

**CONSTITUTION  
of the  
UNION FIRE ASSOCIATION  
of LOWER MERION**

ARTICLE I

*Name*

This Association shall be known as the UNION FIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOWER MERION.

ARTICLE II

*Objective*

The purpose of the Association shall be the support of fire engine, hook and ladder, hose or other companies for the control of fire and other emergencies in Lower Merion Township, County of Montgomery, State of Pennsylvania, particularly in that portion of said Township known as Bala, Cynwyd, and Merion.

**Comment [RMC1]:** Added to better reflect the services we provide.

ARTICLE III

*Membership*

SECTION 1. The Membership shall consist of natural persons of good moral character, who are citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and of business entities, each of whom, from time to time, shall be elected to membership in the manner and form prescribed by the Constitution and the By-Laws of this Association.

SEC. 2. Members of the Association shall be classified as Contributing, Active, Junior, Life and Honorary members, according to the qualifications herein set forth and on terms and conditions set forth in the By-Laws.

**Comment [RMC2]:** Added category to reflect those members under 18 years of age.

SEC. 3. The Contributing Membership shall consist of persons as defined in Section 1 hereof, who have consented to the presentation of their names to the Board of Directors of this Association and who agree, upon election by the Board to the class of membership applied for, to pay dues as may be provided in the By-Laws.

SEC. 4. The Active Membership shall consist of men and women not less than eighteen years of age who are residents of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, or adjacent communities in Pennsylvania, who have consented to the presentation of their names to the Board of Directors of the Association and agree upon election by the Board to the class of membership applied for, to obligate themselves to faithfully perform active service in the Fire Brigade of the Association and to pay dues according to the provisions of and meet requirements as set forth in the By-Laws of the Association.

**Comment [RMC3]:** Removed dues requirement and add "meet requirements as set forth in the bylaws"

SEC. 4a The Junior Membership shall consist of men and women not less than sixteen years of age who are residents of Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, or adjacent communities in Pennsylvania, who have consented to the presentation of their names to the Board of Directors of the Association and agree upon election by the Board to the class of membership applied for, to obligate themselves to faithfully perform active service in the Fire Brigade of the Association meet requirements set forth in the By-Laws of the Association. The Junior Member shall obtain authorization from their parent or legal guardian for their membership in the Association and shall follow all appropriate state laws and statutes governing their activities. Junior Members shall not have voting powers. Upon their eighteenth birthday Junior Members shall automatically become full Active Members and share in the rights and privileges of the same.

**Comment [RMC4]:** New category to reflect those members between 16 and 18 years of age.

SEC. 5. The Honorary Membership shall consist of men and women who have been or are residents of the State of Pennsylvania who have consented to the presentation of their names to the Board of Directors of the Association and agree, upon election to Honorary Membership in the Association by said Board, to pay a sum of not less than One Thousand Dollars to the Association, as may be prescribed by the By-Laws, and thereupon shall be relieved from the payment of any further dues.

**Comment [RMC5]:** Changed membership class name from Life Membership to Honorary Membership to better reflect commonly accepted categories of membership.

SEC. 6. The Life Membership shall consist of such persons, qualified to become members of the Association, who have served 20 years as an active member or director of the Association who may from time to time be nominated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Comment [RMC6]:** New category definition to honor those who have served 20 years with our organization.

SEC. 7. Any member of the Association, upon conviction of any offense detrimental to the good order and management of the Association or in default in payment of dues or convicted by the Board of Directors of any offense mentioned in the By-Laws as one which shall make such member liable to expulsion, may be expelled in manner and form as prescribed by the By-Laws of the Association.

## ARTICLE IV

### *Administration*

SECTION 1. The administration, regulation and control of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of not less than nine nor more than fifteen, Contributing, Active, Honorary, and Life members of the Association, to be elected by members of the Association in good standing, according to the provisions of the By-Laws of the Association.

