

ARIZONA FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION

BY LAWS

ARTICLE I NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1.1 Name

This organization shall be known as the Arizona Fire Marshals Association, hereinafter referred to as the "AZFMA".

Section 1.2 Mission

The mission of the Arizona Fire Marshals Association is to advance the profession of fire prevention, life safety, and community risk reduction by promoting professional excellence, education, collaboration, and the exchange of technical knowledge among public and private fire and life safety professionals dedicated to protecting lives, property, and the environment.

Section 1.32 Objectives

- 1.2.1 To unite persons and organizations together for the mutual benefit of those involved in the prevention of fire, preservation of life, and protection of property.
- 1.2.2 To improve communications and to further enhance and enrich the relationship between the AZFMA, the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, the Arizona Fire District Association, the Arizona Building Officials, and other related organizations.
- 1.2.3 To review fire, building, and other related codes and standards, propose and debate code change proposals to the appropriate code development committees.
- 1.2.4 To serve as an advisory body to the State Fire Marshal in matters relating to fire and life safety and make recommendations for changes to the State Fire Code.
- 1.2.5 To promote education and training by assisting in establishing minimum education and performance standards for fire prevention officers and providing educational opportunities in the field of fire and life safety.

Section 1.43 Anti-Discrimination Statement

AZFMA is an "equal opportunity organization." The organization will not discriminate and will take measures to ensure against discrimination in membership, recruitment,

advertisements for the organization, compensation, termination, upgrading, promotions, and other conditions of membership against any member on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, or sex.

Section 1.54 Financial Hold Harmless

The AZFMA shall hold harmless any parent agency to which the AZFMA is a chapter for any financial obligations of the AZFMA unless specifically identified by a contract signed by both parties.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.1 Membership Types

- 2.1.1 Governmental Member – shall be governmental employees responsible for the enforcement or administration of laws and ordinances relating to fire and life safety or building construction.
- 2.1.2 Professional Member - shall be architects, engineers, consultants, and any non-governmental individual interested in furthering the objectives of the AZFMA.
- 2.1.3 Student Member - shall be a student engaged in studying 12 or more credit hours of study per semester in a recognized institution of higher learning.
- 2.1.4 Honorary Member - shall be persons chosen by the membership for outstanding achievement.
- 2.1.5 Retired Member - shall be a member who has retired from a career and maintained membership as a governmental member.

Section 2.2 Voting

- 2.2.1 Any governmental, retired, or professional member is entitled to vote on matters coming before the AZFMA.
- 2.2.2 Any governmental, retired, or professional member may make and second motions for purposes of bringing up matters for discussion.
- 2.2.3 Any person shall be entitled to participate in meetings and discussions.
- 2.2.4 Any governmental, retired, or professional member may be appointed to a subcommittee as a voting member.

2.2.5 Any person may be appointed to a committee as a non-voting member.

2.2.6 Honorary or student members shall not be eligible to vote unless elected by the membership to the Board of Directors, in which case the member shall have all voting privileges while conducting the business of the Board.

Section 2.3 Dues

2.3.1 Dues for all classes of membership in the AZFMA shall be established by a majority vote of the members present. The effective date of annual memberships shall be July 1st **the date on which the membership is paid, and the following 12 months.**

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2.3.2 Membership dues shall be payable on an annual basis. The renewal date shall be on the initial date of membership.

2.3.3 Membership in Good Standing requires that dues be paid within 90 days of the due date. Failure to do so may result in a loss of voting privileges and removal from the mailing list.

2.3.4 Any other fees or assessments except those provided by the bylaws shall be approved by 2/3rds vote of the membership in attendance at the time of the vote.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3.1 Officers

3.1.1 Officers of the AZFMA shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, **two members at large, the Past President,** and the Treasurer.

