

Fraternal Alliance of MD, DC, DE

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Fraternal Alliance of MD, DC, DE (hereafter FA)(previously Chesapeake Fraternal Congress).

Article II Purpose

The purpose of the FA shall be:

to maintain an affiliation with the American Fraternal Alliance ("AFA");

to unite men and women of good moral character who are engaged or interested in the promotion of the fraternal benefit system;

to encourage good practices and concerted action in the development and advancement of the fraternal benefit system;

to work in harmony with the AFA for the promotion of the fraternal benefit system and to endeavor to defeat any act or movement which is contrary to the best interests of the fraternal benefit system;

to create a better understanding and a more general acquaintance among those interested in fraternal insurance and fraternal benefits;

to promote publicity for the fraternal benefit system and place it in a most favorable light before the general public;

to exchange ideas for the common good of its members;

to provide for lectures, schools of instruction and fraternal insurance institutes under its auspices in conjunction with the several local Fraternal Insurance Counselors (FIC) chapters; and

to do all other things incidental to and consistent with the above mentioned purposes.

Article III Active Membership

Section 1.

Any fraternal benefit society authorized to transact business in the states of Delaware, and Maryland and the District of Columbia, and reporting to their respective insurance department is eligible for active membership in the FA. Any local unit of an NFCA member-society not licensed in the states of Delaware or Maryland or the District of Columbia but meeting Model Fraternal Code requirements shall also be entitled to active membership in the FA. Application for membership in the FA shall be accompanied by dues and a statement of the names of persons comprising their field force and local unit(s)' officers in the states of Delaware and Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Section 2.

Every active member shall be entitled to up to six (6) voting delegates and as many guests as desired to the annual meeting of the FA. Each society shall also be entitled to provide its own mode of selecting its delegates and guests, and shall furnish proper credentials and authorization to its delegates.

Section 3.

Those having the right to vote at the annual meeting shall be the officers and directors, voting delegates, and past presidents. Only members of active member societies shall be eligible to vote and hold any office.

Article IV Associate Membership

Section 1.

Fraternal benefit societies which are not members of the AFA but do meet the requirements of the Model Fraternal Code may be eligible for associate membership in the FA. Any such application shall be considered on an individual basis.

Section 2.

Any local unit(s) of any society eligible for membership in the FA whose home office has not paid the annual dues for their society may be eligible for associate membership in the FA. Any such application for associate membership shall be considered on an individual basis.

Section 3.

Any society holding associate membership shall be entitled to three (3) voting delegates and as many guests as desired to the annual meeting of the FA, shall provide its own mode of selecting its delegates, and shall furnish proper credentials and authorization to its delegates. Members of fraternal benefit societies holding Associate Membership may be eligible for election as directors, but shall not be eligible for election as an officer.

Section 4.

Any local unit(s) holding associate membership shall be entitled to one (1) voting delegate and as many guests as desired to the annual meeting of the FA, shall provide its own mode of selecting its delegate, and shall furnish proper credentials and authorization to its delegate. Members of the local unit(s) holding Associate Membership may be eligible for election as a director, but not be eligible for election as an officer.

Article V Dues

Section 1.

The annual membership dues of each society shall be the amount determined by the NFCA. The annual membership dues of a local unit whose society is not a dues-paying member shall be one-half of the annual membership dues of a society.

Section 2.

Any society which fails to remit dues for two consecutive years shall be automatically suspended from the FA. Reinstatement may be made by proper application and payment of twice the annual dues.

Article VI Officers and Directors

Section 1.

The officers of the FA shall be the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (the positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same individual), State Marshal and Immediate Past President, and nine directors. All officers shall be elected annually by the FA and shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2.

The elected officers, except for directors, shall hold office for one year but may succeed themselves for one additional term. The State Marshal, Secretary and Treasurer shall serve no more than four terms in office. Directors shall be elected for a three-year term. One-third of the directors should be elected each year and shall not be eligible for re-election for a second consecutive term.

Section 3.

The President, the President-Elect, and Vice President should be members of different societies.

Section 4.

In the event of two or more unexcused absences by an Officer or a Director, the President shall have the power to remove the Officer or Director and declare the position vacant; any vacancy can be filled by appointment of the President to serve the remainder of the term.

Section 5.

The President shall be the executive officer and, as such, shall enforce the Constitution and Bylaws and carry out the mandates of the Congress and its Executive Committee.

Section 6.

The President-Elect shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of that office. In the absence of the President-Elect, such duties shall be performed by the Vice President. He or she shall also serve as a committee chair or perform any other duties designated by the President.

Section 7.

The Secretary shall be responsible for:

- (a) conducting all correspondence pertaining to the business of the FA,
- (b) keeping a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Congress and of the Executive Committee, and
- (c) issuing all notices of meetings.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall be responsible for:

- (a) collecting membership dues,
- (b) having charge and custody of all property, records, and funds,
- (c) keeping a true set of books of accounts, showing all receipts and disbursements, and
- (d) disbursing the funds as ordered and approved by the President.

Such records shall at all times be open to the inspection of the members of the Executive Committee, and the Treasurer shall present a financial report to each Executive Committee meeting and the Annual Session.

Article VII Election of Officers

Election and installation of officers shall be the final order of business of the closing plenary session of the annual meeting of the FA. The newly installed officers and directors shall assume the duties of their respective offices upon their installation.

Article VIII Committees

Section 1. Standing and special committees shall be appointed by the President and shall be answerable to the President. The chairperson of each committee shall be appointed by the newly elected President after the FA annual meeting.