**Comment [RMC7]:** Added category

SEC. 2. The Board of Directors shall be divided into three classes, of not less than three or more than five members each, and shall be elected for terms of three years each; *Provided:* that at the first election following the adoption of this Constitution, five Directors shall be elected for one year, and five Directors shall be elected for two years, and five Di-

rectors shall be elected for three years, and shall hold office until their successors are elected and have qualified.

SEC. 3. The Board of Directors shall be and are hereby empowered to elect annually from their own number, such officers as may be prescribed by the By-Laws and to elect or appoint such other officers from the Contributing, Active, Honorary, and Life membership, as may be prescribed by the By-Laws, to properly direct the administration, regulation and control of a Fire Brigade and transact any and all business affairs of the Association.

Comment [RMC8]: Added category

SEC. 4. No member shall be eligible to hold office who is not qualified to vote at any meeting of the Association.

## ARTICLE V

### *Meetings*

SECTION 1. An annual meeting of the Association shall be held in the building of the Association at 8 o'clock P. M. on the third Thursday of January of each year if not a legal holiday under the laws of Pennsylvania, and if a legal holiday, then on the next succeeding secular day not a legal holiday under the laws of said Commonwealth, and at said meeting the members then entitled to vote shall elect members of the Board of Directors as may be provided by the Constitution and By-Laws and shall transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. Notice of such annual meeting shall be given by the Financial Secretary to every member in good standing, at least ten days prior to the date fixed for said meeting.

SEC. 2. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President ~~of his own volition~~ at any time and shall be forthwith called by the President upon the written request of a majority of the Board of Directors, or upon the written request of ten members of the Association; but every such request and call shall specify the object of the proposed meeting and shall be entered in full on the minutes of such meeting. Such meetings shall be held in the building of the Association, after not less than forty-eight hours' written notice thereof shall have been given by the Financial Secretary to every member in good standing and such notice shall specify fully the object of the proposed meeting and the time fixed for holding same.

Comment [RMC9]: Remove gender specific pronoun

SEC. 3. The Board of Directors shall meet monthly in the building of the Association on such day and at such hour in the evening as the Board by resolution shall fix.

SEC. 4. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President of the Association ~~of his own volition~~ at any time and shall forthwith be called by the President upon the written request of a majority of the Board of Directors; but every such request and call shall specify the object of the proposed meeting and shall be entered in full on the minutes of such meeting. Such meeting shall be held in the building of the Association, after not less than forty-eight hours written notice thereof shall have been given by the

Comment [RMC10]: Removed gender specific pronoun

Recording Secretary to every member of the Board, and to such other officers as may be elected or appointed by the Board, if deemed advisable by the members of the Board making the written request for said meeting and indicating therein, their preference, and such notice shall specify fully the object of the proposed meeting and time fixed for holding same.

## ARTICLE VI

### Quorums

SECTION 1. At all meetings of the Association, ~~twenty five~~ fifteen members shall constitute a quorum.

**Comment [RMC11]:** Reduced number of members required for a quorum

SEC. 2. Except as hereafter provided, at all meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of the elected members of the Board shall constitute a quorum; provided however, that at the meeting of the Board at which officers of the Association are to be elected, two-thirds of the elected members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, and it shall require the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the total number of members of the Board to elect any officer.

## ARTICLE VII

### Amendments

The Constitution and By-Laws of this Association may be amended at any meeting of the Association, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Contributing, Active and Life members present; *Provided*, that notice in writing of the proposed amendment or amendments shall have been served on the Recording Secretary by at least twenty-five members in good standing not less than thirty days prior to the meeting, or may be recommended for adoption by the Board of Directors and be embodied in the call for the annual meeting, and *Provided also*, that a copy of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be ~~mailed by the Financial Secretary to the members of the Association in good standing, not less than ten days prior to the meeting,~~ distributed by the recording secretary not less than ten days prior to the meeting.

**Comment [RMC12]:** Changed to allow for electronic distribution of recommended amendments.

An amendment to an amendment may be made without notice.

**ORIGINALLY ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 20, 1928 AND AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE ASSOCIATION IN ANNUAL MEETINGS ASSEMBLED THROUGH JANUARY 14, 1987.**