3.1.2 Any governmental, professional, or retired member may be an Officer in the AZFMA. To be eligible for the offices of President or Vice President, a person shall be a **currently employed Arizona fire service member with experience within the fire prevention or community risk reduction division, or fire marshal of a business or education institution that collaborates with the fire service,** such positions being recognized as sworn or civilian.

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Section 3.2 Board of Directors

3.2.1 The Board of Directors shall consist of the four **electe**d Officers, the **p**Past **p**President **for one term**, and **two-four** other members **at large** elected by the membership. If there is no immediate **p**Past President, another member **at large** shall be elected by the membership. Any member shall be eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors.

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3.2.2 Membership shall elect a qualified Vice-President, Secretary, and ~~two four m~~Members at ~~il~~Large. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Directors following the election of ~~officers~~ **Board members**. The Board of Directors shall hold office for a period of two (2) years.

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3.2.3 Upon completion of the two-year period, the Vice-President shall ascend to the ~~Present~~ **President** position and serve a two (2) year term, then fill the Past-President's position for two (2) years and serve as an advisor to the President. Should the Vice-President not be able to ascend to the President's position, ~~the President may serve another single term. In the event that the current President is unable to serve another term,~~ both the President and the Vice-President positions shall be elected at the November Business meeting.

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Section 3.3 Election of Board of Directors

3.3.1 Elections of the Board of Directors shall take place at the November Business Meeting ~~after at~~ the end of the two-year term. The elections for Vice President and ~~two the first m~~Member at ~~il~~Large **positions** shall be in the even years. The elections for the Secretary, and ~~two the Second~~ Member at Large **positions** will be in the odd years.

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3.3.2 No less than sixty days prior to the November Business Meeting, the President shall appoint a nominating committee that will be chaired by the immediate past President. If the immediate past President is not available, the President shall appoint a member from the Board to be the chairperson. Persons who desire to be nominated for a position shall have support from their home agency and be a member in good standing with AZFMA. The nominating committee may solicit members to run for office if there are no applicants.

3.3.3 No less than 30 days prior to the November Business Meeting, the nominating committee shall verify the nominee's eligibility and present their selections, including all submitted documentation to the Secretary. The Secretary shall validate the nominee's eligibility for office and publish the names (the slate) and statements of intent prior to the November Business Meeting.

3.3.4 Nominations may be accepted from the floor at the November Business Meeting. The nominating committee chair shall offer three calls for nominations from the floor. For contested positions, each nominee shall be offered up to three minutes to speak to the membership.

3.3.5 The Board of Directors shall be elected at the November Business Meeting by a plurality of votes cast. Elected members to the Board of Directors shall serve a term of two years beginning January 1st.

3.3.6 The vote shall be by secret ballot when contested.

Section 3.4 Removal of Directors

Any governmental or professional member may make or second a motion to remove any Director. The motion to remove, along with the reasons for the motion, shall be published in the minutes and distributed to the membership, no less than 14 days before the next business meeting. A hearing to discuss the motion to remove and to allow the Director to refute the charges shall be held at the next business meeting. Removal from office shall require a two-thirds majority of all governmental ~~or~~ **and** professional members present.

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Section 3.5 Vacancies

Officer vacancies (excluding Treasurer) shall be filled for the remaining unexpired term by the next elected position held and shall be announced at the next meeting after the said vacancy occurs. (e.x. President vacancy would be filled by the Vice-President, etc.) The Treasurer vacancy shall be filled by appointment from the Board of Directors. **Vacant positions that do not have a successor shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors.**

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Section 3.6 Duties

3.6.1 The President shall:

3.6.1.1 Preside over all meetings of the AZFMA.

3.6.1.2 Appoint ~~sub~~ committees as required and chairpersons thereof.

3.6.1.3 Designate official representatives of the AZFMA to attend meetings of associations or organizations or as determined necessary by the President or the membership.

