

Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society
Articles of Association

PREAMBLE

ARTICLE I. NAME

- Section 1. Identification
- Section 2. Governing body

ARTICLE II. PERIOD OF DURATION

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

- Section 1. Mission Statement
- Section 2. History of the F.O.O.L.S
- Section 3. Function

ARTICLE IV. DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE V. TRAINING (F.T.C.)

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Prerequisites
- Section 2. Eligibility
- Section 3. Becoming a member
- Section 4. Conduct Unbecoming A FOOL

ARTICLE VII. AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS (CHAPTERS)

- Section 1. Copyrights, Trademarks, Intellectual Property
- Section 2. Charter
- Section 3. Formal Organization of Affiliate Chapters
- Section 4. Dues
- Section 5. Website
- Section 6. Autonomy

ARTICLE VIII. FORMAL ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES

- Section 1. Officers and Elections
- Section 2. Management of Affairs

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

- Section 1. Quorum
- Section 2. Meeting Call
- Section 3. Annual Convention
- Section 4. Affiliate Participation
- Section 5. Ritual of The Can
- Section 6. Challenge Coin

ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

- Section 1. Rules of Order
- Section 2. Order of Business

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

Section 1. Amendment Voting

Section 2. Resolution Voting

Section 3. Amendment and Resolution Conflict

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

ARTICLE XIII. APPROVAL OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Adoption

Section 2. Effective Date

PREAMBLE

The Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society has truly become an international organization. With its inception in 1995, the Founding F.O.O.L.S. had no idea that this organization would have grown to the size that it is today. With the help of the Fire Department Instructor's Conference and the Internet, Firefighters worldwide have been introduced to our society; one whose main purpose is to preserve the tradition, rich heritage and brotherhood of the Fire Service, a coveted possession that is found in no other profession. The Founding F.O.O.L.S., as well as all of our members, see a great need for the F.O.O.L.S. in today's society. With all the obstacles we face in our jobs it is easy to lose sight of what it is we really stand for. Our forefathers have worked hard, struggled and died for what is considered by us the best job in the world, and we owe it not only to them, but also to ourselves to preserve all that they have accomplished. Moreover, it is the spirit of our fallen Brother and Sister firefighters that we must keep alive. The F.O.O.L.S. symbol of the burning globe signifies that, worldwide, firefighters are all Brothers and Sisters, regardless of racial, ethnic, religious or language differences. Just as fire burns without prejudice, we, the brave soldiers of the war that never ends, are bonded in the same way; we are all Brothers, we are all Firefighters.

With the exponential growth of the Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society, other chapters have developed. The purpose for the Articles of Association of the F.O.O.L.S. is so we may all follow the same path in our never-ending pursuit to preserve of our beloved profession.

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. IDENTIFICATION- These Articles of Association shall govern the association known as the "Fraternal Order Of Leatherheads Society" hereinafter referred to as "F.O.O.L.S., F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL or THE INTERNATIONAL"

Section 2. GOVERNING BODY- The governing body of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL shall hereinafter be known as "Executive Board"

ARTICLE II. PERIOD OF DURATION

Section 1. The duration of the F.O.O.L.S. shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

Section 1. MISSION STATEMENT - The F.O.O.L.S. exemplify the true meaning of the Brotherhood by providing training opportunities to Brother and Sister Firefighters worldwide. We organize benefits to assist not only a firefighter and their families in need, but our communities as well. The F.O.O.L.S. exist to strengthen the Brotherhood of our chosen profession and fuel the flame of passion we have for our calling.

Section 2. HISTORY OF THE F.O.O.L.S. - The Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society was founded in 1995 by a group of Central Florida Firemen. This group, known today as the Founding F.O.O.L.S., had a passion for not only the camaraderie and brotherhood that is forged between firefighters, but the rich tradition and heritage of the Fire Service.

The Leatherhead is a term used for a firefighter who uses the leather helmet for protection from the hazards we face every day on the streets. The Leather Helmet is an international sign of a Firefighter, a symbol that is significant in not only tradition from the early years of firefighting, but one of bravery, integrity, honor and pride. This helmet is a sign of who we are, not what we are.

