

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment:

In an effort to provide a greater cross section of the SFFMA membership voting at the Annual Conference and Convention; we are proposing a change to the voting delegate protocol. If we allow every SFFMA member that is registered and attending the Annual Convention and Conference; we will increase the percentage of membership that has a voice in the future of our organization.

## Current Article II Membership

### **Section 8.2 Individual Retired Membership**

Individual Retired membership in this association shall be available to any retired person that has been an active member of the State Firefighter's and Fire Marshal's Association (SFFMA) of Texas and has served at least 15 years with a recognized member department (or departments). Each Individual Retired member shall receive, upon paying ½ of an active membership dues at the time of application, a retired membership card. Individual Retired membership shall entitle the holder to be a voting delegate to vote upon matters coming before the delegate body of the State Association at the Annual Training Conference and Convention. Individual Retired members are eligible to serve on established committees and continue to participate in the certification program. The Individual Retired member vote will not count against a member department's allowed 5 delegate votes, of which they were a member. Failure to pay the annual Individual Retired membership dues will result in termination of that retired membership of the individual.

**Section 9. International membership** in this association shall be available to any person interested in the support of the fire service, not residing or volunteering in the fire service in Texas or other U.S. states. International memberships are separate and apart from active memberships. Each individual international member shall receive upon paying annual dues, a membership card. Only international members that belong to a dues-paying department or organization can participate in the association International Certification Program. Said membership shall not entitle the member cardholder to vote upon matters coming before the delegate body of the state association at the annual training conference and convention. Said membership shall follow the guidelines and specifications set forth by the association International Committee. Failure to pay individual membership dues shall terminate that international membership in the state association.

**Section 9.1** International membership is required to participate in the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' of Texas International Certification Program (available in Spanish).

## **ARTICLE VI - Delegates**

**Section 1.** Each regularly organized fire department shall be entitled to five delegates at the Annual Training Conference and Convention, provided that all sections to the by-laws have been complied with.

**Section 2.** All delegates must be current individual dues paying members. No member delegate shall be allowed to be represented by proxy.

**Section 3.** Lists of delegates from each member department or organization shall be furnished to the secretary upon registration at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

**Section 4.** Each regularly organized district, county, fire service organization and rescue

association, and Fire Marshals' Office as recognized by the Executive Board shall be eligible for one delegate to the Annual Training Conference and Convention upon payment of the proper annual dues to this Association.

*Section 5.* Each Individual Retired member shall be eligible for one (1) vote at the Annual Training Conference and Convention. This vote will not count against any department's allowed 5 delegate votes.

## **Proposed Changes**

### ***Section 8.2 Individual Retired Membership***

Individual Retired membership in this association shall be available to any retired person that has been an active member of the State Firefighter's and Fire Marshal's Association (SFFMA) of Texas and has served at least 15 years with a recognized member department (or departments). Each Individual Retired member shall receive, upon paying ½ of an active membership dues at the time of application, a retired membership card. Individual Retired membership shall entitle the holder to be a voting delegate to vote upon matters coming before the delegate body of the State Association at the Annual Training Conference and Convention. Individual Retired members are eligible to serve on established committees and continue to participate in the certification program. ~~The Individual Retired member vote will not count against a member department's allowed 5 delegate votes, of which they were a member.~~ Failure to pay the annual Individual Retired membership dues will result in termination of that retired membership of the individual.

*Section 9. International membership* in this association shall be available to any person interested in the support of the fire service, not residing or volunteering in the fire service in Texas or other U.S. states. International memberships are separate and apart from active memberships. Each individual international member shall receive upon paying annual dues, a membership card. Only international members that belong to a dues-paying department or organization can participate in the association International Certification Program. Said membership shall not entitle the member cardholder to vote upon matters coming before the delegate body of the state association at the annual training conference and convention. Said membership shall follow the guidelines and specifications set forth by the association International Committee. Failure to pay individual membership dues shall terminate that international membership in the state association.

*Section 9.1* International membership is required to participate in the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' of Texas International Certification Program (available in Spanish).

## **ARTICLE VI - Delegates**

~~*Section 1.* Each regularly organized fire department shall be entitled to five delegates at the Annual Training Conference and Convention, provided that all sections to the by-laws have been complied with.~~

~~*Section 2.* All delegates must be current individual dues paying members. No member delegate shall be allowed to be represented by proxy.~~

~~*Section 3.* Lists of delegates from each member department or organization shall be furnished to~~

~~the secretary upon registration at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.~~

*Section 1.* ~~Each regularly organized district, county, fire service organization and rescue association, and Fire Marshals' Office as recognized by the Executive Board shall be eligible for one delegate to the Annual Training Conference and Convention upon payment of the proper annual dues to this Association.~~ **All people holding current Life membership, Honorary life membership, Individual membership, and Individual Retired Membership registered and attending the Annual Conference and Convention shall be entitled to one vote.**

*Section 5.* ~~Each Individual Retired member shall be eligible for one (1) vote at the Annual Training Conference and Convention. This vote will not count against any department's allowed 5 delegate votes.~~