case of an emergency, the President is empowered to authorize the expenditure of sufficient funds with the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee to meet the emergency.

**SECTION 9. Vacancies and Resignations.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, or his/her successor, the next officer in line shall immediately be appointed by the Board of Directors in an informal session to assume all duties and authorities of the vacant office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Treasurer, Business Manager, Chaplain, or Secretary, an acting Treasurer, Business Manager, Chaplain, or Secretary shall immediately be appointed by the President and upon approval of the





**Board of Directors. The appointed person(s) shall serve the unexpired term. If a Board Member shall resign their association position, die, or otherwise be incapable of serving the division so represented, shall immediately fill the vacancy with the appointment being made by the remaining Board of Directors Members of the grand division upon approval of the Board of Directors. The appointed person(s) shall serve until the next Annual Conference, where the vacancy will be filled by election.**

## **ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1. The duties of the Executive Officers**

**The President shall:**

- A. Be the official representative and spokesman for the Association;**
- B. Serve as the chairman of the Executive Committee;**
- C. Preside at meetings of the Association and meetings of the Board of Directors;**
- D. Appoint all committees, including those not provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws at the time of installation;**
- E. Serve as ex-officio chairman of all committees;**
- F. Select, with approval of the Board of Directors, the date, time, and place of each of the quarterly and annual meetings of the Board of Directors;**
- G. Call a special meeting of the Board of Directors when so requested by a majority of the Board of Directors or whenever the President determines that an unusual emergency exists;**





**The 1st Vice President shall:**

- A. In the absence or inability of the President to perform all duties of the office, be directed to assume the duties of President;**
- B. Assist the President in conducting the business and policies of the Association;**
- C. Perform other duties prescribed by the Board of Directors;**
- D. Serve as Chairman of the Audit Committee; And**
- E. Shall make every effort to interest all qualified Fire Chiefs not affiliated with the Association to obtain their membership and affiliation of each member of this Association with the Southeastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. In addition to all other duties required by the President, the Vice President shall perform such other duties as may be required by a majority vote of the Association conference assembled or by policy direction of the Board of Directors.**

**The 2nd Vice President shall:**

- A. Assist the President and First Vice President in conducting the business and policies of the Association;**
- B. In the absence of or inability of the President and First Vice President, immediately be directed to assume all duties and responsibilities of the President;**
- C. Perform such other duties as are prescribed by the Board of Directors;**
- D. Shall make every effort to interest all qualified Fire Chiefs not affiliated with the Association to obtain their membership and affiliation of each member of this Association with the Southeastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. In addition to all other duties required by the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as may be required of them by a majority vote of the Association conference assembled or by policy direction of the Board of Directors; And**
- E. Serve as a member of the Audit Committee.**



**The Secretary shall:**

- A. Maintain complete and true records of all business meetings, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee;**
- B. Report the actions taken at meetings to all members of the association at each association meeting not later than the next business meeting after said meeting;**
- C. Shall maintain a complete list of the membership;**
- D. Sends out invoices related to dues or fees and collects these funds. All funds collected are then transferred to the Treasurer promptly and securely.**
- E. Any other duties required by the President or the Board; And**
- F. It shall be the responsibility of the outgoing officer to relinquish all records and assets of the Association to the President for distribution to the incoming officer.**

**The Treasurer shall:**

- A. Supervise the use of all the assets of the Association's Fiscal Funds and equipment with the advice and approval of the Board of Directors;**
- B. Determine that all monies of the Association are deposited in proper accounts and, where applicable, drawing the highest rate of return consistent with the greatest safety for the Association funds;**
- C. Determine that all funds are collected and disbursed according to accepted accounting principles and in accordance with the bylaws of the Association and policies adopted by the Board of Directors.**
- D. Report to all quarterly meetings and at the annual conference on the financial condition of the Association, including a summary of all revenues and disbursements from all financial accounts;**
- E. Prepare an annual budget of funds needed to conduct the annual conference and quarterly meetings and submit the budget request to the Board of Directors for review and approval or revision at or before the Annual Conference;**
- F. Consult with the Executive Committee during budget preparation before consideration by the Board (by the Spring meeting);**