The F.O.O.L.S., like the traditional leather helmet, has always existed through the brotherhood and tradition of the Fire Service, and will continue to grow and flourish as long as there are fires to fight and emergencies to respond to. All firefighters are welcome to be a part of this great organization; one does not have to own a leather helmet to be considered a "Leatherhead". All members must be true to your profession and true to your Brother and Sister firefighters. Our membership is growing every day, and we encourage you to start a F.O.O.L.S. chapter in your department and/or area.

We ask of each and every one of you, let us never, ever forget those of us that have gone before us in the line of duty. Because those brave souls have given all, it is up to us to always keep them alive in our hearts and our memories. Long live the F.O.O.L.S.

Section 3. FUNCTION- The F.O.O.L.S. is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Mission Statement of this organization and to:

1. Functioning as a Fire Service entity separate and distinct from any and all other Fire Service bodies or movements
2. Provide the Fire Service the catalyst which embodies the growth of education and training
3. Move the Fire Services' collective conscience in a positive direction by building on long standing tradition and honor
4. Charter affiliate organizations throughout the world and promoting their growth and activities
5. Enter into public information activities to spawn a new understanding of today's Fire Service

ARTICLE IV. DEFINITIONS

1. "CAN, The"- A small flask like container, used to partake in the "ritual of the CAN"
2. AFFILIATE CHAPTER-sub organization of, and chartered by, F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL
3. EXECUTIVE BOARD- A panel of officers established to manage F.O.O.L.S. organizations
4. FOUNDING F.O.O.L.S.- the founding fathers of F.O.O.L.S. The following are the ONLY people whom may claim this title: Michael A. Stallings, Ken W.

Ireland, Michael H. Gilbert, Walter J. Lewis, Thomas B. Redmond, and John R. Simpson.

5. F.T.C.- F.O.O.L.S. Training Committee, a committee of the-International, dedicated to education and training the Fire Service
6. MEMBER- anyone of good standing, officially registered with F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL.
7. WEBSITE- internet based web space for the purpose of promoting the F.O.O.L.S.
8. BROTHERS- A gender neutral term used to recognize all members, male and female
9. MAJORITY – Two thirds of the Executive Board

ARTICLE V. TRAINING (F.T.C.)

Section 1. The intent of F.T.C. training is to promote a safer and better-trained member of the fireground team. Each year, an average of 100 firefighters die from various causes while performing their duties. Educating and training our firefighters can prevent many of these deaths. We, as F.O.O.L.S., have dedicated our organization to this monumental task. Whether training is in the form of a formal conference, seminar, or in a manner in which F.O.O.L.S. members task themselves to perform in-house training, this education is strongly advocated. However the training occurs, sharing the knowledge gained amongst members is paramount. Many of our F.O.O.L.S. members are well versed in the science of fire and share their knowledge openly; some members are new to the fire service. It is incumbent upon all F.O.O.L.S. to seek opportunities to learn and teach our craft. Training and education have no boundaries; opportunities abound, share your knowledge, and in turn, be prepared to learn.

Section 2. Any and all F.O.O.L.S. training events sponsored by the International or Local F.O.O.L.S. chapter must follow the F.O.O.L.S. International Training Event Checklist.

1. Set date & secure location or venue.
2. Present lesson plan to the Education Trustee at least one (1) month before the scheduled event.
3. Obtain liability insurance for the event.
4. Post a training announcement on the F.O.O.L.S. International website.
5. Hold the event.
6. Take photos and track attendees.
7. Complete an “After Action Report” and post it on the F.O.O.L.S. International website.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. PREREQUISITES- The F.O.O.L.S. invites any firefighter that supports the tradition of the fire service. We have fire chief's on down to the newest firefighter amongst our ranks. The F.O.O.L.S. exists to keep the tradition of the fire service

alive. We encourage anyone that is proud to be in this great profession to join the F.O.O.L.S. and help us keep the tradition alive. F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL reserves the right to decline or revoke membership for just cause as seen fit by the Executive Board of the International. The member may challenge the revocation of their status by written appeal to the International within 30 days of receipt of notice of such revocation. Failure to appeal within 30 days shall confirm the revocation and bar any later challenge or appeal. The decision by the F.O.O.L.S. International E-Board will be FINAL.

