ARTICLE II
AFFILIATION

This Association shall be a division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. and shall be bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.
ARTICLE VII
CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP & PRIVILEGES

The individual membership of the Association shall consist of:

**Regular Members**
Regular members shall include:
1. The chief of the department and all chief officers, as designated by the chief, of regularly organized public, private, governmental or industrial fire departments.
2. Department, City, County, State, Provincial and Territorial Fire Marshals and their immediate subordinates as designated by the Fire Marshal.
3. All Regular members in retirement from a position described in 1 or 2 above who have not been designated life members.

Regular members, who maintain current dues-paying status shall be entitled to hold elective office, serve on the Board of Directors and vote on all matters requiring a vote of the general membership unless otherwise prohibited herein. New regular members shall be entitled to voting privileges fifteen days after receipt of initial membership dues.

**Departmental Members**
1. Departmental members shall include any Fire/EMS departments serving populations of 10,000 or less.
2. Departmental members shall be entitled to the same privileges as a regular member with the exception of service in elected position.
3. Dues for departmental members shall be the same as for regular members.
4. Departmental members shall be entitled to vote on all matters requiring a vote, but are entitled to only one vote.

**Life Members**
1. To be eligible for life membership, you must be a Regular member who is fully retired from the fire service and has been a member continuously (i.e., without breaks in your membership) as specified below:
2. **Joined prior to August 28, 2003** with a minimum of ten consecutive years as a Regular member and is a Regular member at the time you retired from the fire service.
3. **Joined between August 28, 2003 and August 28, 2011** with a minimum of fifteen consecutive years as a Regular member and is a Regular member at the time you retire from the fire service.
4. **Joined after August 28, 2011** with a minimum of twenty consecutive years as a Regular member and is a Regular member at the time you retire from the fire service.
5. Life members are not required to pay dues but may be charged for Association services.
6. Life membership shall not be conferred or continued for any individuals eligible to be a regular member of the Association through their employment or involvement with the fire service.
7. Life members shall be entitled to vote on all matters requiring a vote, but are not eligible to hold elective office or serve on the board of directors.

**Past President Life Membership**
1. Life membership shall be conferred upon all past presidents of the Association with all the privileges of regular membership.
2. Past President Life Members are not required to pay dues.

**Associate Members**
1. Associate members shall be fire service personnel interested in the goals and objectives of the Association who are not eligible for Regular membership.
2. Associate members shall have all the benefits of Regular membership, except they are not eligible to hold elective office, serve on the Board of Directors or have voting privileges.

**Affiliate Members**
1. Affiliate members shall be individuals, Associations, individual employees or officers of corporations and businesses that are interested in the goals and objectives of the Association who are not eligible for Regular membership.
2. Affiliate members shall be entitled to participate in the Association, except that they are not eligible to hold elective office, serve on the Board of Directors or have voting privileges.

**Honorary Life Members**
1. Honorary life membership may be conferred upon any person who has rendered conspicuous service to the Association, its aims and purposes, provided that such membership shall be unanimously recommended by the executive committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
2. Honorary life members shall be entitled to participate fully in the affairs of the Association except they are not eligible to hold elective office, serve on the board of directors or have voting privileges.
3. Honorary members shall not pay annual dues.

**Basic Members**
1.) Basic members shall include two and three-bugle chief officers, as designated by the chief, of regularly organized public, private, governmental or industrial fire departments.
2.) Basic members shall have all the benefits of regular membership, except they are not eligible to hold elective office, serve on the Board of Directors, have voting privileges, be eligible for life membership, or receive a discounted rate for functions.
3.) Basic members may upgrade to regular membership at any time.
Corporate sponsorship status shall be available to persons and/or businesses engaged in the manufacture or sale of emergency apparatus, supplies or service and/or persons or businesses otherwise interested in the field of fire or emergency services, upon payment of an annual fee which shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**Suspension or Revocation of Membership**
All members of the Western Division MUST be in good standings with the IAFC. If the Division or a member believes another member is not meeting the Standard set forth by the IAFC they shall follow the proper procedures for notifying the IAFC of such violations. The ruling of the IAFC will be final.

Unless otherwise specified herein, dues and membership services for members other than Regular members shall be established by the WFCA Board of Directors.
ARTICLE X
OFFICERS AND STATE/TERRITORIAL DIRECTORS

General Provisions Qualifications:

A. Officers:

The Officers of the Association shall be:

1. President – two (2) year term and may serve for one (1) additional term.

2. Vice President – two (2) year term and may serve for one (1) additional term, only if the President elects to do the same.

3. International Director – two (2) year term and may succeed himself/herself for one (1) additional term, only if the President elects to do the same and, if elected, may serve additional terms.