3.6.1.4 Appoint a member of the Board of Directors to be an ex-officio member of- all standing committees.

3.6.2 The Vice-President shall:

3.6.2.1 Assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

3.6.2.2 Perform such duties as prescribed by the President.

3.6.2.3 Be the program coordinator for programs, presentations, and speakers at business meetings.

3.6.3 The Secretary shall:

3.6.3.1 Keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes of all proceedings and actions that transpire at all business and special meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.

3.6.3.2 Keep, or cause to be kept, a member register showing the names, addresses and contact information of all members.

3.6.3.3 Give or cause to be given, a notice of all AZFMA meetings and other information directed by the President, or the Board of Directors to members in good standing.

3.6.3.4 Submit a copy of the minutes of all AZFMA meetings to the Secretary of the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association.

3.6.3.5 Create an annual report containing Board Member information and a summary of AZFMA activities for submittal to the International Code Council, the International Fire Marshals Association, and others as determined by the Board of Directors.

3.6.3.6 File all reports required by law and by other affiliated organizations.

3.6.4 The Treasurer shall:

3.6.4.1 Provide an accounting of all funds received and dispersed and report to the membership at each meeting.

3.6.4.2 Provide an annual report of all funds received and dispersed to the Board of Directors in January of each year.

3.6.4.3 Provide the Secretary with all financial information required to be filed by law and by affiliated organizations.

3.6.4.4 Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President.

Section 3.7 The Treasury

3.7.1 The bank accounts of the AZFMA shall include as signatories the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The signatures of any two of the signatories shall be deemed sufficient to make any changes necessary to any bank account of the AZFMA.

3.7.2 The Board of Directors shall review the financial records of the AZFMA on an annual basis and facilitate an outside audit as deemed necessary and report their findings to the membership.

Section 3.8 The Board of Directors

3.8.1 The Board of Directors shall have the authority to act in all functions which might otherwise be exercised by the AZFMA, except the following functions shall be performed only by the AZFMA: Amendments to the ~~bylaws~~ **Bylaws**.

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3.8.2 The Board of Directors shall review the financial records of the AZFMA on an annual basis and facilitate an outside audit as deemed necessary and report their findings to the membership.

ARTICLE IV MEETING PROCEDURES

Section 4.1 Schedule

The AZFMA shall hold a minimum of two business meetings a year with four Executive Board updates provided throughout the year. An annual Planning Meeting shall be held in December. An annual Business Meeting shall also be planned. The date, ~~time, and location~~ of Business Meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors and ratified by the membership at the January meeting. Non-business meetings may be held; however, no official business may occur. **Meetings may be rescheduled due to schedule conflict or to ensure a quorum exists.**

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Section 4.2 Special Meetings

The President or Board of Directors may call special meetings by giving 7 days advance notice to the membership.

Section 4.3 Quorum

4.3.1 At any Board Meeting, ~~four~~ **five** members of the Board of Directors shall be present to constitute a quorum.

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4.3.2 At any Business Meeting or special meeting of the AZFMA, not less than seven members eligible to vote in accordance with these bylaws shall be present to constitute a quorum.

4.3.3 "Shall be present" may be in person or via electronic means, i.e., conference call or internet phone or virtual.

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Section 4.4 Required Vote

In addition to annual Board elections, the Board shall determine other issues that require a vote by the membership. A simple majority of the members present and eligible to vote shall be required to pass any item before the AZFMA unless otherwise specified herein.

ARTICLE V STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 5.1 Standing Committees

There shall be standing committees appointed by the President, each consisting of at least three members. One member of the Board of Directors shall be an ex officio member of all standing committees. The standing committees shall include the Education Committee, the Membership Committee, the Legislative Committee, and the Code Committee. Each committee shall be at least three active members in size to allow for needed representation to be accommodated should a substitute member be needed.

The standing committees shall seek opportunities to partner and foster relationships with other state associations and affiliations. Examples shall include liaisons with the Arizona Fire Burn Educators Association, the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, the Arizona Fire Districts Association, the Arizona Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the Arizona Building Officials.