Section 2. ELIGIBILITY- Eligibility requires members to hold or have held the status of firefighter in one or more of the following capacities:

1. Career Firefighter
2. Paid on call
3. Volunteer
4. Retired from any of the above

Section 3. BECOMING A MEMBER

1. Members must be true to one's profession and agree to uphold the mission statement of the F.O.O.L.S.
2. Members must register and make a \$10.00 donation to F.O.O.L.S. International.
3. Only members who are registered with the International shall be eligible for appointment or membership to affiliate chapters.
 - a. To obtain membership with F.O.O.L.S. International, one must get in touch with a local affiliate chapter and request sponsorship into that chapter or start an affiliate chapter in their area. The International is no longer accepting "new" individual memberships.
 - b. Any existing member not affiliated with a chapter is strongly encouraged to join an established chapter or start an affiliate chapter in their area. All existing individual members will maintain their status as long as they remain current on their annual individual membership dues assessment. Starting in 2015 members without a chapter, will be required to fill out an Individual Member Questionnaire annually. Members who are pre-paid will be grandfathered from filling out the questionnaire until their effective date ends.

Eligibility to remain Individual Member:

1. Complete the Individual Member Questionnaire, located on the International's website.
2. All questionnaires will be reviewed by the International's E-Board for approval.

- c. An applicant is NOT a member “in good standing” until their membership application is processed by the International and an ID # is issued.
- 4. Only members who are registered with the International shall be eligible to hold office in any F.O.O.L.S. Organization.
- 5. Only members who are registered with the International shall be counted for delegate appointment, or International Committee representation

Section 4. CONDUCT UNBECOMING A FOOL

- 1. If at any time the affiliate chapter’s E-Board finds that a F.O.O.L.S. member from their chapter has acted in a way as to tarnish the F.O.O.L.S. name, the affiliate chapter has the ability to discipline the member as they deem appropriate, up to and including revoking the member’s Membership (member must relinquish their membership card).
- 2. Acts that may tarnish the F.O.O.L.S. name consist of, but are not limited to:
 - a. Using the F.O.O.L.S. name for personal benefit; either F.O.O.L.S. International or an affiliate F.O.O.L.S. chapter.
 - b. Theft or Fraud (Accusations beyond a reasonable doubt with verifiable proof).
 - c. Any Felony conviction.
 - d. Acting in a manner that brings disgrace to F.O.O.L.S. International or to an affiliate chapter.
 - e. Defamation of F.O.O.L.S. International or affiliate chapter member.
 - f. Any member whose behavior is illegal or unlawful shall have their membership REVOKED. Moreover, the action(s) of this member may cause their chapter’s charter to be REVOKED as well.
- 3. The International E-Board will be available to the affiliate Chapter’s E-Board for guidance, but the decision will be made by the affiliate chapter.

ARTICLE VII. AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS (CHAPTERS)

Section 1. COPYRIGHTS, TRADEMARKS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY- No person, group or organization may use the name “F.O.O.L.S.”, the “Flaming Globe” or any confusingly similar designation except an organization to which F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL grants affiliate status. The Flaming Globe is a trademark of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL and may not be used singularly to represent or advertise an affiliate chapter. It may however be used, with permission, from the International E-Board, in conjunction with an affiliate’s Logo. **ANY AND ALL LOGOS, PROPOSED ARTWORK AND SYMBOLS, MUST BE APPROVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL E-BOARD PRIOR TO ANY PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SAME.**

Section 2. CHARTERS- F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL shall charter affiliate chapters from any qualifying parties requesting such status in each state, territory or country. Parties wishing to become affiliate chapters shall petition for such status in writing (using the Chapter application form) to F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL. This petition shall be signed by no fewer than 5 members of the party requesting affiliation. Affiliate chapter status shall be granted only to those parties that adopt the Mission Statement and Articles of Association of F.O.O.L.S. International. F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL reserves the right to decline or revoke charters for just cause as seen fit by the Executive Board of the International. The affiliate chapter may challenge the revocation of its status by written appeal to the International within 30 days of receipt of notice of such revocation. Failure to appeal within 30 days shall confirm the revocation and bar any later challenge or appeal.