- G. Expend or authorize the expenditure of any funds for the normal operation of the Association as provided for in the budget;**
- H. Supervise the collection and disbursement of all funds per the Bylaws of the Association and the policies established by the Board of Directors;**
- I. Provide for the collection and disbursement of funds necessary for conducting Association conferences and meetings;**
- J. Be responsible for the custody of all assets of the Association's Fiscal Funds and equipment with advice and approval of the Executive Committee;**
- K. Cause a financial report to be prepared, including a detail of revenues and disbursements, for presentation at the annual conference;**
- L. Cause to be published the annual audit and report;**
- M. Maintain a complete list of all equipment and assets of the Association;**
- N. Maintain the Association's non-profit status with the State of Tennessee and the Internal Revenue Service;**
- O. Cause the Association's annual IRS tax filings to be done; And**
- P. It shall be the responsibility of the outgoing officer to relinquish all records and assets of the Association to the President for distribution to the incoming officer.**

**The Business Manager shall:**

- A. Negotiate contracts with hotels/motels/convention centers to hold association conferences and meetings;**
- B. Coordinate the scheduling of speakers/presenters for association training sessions;**
- C. Contract or otherwise provide audiovisuals and other equipment necessary for conferences and meetings;**
- D. Be the primary contact with all vendors and sponsors of the Association.**
- E. Negotiate and coordinate vendor and other exhibit space at the annual conference and all quarterly meetings.**
- F. Coordinate the schedule and location of all meetings and activities at the quarterly meetings and annual conferences.**



- G. Be responsible for the custody of all assigned assets of the Association and related equipment with the advice and approval of the Executive Committee.**

**The Chaplain shall:**

- A. Upon the direction of the Board of Directors, use every effort to keep in constant communication with the President of the Association in providing comfort and assistance to the membership in times of special needs;**
- B. Have the responsibility of conducting a memorial service for all deceased fire personnel in Tennessee from the previous calendar year. This memorial service is to be held during each Annual Conference; And**
- C. Be compensated for any expenses incurred in fulfilling the job responsibilities with the approval of the Board of Directors.**

## **SECTION 2. Board of Directors**

**The duties of the Board of Directors shall be to:**

- A. Set operational policies over the affairs of the Association;**
- B. Ensure the Association has an adequate internal controls system to account for all assets of the Association.**
- C. Review the work of the Association at the Board of Directors meeting and develop broad policies for the operation of the Association;**
- D. Approve, adopt, change, or amend the budgets as recommended by the Treasurer;**
- E. Cause to be made an audit to the Association at the Winter Meeting;**
- F. Approve the date and place of the annual conference and quarterly meetings as recommended by the Business Manager; And**
- G. Establish all fees and dues for the association.**



### **SECTION 3. Executive Committee**

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to:

- A. Exercise general supervision over the affairs of the Association in the interim between meetings and conventions and shall be the supreme and final authority on all matters pertaining to the interest of the Association in the interim, reporting their actions to the next meeting or conference;**
- A. Review the annual budgets as proposed by the Treasurer and Business Manager and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for its approval, disapproval, or change;**
- C. Study and evaluate the finances of the Association to formulate plans for increasing revenues, formulating plans for budgeting control of the present and future finances, advising and counseling with the Treasurer and Business Manager, approving the investment of Association funds, and presenting such plans and any other recommendation to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval;**
- D. The Business Manager serves as an advisor with no vote in the executive committee.**
- E. Carry out other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.**

### **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1.** There shall be an annual conference of the Association at a location approved by the Board of Directors. At this conference, there shall be the Annual Business Meeting and election of officers.

- A. Meetings of the Association will only be held in facilities equipped with automatic fire sprinkler protection.**

**SECTION 2.** The Association shall have quarterly meetings at a location approved by the Board of Directors.



**SECTION 3.** There shall be a Board of Directors meeting during each quarterly meeting and the annual conference to be announced by the President.

