

Berrien Fire Chiefs Association

Berrien County, Michigan



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

11-2009

ARTICLE I

Section 1 - TITLE

This organization shall be known at the Berrien Fire Chief's Association.

Section 2 - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

The purpose and objective of this Association shall be to bring together persons interested in the saving of life, protection of property and preventing and extinguishing fires. To discuss ways and means for the betterment of the fire service, and the reduction of unnecessary loss of life and property from fires. To exchange ideas on all questions affecting the safety of life and property, the promotion of legislation to this end.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 – The membership of this association shall consist of Active & Associate members,

Section 1 a. - Active Members: Shall consist of all officers with the rank of Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, and Battalion Chief, or designated member from a member department, of State, County, Municipal, Township, Privately owned, and Industrial Fire Protection Agencies, Chiefs of Insurance Patrols, Fire Commission and/or Fire Directors who devote full time to administrative and/or firefighting operations,

Section 1 b. - Associate Members: Shall consist of individuals including but not limited to, lower ranking fire service individuals, commercial venders, related discipline leaders including Communications, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Management, etc.

ARTICLE III **OFFICERS**

Section 1 – The Executive Board of the Association shall consist of a President, a Vice – President, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2 – The term of office for all Executive Board Members will be one year.

Section 3 – Qualifications of Officers: The President and Vice President of the Association shall be chosen from the ranks of the active members. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be chosen from either the active or associate membership or may be contracted if necessary.

Section 4 – Removal from Office: An officer may be removed from the Executive Board if he or she is absent from three (3) meetings in a fiscal year without being excused and/or upon recommendation of a majority of the Executive Board and approval of the membership by vote at any regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1 – The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, he or she shall appoint all committees, and perform such other duties as may be incidental to the office or which may be required of him by the Association. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees with power to vote only in case of a tie vote. The President shall have the power to call special meetings. Special meetings shall be limited to such issues that must be resolved prior to the next regular meeting.

Section 2 – The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President during the absence of, or inability of, the President to act. He or she shall also assist the President in any way possible with the balance of the Association.

Section 3 – The Secretary – Treasurer shall perform all the duties which usually pertain to this office or may be directed of him or her by the Association. He or she shall keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Association, and shall receive and answer all communications pertaining to the business of the Association. He or she shall perform all the duties that a treasurer would do. The secretary -Treasurer shall collect all dues and shall keep a record of all monies collected and expended, and shall report such receipts and expenditures of monies at each meeting. He shall deposit all monies received in a bank approved by the Association, and such funds shall be deposited in the name of the Berrien Fire Chief's Association.

ARTICLE V

Section 1 – Committees of a special or temporary nature shall be named by the President as the occasion requires.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1 – The County Chief's Association and its current slate of officers will serve as the executive committee for the Berrien County MABAS Division.

Section 2 - A standing sub-committee will be established to represent those departments participating in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System.

Section 3 – Though all members present at a meeting may participate in discussions relating to MABAS issues, only those departments that have officially joined MABAS by becoming a signatory to the Official State MABAS Agreement will have voting privileges on MABAS specific issues.

Section 4 – Each MABAS department will have one vote issued by the most senior department member in attendance at the meeting.

Section 5 – A Divisional representative will be appointed by vote of the participating MABAS Departments to represent the group in Lansing on the Michigan MABAS Committee.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1 – All member departments of the Association whether active or associate, shall be required to pay annual dues which may be established at any regular meeting by a vote of the membership.

Section 2 - No member department who is in arrears for dues for ninety (90) days shall be entitled to vote at any meeting.

Section 3 – Any member department who is in arrears for dues for one year shall, after notification of such delinquency, and failure to pay such delinquent dues, be suspended from the membership of the Association. This shall be done by Executive Board Action.

Section 4 – Dues shall be due and payable as directed by the board not to exceed annually.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1 – The election of officers shall be conducted at the final meeting of the year. A list of nominees will be presented at that time by the nominating committee. Nominations may also be offered from the floor in addition to the nominees as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Section 2 – Voting for officers shall be by written ballot, provided, however, that in the event no nominations are offered from the floor, the nominees may be elected unanimously by acclamation. A majority vote of the active departments present shall be required to elect a member to office.

Section 3 – In the event of a tie vote, a second ballot shall be taken and this procedure followed until a majority vote is had and the office filled.

Section 4 – The newly elected officers shall be duly installed following the completion of the election.

ARTICLE IX **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Section 1 – The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended or altered at an annual Meeting or at any regular meeting by an affirmative vote of Two-Thirds of the qualified voting departments present, provided that previous notice of the proposed alterations or amendments have been mailed to the departments at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE X
QUORUM

Section 1 – At all meetings, other than Executive Board Meetings, in which Association business may be considered, a quorum shall consist of not less than one-third (1/3rd) of the active departments.

BY-LAWS

Section 1 – Meetings of the Association shall be held as scheduled by the executive board. Regular Meetings will be scheduled and posted at least 30 days prior to the meeting being held. .

Section 2 – Voting members shall be the highest ranking active member in attendance from a department in good standing.