Section 2. The term of office for standing committees is one year. Special committees shall serve until the President dismisses the committee.

Section 3. The following shall be the standing committees:

Legislative Committee

whose duty it shall be to assist in promoting legislation which will increase the usefulness and scope of the fraternal benefit system and endeavor to defeat adverse legislation, coordinating all its activities with the Law Committee of the AFA. One person on this committee will be listed in the AFA Manual and Directory as the State Marshal who will also serve as committee chair.

Publicity Committee

whose duties shall be the dissemination of general publicity concerning the FA and the fraternal benefit system. This committee shall be responsible for publishing and distributing a periodic newsletter for the FA.

Education and Program Committee

whose duty it shall be to provide educational information and programs relating to the insurance and fraternal operations of the fraternal benefit system when the FIC Chapter does not conduct same, as well as information and programs relating to the noncommercial aspect of fraternalism.

Projects Committee

whose duty it shall be to study and suggest projects suitable for voluntary joint endeavors by the delegates and local units of the member-societies of the FA.

Membership Committee

whose duty it shall be to solicit new members from among all qualified fraternal benefit societies. The committee shall also encourage participation by member-societies in events of the FA.

Social Events Committee

whose duty it shall be to conduct gatherings among members of the FA. They shall also be responsible for social meeting arrangements for all meetings of the FA.

Section 4.

The following shall be the Sessional Committees:

Nominating Committee

whose duty it shall be to prepare and present candidate recommendations for each elective office. The voting delegates to the annual meeting reserve the right to nominate additional candidates.

Registration and Credentials Committee

whose duty it shall be to conduct registration, certify the credentials of voting delegates and prepare a roster of participants.

Resolutions Committee

Whose duty it shall be to prepare resolutions for submission to the annual meeting of the FA.

Auditing Committee

whose duty it shall be to audit the financial records of the Treasurer and all expenditures authorized or incurred by the Executive Committee and shall report results thereof to the annual meeting of the FA.

Section 5.

Special committees shall be appointed at the discretion of the President, and/or the Executive Committee, and/or the FA for the purpose of dealing with special projects and problems as they occur.

Article IX General Provisions

Section 1.

The member-societies shall select their voting delegates not later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting, and shall immediately notify the Secretary who shall, on request, furnish a list to any voting delegate or Executive Committee member.

Section 2.

All officers shall qualify and take office immediately on their installation and they and all committees shall hold over until their successors take office.

Section 3.

A majority shall constitute a quorum in all meetings, including the committees, except that the representatives of five societies, when possible, shall constitute a quorum in the FA, and five members of the Executive Committee, after due notice, shall constitute a quorum of said committee.

Section 4.

Special meetings of the FA may be called by the President on his/her own motion, on the written request of three member societies, or the Executive Committee upon written request of three (3) directors.

Section 5.

Annual reports shall be made at the annual meeting by the officers and standing committees.

Section 6.

The meeting place of the FA shall be the responsibility of the President on his/her own motion, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and in cooperation with the FIC chapter.

Section 7.

The Secretary shall make an annual report to the Executive Vice President of the AFA, giving the names and addresses of the officers elected, and the time and place of the next meeting, and shall forward an official copy of the proceedings. Before bylaws are adopted or amendments made, copies of these shall be approved by the AFA.

Section 8.

Nothing in the Constitution of the FA shall be interpreted to constitute an obligation upon the funds of affiliated societies other than the payment of the annual dues for membership.

Section 9.

The proceedings of the FA shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Article X Annual Meeting

Section 1.

An annual meeting of the FA shall be held each year at such time and place as will be selected in accordance with Article IX, Section 6.

Section 2.

The Order of Business at the annual meeting should be as follows:

1. Opening ceremonies
2. Roll call and seating of delegates
3. Report of Credentials Committee
4. Reading of minutes of previous meeting
5. Report of Treasurer
6. Reports of Officers
7. Reports of Committees
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Election of officers
11. Program
12. Installation of officers
13. Adjournment
14. The Secretary shall fill in the Officers' List (data sheet) and mail to the AFA

Order of business may be changed at the discretion of the President or the Executive Committee.

Article XI Amendments

Section 1.

A hearing should be held by the Resolutions and Legislative Committees for a report before amendments to these Bylaws are presented to the FA for adoption or rejection.

Section 2.

All Amendments to these Bylaws shall be filed with the Secretary ninety (90) days before the annual meeting. The Secretary shall immediately forward a copy of same to the chairs of the Resolutions and Legislative Committees and a copy to each member-society as well as to each member of the Executive Committee, and to the Executive Vice President of the AFA.

Section 3.

All Amendments to these Bylaws shall go into effect as soon as they are adopted by the FA at its annual meeting and approved by the American Fraternal Alliance.

American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting Guidelines:

ARTICLE VI

Representation

Section 3.

In all matters before the Alliance, the official delegate of each State Fraternal Alliance shall be entitled to one (1) vote, if registered and present, and if such delegate does not have a vote by virtue of having been designated an official delegate under the provisions of Section (1) hereof.

Section 1. Each member society may designate not more than nine (9) individual members in attendance at the annual conference and meeting to represent the member society as official delegates. When registered and accepted by the Credentials Committee of the Alliance, such delegates shall be entitled to one (1) vote each if in attendance and present at the time of the vote, provided:

- (a) No person shall be a delegate for more than one (1) member society, and
- (b) Each member society shall designate one (1) of its official delegates to represent the society for the purpose of determining a voting quorum and may change this designated representative as necessary during the annual conference and meeting with the consent of the Credentials Committee.