**SECTION 4.** The Board of Directors shall determine reimbursement of expenses for all authorized meetings.

**SECTION 5.** For the orderly administration of meetings, Robert's Rules of Order shall be in authority for all meetings.

**SECTION 6.** A simple majority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.

#### **ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** The Association shall have full power at the annual meeting to alter, amend, or revise the constitution, providing that notice of such alteration, amendment, or revision shall have been given in writing to the Executive Committee of the Association at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Conference. The President shall see that every member shall have at least thirty (30) consecutive days' notice of such proposed alteration, amendment, or revision before the date set for the opening of the Annual Conference. A two-thirds majority vote of the members entitled to vote who are present and voting shall be necessary to adopt any such alteration, amendment, or revision.

#### **ARTICLE VII: BYLAWS**

**SECTION 1.** The dues for Active Membership (paid and volunteer), Associate Membership, Affiliate Membership, and Life Membership shall be set by the Board of Directors. Membership dues are due and payable on July 1st of each year.





**SECTION 2.** No member delinquent for dues or assessments shall be eligible to vote. Any member delinquent one-hundred and six (106) calendar days after July 1st dues notice of such delinquency shall be removed from the membership roll and the mailing lists by the Treasurer and/or Secretary.

**SECTION 3.** Application for active, associate, life, and honorary membership shall be made to the Association through the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4.** The Association shall, through its Board of Directors, have full power to levy an assessment and collect from the members an amount sufficient to defray all the expenses of the Annual Conference.

**SECTION 5.** No member shall be entitled to register for the annual conference until such member has first paid the registration fee and all other dues and assessments owed.

**SECTION 6.** Invited speakers or distinguished visitors and members of the news media shall be permitted to register and receive the courtesies of the conference without cost upon the approval of the President of the Association. On request of the Business Manager, badges will be issued for identification only to those connected with exhibits or demonstrations.

**SECTION 7.** The fiscal year of the Association shall extend from the first day of July through the thirtieth day of June.

**SECTION 8.** No amendment to these Bylaws or Rules of Order shall be made except when written notice of such amendment has been received and read in an open session of the conference or as provided in Article VI of the constitution; a two-thirds majority vote of the members present, and voting shall be required to adopt such amendment.

**SECTION 9.** All amendments, alterations, or revisions of any part of these bylaws of rules of order shall take effect upon their adoption by the conference unless otherwise provided.





## **ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 1.** In addition to those committees provided for in the Constitution, the following permanent committees are established, whose chairman and members shall hold office until replaced or changed by the President:

- A. Audit Committee**
- B. Chaplains Section**
- C. Codes Committee**
- D. EMS Committee**
- E. Executive Advisory Council (comprised of all Past Presidents)**
- F. Firefighter Health, Safety, and Wellness Committee**
- G. OSHA Committee**
- H. Legislative Committee**
- I. Membership Committee**
- J. Mutual Aid Section**
- K. Nominations and Elections Committee**
- L. Professional Development Committee**
- M. Public Education & Life Safety Committee**
- N. Tennessee Fire Credentialing & Accreditation Consortium Committee**
- O. TNPERI Section (Tennessee Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative)**
- P. Volunteer Committee**

The President may name additional Committees for their term in office.

**SECTION 2.** The President may appoint a Vice President to serve as Committee Coordinator. The Committee Coordinator shall assist the President as a liaison between committees and developing effective committee activity.

**SECTION 3.** Each committee chairperson shall be responsible for submitting a report of activities for presentation at the annual conference and quarterly meetings.



**SECTION 4.** The Nominations and Elections Committee shall consist of three Past Presidents, one from each grand division of the Association, and chaired by the Immediate Past President. If the Immediate Past President cannot attend the Annual Conference, the Elections Committee shall select a Chairman from the three (3) members of the committee who shall be its spokesman to announce its decision and ruling to the conference attendees. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall be responsible for conducting any ballot requiring a vote of the general membership (Board elections, By-Law amendments, etc.).