Section 3. FORMAL ORGANIZATION OF AFFILIATES CHAPTERS- Formal organization of affiliate executive board is set forth within these bylaws and shall mirror the International.

1. No affiliate chapter will be allowed to form sub-chapters within its organization. Refer to Article VII Section 2 for affiliate chapter authorization

Section 4. DUES- International Chapters dues shall be paid by January 1st of each year. Each chapter of the International will be responsible to pay said dues in the following manner:

5-50 members = \$50 per year total dues
 51-100 members = \$100 per year
 101-200 members = \$200 per year
 201 members + = \$300 per year max.

a. Affiliate chapters not submitting their Chapter Dues by January 31st will have their charters REVOKED. They will have to start the chapter application process from the beginning to regain their Active Chapter status after that point, as well as submitting any “unpaid” dues assessment.

Any F.O.O.L.S. International member, not affiliated with a chapter will be required to pay an annual due of \$5.00 per year, due January 1st. Members not complying by January 31st of each year will have their membership revoked. (See Article VI – Membership, Section 3, b)

Affiliate chapters shall have autonomy to set individual membership dues providing they are reasonable and prudent.

Section 5. - It is the Chapter’s responsibility to notify the International of any changes to their membership roster. This would include any information that is required on the membership application, as well as the member’s status within the chapter.

Section 6. WEBSITES- Each Chapter is strongly urged to have a website representing their chapter organization. Each chapter website will be directly linked to the International Website.

Section 7. AUTONOMY- The autonomy of the affiliate chapter shall not be abridged by the International or any committee of the International, except as provided by these Articles of Association.

ARTICLE VIII. FORMAL ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES

Section 1. **OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**- The following is a suggested organizational structure for chapters, and may be amended as necessary. Any amendments to this structure must be approved by the International:

1. President
 - a. The President or his designee shall preside at all Conventions and all meetings of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL.
 - b. The President is the chief executive officer of the F.O.O.L.S. with full authority to direct its business and affairs.
 - c. The President is responsible for representing F.O.O.L.S. International and is the primary contact for interaction with the media, other fire service organizations and related agencies.
 - d. The President shall oversee and be held responsible for any and all actions of F.O.O.L.S. International
 - e. The President shall be responsible for the continued growth of F.O.O.L.S. International and its affiliate chapters
 - f. The President shall provide to the general membership a growth plan and an implementation strategy
 - g. The President must be an accomplished public speaker, present well, and have the ability to interact with people on many levels.
2. Vice President
 - a. The Vice President shall be the chief assistant to the President, performing such duties, as the President shall prescribe.
 - b. The Vice President shall attend all meetings of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL and all F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL Conventions
 - c. The Vice President, while holding such executive powers as the President, shall delegate and shall perform the duties of the President in the event that the President is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

- d. The Vice President shall be responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the monthly Fire Engineering Blog Talk Radio.
- e. The Vice President and/or his designee, shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of a list of “approved” instructors within the F.O.O.L.S. organization.
- f. The Vice President shall ensure that all information pertinent to F.O.O.L.S. International is disseminated to the general membership, directors and Founding F.O.O.L.S. This information will include the minutes from Directors meetings, chapter meetings and yearly convention meetings. This information shall be gathered and submitted to the trustee responsible for maintaining website information, for regular postings on the website.
- g. The Vice President must have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office

3. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall perform any and all duties as assigned by the President.
- b. The Treasurer shall attend all meetings of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL and all F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL Conventions and shall act as Treasurer Thereof keeping such records as necessary.
- c. The Treasurer shall be the recipient for all mail addressed to F.O.O.L.S. International and shall distribute same to the appropriate Board member for action.
- d. The Treasurer shall receive, expend and account for the funds of the F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL under the supervision and direction of the Board of Directors
- e. The Treasurer will oversee bank accounts, general accounting, budget, tax and audit activities of F.O.O.L.S. International.
- f. The Treasurer will oversee financial and computerized accounting system controls and standards and ensures timely financial and statistical reports for the Board of Directors and accountant/tax advisor.
- g. The Treasurer will advise the Board of Directors of any irregularity, lack of compliance, or problems whether actual or potential concerning the financial systems, the financial operations, the financing plans, the accounting, the audits, the budgets and any other matter of a financial nature