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The Education Committee Chair shall primarily oversee the planning of the annual trainings and ensure that ICC Preferred Provider status is maintained. The Education Chair shall also ensure that all training accredited with the Arizona Center for Fire Service Excellence is maintained to the current published standards. The Education Chair shall provide a training plan with budgetary needs annually to the Board for approval at the November Business Meeting.

The Membership Committee Chair shall primarily oversee membership matters including recruitment and retention. The Membership Chair shall also maintain the association website or appoint a designee.

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The Legislative Committee Chair shall ensure that matters of legislation proposed annually by the state legislative process are monitored. Any legislative efforts impacting Community Risk Reduction efforts in the state, positive or negative, shall be brought before the membership. The Legislative Committee Chair shall participate in or delegate participation with other Arizona fire service or CRR related associations and promote

public safety by advocating for the adoption of stringent fire codes and supporting initiatives that enhance fire prevention and protection efforts.

The Code Committee Chair shall primarily oversee the annual process of reviewing and revising fire codes to ensure they are relevant and effective. This might involve incorporating feedback from stakeholders like building owners, fire departments, and the public. The chair shall also engage with various stakeholders, including fire departments, builders, architects, and the public, to gather input and address concerns related to fire safety regulations. The chair shall help to create educational materials and programs to ensure that those affected by the codes understand them and can implement them effectively.

Section 5.2 Operational Plan

5.2.1 Each year, an operational plan shall be discussed at the December Planning Meeting. The operational plan shall be approved by the membership at the January March Business Meeting and filed with the Secretary.

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5.2.2 Each standing committee shall create a plan which shall include a list of members, designated chair(s), tentative committee meeting schedule, goals and objectives, and budget. These plans shall be presented to the Board of Directors prior to the January March Business Meeting for approval.

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ARTICLE VI OTHER COMMITTEES

The President or the Board of Directors may create other committees as deemed necessary to meet the objectives of the Association.

ARTICLE VII ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, AND SUSPENSION

Section 7.1 Adoption and Amendments

These bylaws shall be adopted and may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the governmental and professional members in attendance.

Amendments may be introduced by any governmental and professional member and shall be introduced as new business at a business meeting and be published in the minutes. The minutes shall be distributed at least 14 calendar days prior to the next business meeting. A vote on the proposed amendment shall occur at the next business meeting.

Section 7.2 Suspension of Bylaws

The bylaws may be temporarily suspended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the governmental and professional members present during a regularly scheduled or special meeting.

ARTICLE VIII RULES OF ORDER

The generally accepted rules of parliamentary procedure as determined by the President shall govern the AZFMA in all cases to which they are applicable, provided such rules are not in conflict with these bylaws.

ARTICLE IX International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) Chapter

1. The ARIZONA FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION has established itself as a Chapter of the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) a membership section of the National Fire Protection Association.
2. When the ARIZONA FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION conducts business related to IFMA they shall comply with and adhere to all applicable requirements and restrictions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the International Fire Marshals Association as such pertain to chapters thereof. Including without being limited to, those requirements set forth in Article 7 of the Bylaws of the International Fire Marshals Association or any successor article thereto.
3. The ARIZONA FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION will hold harmless and indemnify the National Fire Protection Association and/or the International Fire Marshals Association from and against any and all suits, damages, loss, costs, or other liabilities which may threaten or accrue to the International Fire Marshals Association or the National Fire Protection Association, as a result of the acts or activities or failure to act by the ARIZONA FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION.



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Approved and adopted on the 3rd day of September 2024 by the members assembled.

President 
Brian Russell

Vice-President 
Michael Brune

Adopted initially March 13, 1984

Revised:
May 4, 1988
November 7, 1990
October 20, 1992
January 4, 1995
November 24, 1998
January 3, 2000
January 9, 2002
January 9, 2008
January 9, 2013
October 15, 2020
May 18, 2022
September 3, 2024