**SECTION 5.** The Audit Committee, which shall consist of the President, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, the Immediate Past President, and the Director-at-large to review all expenditures, revenues, and all records for all accounts of the Association for the prior year at the Winter Quarterly Meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX: SECTIONS**

**SECTION 1:** The Board of Directors, at their discretion, may authorize the establishment of Sections to carry out detailed activities in specialized fire service-related fields as may be appropriate in furthering the mission of the Association. Sections must be approved by the Board of Directors via a majority vote. Proposals for establishing new Sections are to be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee, who will make a formal recommendation to the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 2:** A Section should be formed to represent a portion of the Association's constituency that possesses specialized skills, training, or knowledge in a common discipline and to allow greater participation in Association activities by the section constituents within their specialization. Sections shall be emergency service related and may focus on specific interests or functional areas. Sections may include but are not limited to Administrative, Professionals, Training, Company Officer, Emergency Medical Services, EVT, Volunteer, Resource/Support, etc.



**SECTION 3: Fire apparatus companies, fire equipment companies, insurance companies, educational institutions, healthcare providers, industries, private commercial vendors, and other interested persons may be eligible for membership in a Section. Section members must also hold membership in the TFCA as either Active, Associate, Affiliate, Honorary, or Life members.**

**SECTION 4: Sections shall operate under the corporate structure of the Association in the same way as Committees. Sections shall appoint a Chairperson who will serve as the primary point of contact for the TFCA Board of Directors.**

**SECTION 5: Members of Sections are not required to be chief officers; however, TFCA membership at some level per Section 3 above is required. Section membership is not required of TFCA members, and a TFCA member may participate in multiple Sections simultaneously.**

**SECTION 6: Sections may:**

- A. Establish their operating bylaws and policies. When established, these shall be submitted to and approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors and must be consistent with the Association's Constitution and Bylaws. Section members must adhere to both TFCA Bylaws and any established Section bylaws.**
- B. Establish Section dues in an amount that shall be in addition to TFCA membership dues. Sections will operate under TFCA 501(c)6 status, and the TFCA Secretary and Treasurer shall collect and disburse Section dues to the Section as requested. A financial statement shall be made available to the Section Chairperson upon request.**
- C. Design a unique logo. The logo shall incorporate the name and/or insignia of the TFCA or shall always be displayed alongside the TFCA insignia to demonstrate affiliation when used on social media, in official correspondence, etc.**



**SECTION 7: Sections must not promote or participate in activities violating the TFCA Code of Ethics. Section status may be revoked, removed, or otherwise dissolved at the discretion of the Board of Directors, with or without cause.**

## **ARTICLE X: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall present its report one day before the election, before the conference is assembled, giving a complete list of nominations for the elective offices of the Association. Where the Committee on Nominations and Elections deems it in the best interest of the Association to nominate two or more members for any office, it may so report that the choice may be decided by a ballot of the members present at the conference. The presiding officer shall then call for any nominations from the floor, shall require the nominee's concurrence in writing or verbal concurrence from the floor at the time of nomination, and after calling (3) times for any further nomination, the presiding officer shall declare the nomination closed.**

**SECTION 2. Any nominee who desires to withdraw their name may do so at the time of nomination but shall not make any address or request for their sponsors to support any other candidate.**

**SECTION 3. Only one (1) nominating speech or statement of endorsement shall be permitted by or for each candidate. Such speech shall not exceed five (5) minutes.**

**SECTION 4. For any office for which there is only one (1) eligible nomination, the presiding officer shall instruct the chair of the Committee on Nominations and Elections, as the representative of the conference assembled, to cast a ballot for such nominee and shall thereupon declare each nominee elected.**

**SECTION 5. For all offices for which two (2) or more eligible nominees are nominated, the Nomination and Elections Committee shall conduct an election.**



**SECTION 6.** In the election of officers, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes from the voting members shall be elected. In the event of a tie vote, the voting on the second ballot shall be confined to the nominees tied.