- h. The Treasurer will coordinate the accounting activities with outside vendors and suppliers hired or contracted by F.O.O.L.S. International, including accountants, auditors, web hosting & the banking system and other venues.
- i. The Treasurer must have a working knowledge of or the willingness to learn Microsoft Office, QuickBooks and/or QuickBooks Pro
- j. This position requires experience or willingness to learn in accounting and tax reporting.

4. Secretary

- a. The Secretary shall perform any and all duties as assigned by the President.
- b. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL and all F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL Conventions and shall act as Secretary Thereof keeping such records as necessary.
- c. The Secretary is responsible for the tracking of current and new chapters & members of F.O.O.L.S. International.
- d. The Secretary shall assist in the developing and maintaining new chapters.
- e. The Secretary will have the authority to validate new chapters.
- f. The Secretary shall assist the local chapters with membership issues and related items
- g. The Secretary shall abide by guidelines for the establishment of new chapters
- h. The Secretary is the primary contact of the Secretary / Treasurer for all Chapter/Membership fees.
- i. The Secretary is the primary contact with all local chapters and general membership pertaining to membership to F.O.O.L.S. International.
- j. The Secretary shall ensure that new applicants are assigned to their closest local chapter, when the chapter is within a reasonable driving distance. Make contact with such chapter for assistance with this membership.
- k. The Secretary shall maintain an accurate database of membership and maintain an effective system of information

storage, management, and retrieval.

- l. The Secretary must have a working knowledge or the willingness to learn of Microsoft Office and database technology.
- m. The Secretary will be the main contact for the AIL Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy for all members in good standing with the International.

5. Trustee - Education

- a. The Education Trustee shall attend all meetings of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL and all F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL Conventions.
 - b. The Education Trustee shall be in charge of providing information on training materials to our chapters.
 - c. The Education Trustee shall spearhead training at all annual conventions.
 - d. The Education Trustee shall seek out new and innovative training while maintaining the basics of Firefighter safety with tried and true techniques.
 - e. The Education Trustee shall work in concert with the Trustee responsible for maintaining website information to provide the best online training resource available to our membership.
 - f. The Trustee of Education or his designee will ensure that submitted training articles will be reviewed in a timely manner, for posting by the Trustee responsible for maintaining website information, on the F.O.O.L.S. International.com website. It will be their responsibility to advise the Trustee responsible for maintaining website information, if an article is disapproved, and the reason thereof.
 - g. Minimum requirements for The Trustee of Education:
 - i. Currently hold the rank of training officer for a minimum of five years or;
 - ii. Past Training officer for a minimum of five years or;
 - iii. Nationally recognized Fire Service Instructor with the ability to provide training commensurate to the F.O.O.L.S. training initiatives
6. Affiliate Chapters may appoint additional positions to their Executive Board, but must maintain at least the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Education Trustee and maintain

an odd number to ensure proper voting status.

7. Family members are PROHIBITED from holding office together on a F.O.O.L.S. Executive Board.
8. Executive Board Members shall hold office for a period of four years. Effective December, 2013, elections for the office of Vice-President and Secretary shall be held. Effective December 2015, elections for the office of President, Treasurer and Trustee-Education shall be held. Each of these elections shall be held on a rotational basis, every four (4) years. For Clarification, Rotation #1: Elections for the position of Vice President and Secretary (2013, 2017, 2021 etc.) Rotation #2: Elections for the position of President, Treasurer and Trustee – Education (2015, 2019, 2023 etc.) The intent of this rotation is to maintain Executive Board continuity of service to the membership by not changing the entire E-Board at once. Elected positions take effect on January 1st, immediately after the Elections. These positions shall be maintained by said personnel until voted out of office, resignation or a unanimous vote of no confidence by the Executive Board of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL.
 - a. In light of the unprecedented change in the International Executive Board, the FOUNDING F.O.O.L.S. reserve the sole privilege of appointing the International Executive Board from a list of prospective candidates. This covenant shall stand until a time that there are less than three living members of the FOUNDING F.O.O.L.S. or the remaining Founding F.O.O.L.S. gives up this privilege. At this time general elections for these positions shall be held with regard to the rules set forth in this document.
 - b. This new Executive Board shall fall under the leadership and direction of the Founding F.O.O.L.S..
9. Any member of the F.O.O.L.S. in good standing as stated in Article VI for a minimum of three years is eligible to be a candidate for office in F.O.O.L.S. International. The member must have attended at least one F.O.O.L.S. International annual convention. One individual may not hold two offices on the same Executive Board simultaneously.