B. Eligibility Requirements:

1. Must be an active Chief Officer of a regularly organized public, private, governmental or industrial fire department.

2. Must be a Regular Member of the IAFC and WFCA.

3. Must have all dues and assessments paid and be in attendance at the annual membership meeting.

4. Candidates for Vice President, President, and International Director shall have each served as a board member in the Association for at least one (1) year prior to election or appointment.

5. Candidates for President shall have served as an officer in the Association for at least one (1) year prior to the election or appointment.

6. Candidates for International Director shall have served as an officer in the Association for at least one (1) year prior to the election or appointment.
Current Bylaws Section for Reference

ARTICLE X OFFICERS AND STATE/TERRITORIAL DIRECTORS

General Qualifications

Any member seeking election as an officer of the Association shall:

1. Be a regular member in good standing of both the WFCA and IAFC.
2. Have all dues and assessments paid and be in attendance at the annual membership meeting.
3. Have not retired from the position making him or her eligible for regular membership prior to being elected or appointed accordingly and installed into office.

Officers

The officers of the Association shall be:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. International Director

The President shall serve a two (2) year term and may serve for one (1) additional term.

The Vice President shall serve a two (2) year term and may serve for one (1) additional term, only in the event that the president elects to do the same. They shall serve until their successors have been qualified and installed into office.

The International Director shall serve a two (2) year term and may serve for one (1) additional term. She/he shall have previously been a member of the Board of Directors of the Association. She/he shall serve until his/her successor has been qualified and installed into office.
ARTICLE XI
ELECTIONS

Subsection 1. Candidates
Election of the President, Vice President, and International Director shall be conducted at the annual membership meeting of the Association. Members who desire to be candidates and are qualified in accordance with Article X, Section B of these bylaws, shall submit their name, membership number, office being sought, a profile of their qualifications, and their platform (not to exceed 300 words) to the Elections Committee, in writing by June 1 of the year they are seeking election. The Elections Committee shall certify the eligibility of candidates for the election.

Subsection 2. Publication of Candidate Information
The CEO shall see that the profile and platform of the candidates are provided in an official publication of the Western Fire Chiefs Association in a manner consistent with the policy that shall be established by the Board of Directors.

Subsection 3. Unanimous Ballots
For any office for which there is only one (1) nomination, the President shall instruct the chair of the elections committee, as the representative of the Association, to cast a ballot for such nominee and shall thereupon declare such nominee elected.

Subsection 4. Balloting Process
For all offices for which there are two (2) or more candidates the Elections Committee shall conduct an election by mail or electronic ballot. The Elections Committee shall establish and approve safeguards required to maintain the integrity of the balloting process prior to initiation of any balloting. The WFCA office will prepare and send a mail or electronic ballot to all regular, members eligible to vote. The mail or electronic ballot shall be sent at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date set for the annual membership meeting and must be received by the Elections Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual membership meeting. The Elections Committee will provide the CEO, Board of Directors and the candidates with the “unofficial results” and otherwise make such results available to the membership of the association at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.

Subsection 5. Candidate Withdrawal or Removal
In the event that one or more candidates for an elective office request removal from the ballot (or are found to be ineligible to run for said elective office) subsequent to preparation and distribution of the mail or electronic ballot, with the result that there is only one candidate for said elective office, the Elections Committee is hereby authorized to declare the mail or electronic ballot, or that portion of the mail or electronic ballot for the elected office, invalid, and to present a motion at the annual membership meeting for election of the single candidate by acclamation.
Subsection 6. Election
Prior to the annual membership meeting, the Elections Committee will meet to audit the process and certify the “official results.” “Official Results” of the vote will be presented to the membership during the annual membership meeting. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. In the event of a tie vote, the Board of Directors shall select the winner from the tied candidates.

Subsection 7. Conduct of Elections and Disputes
The complete conduct of the elections and decisions in any matters of dispute that may arise during such elections shall be in the hands of the Elections Committee. Election campaigns are expected to be conducted on the highest level. Any questions concerning ethics of the campaign should be referred to the Elections Committee.

Subsection 8. Unanticipated Vacancies
Appointments to fill unanticipated vacancies shall be made by the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting after such vacancy occurs. Appointees selected by the Board of Directors to fill vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the office to which they are appointed.

Current Bylaws Section for Reference

ARTICLE XI
ELECTIONS

All elections shall be by ballot. The candidate receiving the majority of the votes shall be declared elected.

Election of the President, Vice President, and International Director shall be conducted at the annual membership meeting of the Association.

Appointments to fill unanticipated vacancies shall be made by the Board of Directors at its next regular meeting after such vacancy occurs. Appointees selected by the Board of Directors to fill vacancies shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of the office to which they are appointed.
ARTICLE XXIII
AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended upon motion and approval of the board and subsequent at any regular meeting of the Association or at any special meeting called for that purpose by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and are qualified to vote, provided that advanced notice of the proposed amendment has been made available to all members qualified to vote at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

In accordance to the IAFC constitution and bylaws, all proposed changes to these bylaws are subject to final approval by the IAFC.