**SECTION 7.** The complete conduct of the elections and decisions in any matters of dispute arising during such elections shall be in the hands of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

**SECTION 8.** Election campaigns are expected to be conducted on the highest level. Any questions concerning the ethics of the campaign should be referred to the Nominations and Elections Committee.

**SECTION 9.** An election for each vacancy will be conducted in an election with multiple partial-term or full-term Board of Directors vacancies. The candidate with the highest number of votes for each vacancy will be awarded the vacancy.

## **ARTICLE XI: CODE OF ETHICS**

**Section 1.** The officers, board of directors, and members of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association hold as a primary consideration of complying with the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association Code of Ethics.

**Section 2.** Any member can be disciplined, up to and including termination of membership, by the association's Board of Directors for failure to comply or meet the expectations communicated through the association's Code of Ethics.



## ARTICLE XII: MISCELLANEOUS

**SECTION 1.** Officers' installation shall occur at the conclusion of the Annual meeting. Officers shall swear/affirm to the following oath of office administered by the chairperson of the nominating committee:

**"I (name) hereby swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution and Bylaws and at all times bear true allegiance to the goals and purposes of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association. I further swear to perform the duties and responsibilities to my office to the best of my ability, and at the end of my term of office, I will deliver to my successor all records of said office.  
So, help me, God."**

**SECTION 2.** In the event of an urgent question arising which necessitates an expression of opinion by the membership, and such question is not of sufficient importance to summon an emergency meeting of the Association, the President shall have the authority to instruct the Secretary to have printed and mailed to each member entitled to vote, a ballot, and to name a date upon which said ballot shall be returned to the Secretary. The President shall appoint three (3) members of the Board of Directors to count said ballot and report the results to the President. All ballots shall be preserved until the close of the next annual conference in case a recount should be required.

## RULES OF ORDER

**SECTION 1.** The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum and shall take no part in debates while presiding. All questions of order shall be subject to an appeal to the conference, and upon such an appeal, the vote shall be taken without debate. The presiding officer may state the reasons for the decision given and shall put the question as follows: "Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?" A two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be necessary to reverse the decision of the chair.





**SECTION 2.** Every member, when speaking or offering a motion, shall rise, state his or her name and place of residence, and respectfully address the presiding officer, and when finished speaking, shall at once resume his or her seat.

**SECTION 3.** When two (2) or more members rise to speak at the same time, the presiding officer shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

**SECTION 4.** A member called to order shall immediately cease speaking and resume his or her seat until the point of order in question has been decided when he or she shall again be entitled to the floor.

**SECTION 5.** A motion to take the previous question shall always be in order except when a member is in possession of the floor and must be put without debate. If supported by a majority vote of the members present, voting shall be declared carried. No further debate or amendment shall be in order until the main question shall have been decided.

**SECTION 6.** A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except when a member is in possession of the floor, a vote is being taken, or it has been decided that a vote shall now be taken. A motion to adjourn is not debatable, but a motion to adjourn to a given time is open to debate.

**SECTION 7.** Presentation of all proposed amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of Order of which notice has been given prior to the opening of the conference shall be on the first business day of the conference.

**SECTION 8.** For any question coming before the conference for which no provision has been made in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of Order, the presiding officer shall be guided by the rules laid down in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

**SECTION 9.** An appropriate memorial service to honor the deceased members shall be held at each Annual Conference.





**SECTION 10. The order of business at the annual conference and the quarterly meeting shall be as follows:**

- A. Opening Ceremonies**
- B. Opening Business Session**
  - 1. Adoption of minutes of the previous quarterly meeting or conference**
  - 2. Reading of communications**
  - 3. Reports of Association Officers**
  - 4. Appointment of special committees**
- C. Reports of committees and contributed papers shall be scheduled by the Business Manager. Nominations and elections shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws.**
- D. Unfinished business**
- E. New business**
- F. Good and welfare of the Association**
- G. Report of attendance and place of next quarterly**
- H. Adjournment**



## REVISION AND APPROVAL LOG

- **July 25, 2023, by a more than two-thirds majority vote of the eligible members present at the annual conference business meeting.**





Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association