Section 2. Management of Affairs- The Executive Board shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties and funds of F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL consistent with these Articles of Association. The Executive Board shall establish and oversee an organizational structure to implement the purposes of the F.O.O.L.S. as stated in Article 3. The F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the carrying out of its duties and responsibilities.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

Section 1. Quorum- a majority of the membership of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.

Section 2. The International shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by any of the following:

1. Action of a Committee
2. Call of the President,
3. Written request of 1/3 or more of its members

Section 3. Annual Convention - The International shall hold a Regular Convention every year,

GENERAL INFORMATION: It shall be hosted by a chapter(s) in good standing with the International. The Executive Board shall approve the date of the convention no later than one year prior. June to October is the Executive Board's desired time for the convention. All costs associated with the convention shall be the responsibility of the chapter(s) hosting, with the exception of the International's annual awards.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible to host the International Convention, a chapter must have been in good standing with the International for three (3) years and must have had a member of their chapter attend two (2) consecutive prior conventions.

The hosting chapter(s) of the International Convention shall be selected by a vote of the Membership, Executive Board & Founders.

Chapter(s) interested in hosting a convention shall put forth their interest in writing to the Executive Board two months prior to the convention they plan to present. The presentations shall be conducted at the convention two years prior to the desired year of hosting. (Example...to host the 2020 convention, a chapter(s) will perform their presentation at the 2018 convention.) This will give the chapter(s) selected two years to properly prepare for their convention.

The awarded chapter(s) shall give an update on the progress of their convention planning at the convention prior to their host year.

PRESENTATION: Prospective hosting chapter(s) desiring to host the convention shall conduct a presentation to the convention attendees of their interest. In the presentation, the chapter should address why hosting the convention in their city/region would be in the International's best interest. A vote at the convention will follow the presentation for final selection.

VOTING: Voting to select the chapter(s) to host the International Convention shall be conducted by an "official ballot" provided by the International. Each chapter present at the convention will be provided a ballot for voting. Only one (1) vote will be allowed per chapter. Additionally, each Founder and Executive Board member of F.O.O.L.S. International, in attendance at the convention, will be given one vote. Should there be a tie between two or more chapters to host the convention, the Founders/Executive Board members in attendance will vote again to break the tie. If the second vote results in another tie, the International's

President's vote shall be pulled to eliminate an even vote. All ballots shall be archived for three (3) years by the Secretary for official record of the vote.

Section 4. Affiliate Participation- Chapters are encouraged to sponsor meetings, gatherings and events sponsored by the chapter to celebrate the Brotherhood of our profession. Announcements of meetings and events should be forwarded to F.O.O.L.S. INTERNATIONAL so F.O.O.L.S. worldwide can be made aware of the growth of our organization.

Section 5. "Ritual Of The Can"- a symbolic ritual at all F.O.O.L.S. events, staff meetings, and conventions. All Affiliate organizations are required to have a "Can"

1. The "CAN" must begin all F.O.O.L.S. events, meeting, and conventions with a shot from it by each member of your E-Board chapter, if you so choose each member attending the meeting or convention.
2. The "Can" shall be filled with a beverage of preference all voted on by the E-Board.
3. The member having possession of the "CAN" shall raise the can and toast those present & who have gone before us and have the first shot (*see "Official F.O.O.L.S. Toast"*). That member shall then pass the "Can" to the President and likewise down the ranks. Each member will partake.

"OFFICIAL" F.O.O.L.S. TOAST:

"In the grips of death we depend on our sisters & brothers, through smoke & fire we protect each other...."

Our calling is clear we shall not wander, when protecting life it's death before dishonor....

And here and now we raise our glass, a toast to the fallen heroes of the past.

Tradition, Brotherhood, Duty Forever, for this could be our last drink together
!

Slainte !"

4. The member who has the "Can" in his possession at the beginning of the meeting, seminar, or F.O.O.L.S. related activity shall receive the "CAN" back and announce the last shot of the night from the "CAN". The last shot will be a toast in remembrance of all brothers who are no longer with us, but rather they are present in spirit. This shot goes onto the ground, for that is where they lay.
5. After the shot is poured onto the ground the "CAN" is passed down to the next ranking official of the Executive Board, the "CAN" is then secured in their possession until the next related F.O.O.L.S. gathering. The process of exchanging possession of the "CAN" is perpetual.

6. The "CAN" represents Brotherhood, Trust, and is a gesture of faith in one another. The partaking of the Ritual of the Can bonds us together in our struggle to preserve the heritage of the fire service.

Section 6. "Challenge Coin" – a symbolic coin at (including but not limited to) F.O.O.L.S. events, staff meetings and conventions. All affiliate F.O.O.L.S. chapters are encouraged to have a "Coin".

1. The "Coin" is to be carried on all person(s) in attendance at (including but not limited to) all F.O.O.L.S. events, meetings and conventions.
2. The "Coin" shall be made of metal and no smaller than one inch in diameter.
3. The "Coin" shall display the affiliate F.O.O.L.S. Chapter's Logo or the F.O.O.L.S. International Logo.
4. Each member having possession of a "Coin" shall produce said coin when requested.
 - a. Said "Coin" must be within arm's reach or one step after being requested to produce said coin.
5. If said "Coin" is not produced, then the member being requested to produce said "Coin" will kindly purchase one beverage of choice to the requesting member.
6. If said "Coin" is produced, then the member being requested to produce said "Coin" will kindly receive one beverage of choice from requesting member.
7. If any member in possession of a "Coin" drops a coin, this is considered to be an "Accidental Coining". Every member in the immediate area who produces a "Coin" shall kindly receive one beverage of choice from the member dropping the "Coin".
8. The "Coin" represents Brotherhood, Trust, and is a gesture of faith in one another. The partaking of the "Coin" bonds us together in our struggle to preserve the heritage of the fire service.

ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section 1. Rules of Order- the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the F.O.O.L.S. in all cases to which they are applicable.

Section 2. Order of Business- The standing order of business for all meetings and conventions of the F.O.O.L.S. shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Ritual of the "Can"
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of previous minutes

5. President's report
6. Vice Presidents report
7. Secretary/Treasurers' report
8. Trustee's reports:
 - a. Membership
 - b. Education
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Resolutions
12. Other business (open forum)
13. Adjournment

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENT AND RESOLUTIONS

Section 1. These Articles of Association may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Board

Section 2. Resolutions must be approved by a majority Vote of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Amendments and Resolutions must not conflict with Article III or Article VI of this document.

ARTICLE XII . DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future law, or to the Federal, State, or Local government for exclusive public purpose.

ARTICLE XIII. APPROVAL OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Adoption- These Articles of Association shall become adopted upon majority approval of the Executive Board and will supersede any previous Articles of Association or Guidelines of the F.O.O.L.S.

Section 2. Affiliate Chapter's Responsibility – Each affiliate chapter agrees to “mirror” these written Articles of Association. The affiliate chapter DOES NOT write their own Articles of Association. If there are any “Chapter Specific” amendments, they must be submitted in writing and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board of F.O.O.L.S. International. These “Chapter Specific” items must follow the format set forth by the Executive Board of F.O.O.L.S. International. The document containing the format will be available both on the F.O.O.L.S. International website as well as by contacting info@foolsinternational.com.

Section 3. Effective Date - ~~03-19-14~~ 2-10-2015

Richard A. Stack, President

Robert Faas, Vice-President

Chris Bednarek, Treasurer

Ben Fleagle, Secretary

Rob Fisher, Education Trustee