

**“First Whip”  
Fraternal Order of Leatherhead  
Society**

**Articles of Association  
September, 9 2014  
First Whip  
Fraternal Order of Leatherhead Society  
Articles of Association**

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**PREAMBLE**

The Fraternal Order of Leatherhead 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 end, 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 “Fraternal Order Of Leatherhead Society and First Whip F.O.O.L.S, and hereinafter referred to as “F.O.O.L.S INTERNATIONAL, THE INTERNATIONAL or First Whip”

### **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-**

The Duration of the F.O.O.L.S and FIRST WHIP 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 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 part of this great organization; one does not have to own a leather helmet to be considered a “Leatherhead”. We advocate that you are true to your profession and true to your Brother and Sister firefighters.

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 hearths 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 and 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. 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 for 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 or female
- 9. MAJORITY:** Two thirds of the executive board

## **ARTICLE V** **-TRAINING-**

### **Section 1- Fire Training Committee**

The intent of F.T.C training is to promote a safer and better-trained member of the fire ground 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. The 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 First Whip F.O.O.L.S 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. (A list of providers is available for your use under the Resources tab on the F.O.O.L.S International website)
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 chiefs 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 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 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 Membership**

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 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.
  - 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
6. A new member must be sponsored by a current member in Good Standing and attend two (2) First Whip F.O.O.L.S events prior to becoming a member; i.e. meeting, HOT class, or fundraiser.

### **Membership Status**

Each member of the Chapter will be categorized into three (3) Membership Status categories; Good Standing, Active and Inactive. Every member is eligible to move from one status to another based on their current standing in the Chapter. The Chapter E-Board will regularly review each member’s status and place that member in the appropriate category.

1. **Good Standing:** A member in “Good Standing” is one who:
  - a. Is less than 12 months behind in their financial obligation to the Chapter; **and**
  - b. Has attended at least two (2) First Whip events; i.e. meetings, HOT classes or fundraisers within the last 12 month period.

Member in “Good Standing” remains on the Chapter’s e-mail list and is eligible to participate in all Chapter sponsored events.

2. **Active:** A member who is “Active” is one who:
  - a. Is more than 12 months but less than 24 months behind in their financial obligation to the Chapter; **or**
  - b. Has attended at least two (2) First Whip events; i.e. meetings, HOT classes or fundraisers within the last 24 month period.

A member in the “Active” status remains on the Chapter’s e-mail list and is

eligible to participate in all Chapter sponsored events. However, failure to maintain any of the above listed items will result in that member being dropped to the Inactive status without notice.

A member in the “Active” status may upgrade their Chapter standing to “Good Standing” by bringing any accounts current or by meeting the attendance requirements for that categorist.

3. **Inactive:** An “Inactive” member is one who:
  - a. Is more than 24 moths behind in their financial obligation to the chapter; **or**
  - b. Has not attended two (2) First Whip events; i.e. meetings, HOT classed or fundraisers for a period longer than 24 moths; **or**
  - c. Has voluntary removed themselves from the Chapter for any reason including but not limited to (retirement, leave of absence, resigns); **or**
  - d. Suspended by the International or Chapter for conduct unbecoming.

“Inactive” members will be removed from the roster, e-mail list, and will not receive any correspondence from the Chapter until such time that member begins the re-instatement process.

#### 4. **Re-instatement**

Any “Inactive” member may be reinstated to “Active” status by bringing their financial obligation to the Chapter current. This member will remain on the “Active” roster until such time that member qualifies for the “Good Standing” status, or returns to the Inactive status.

#### **Section 4- Conduct Unbecoming**

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 Chapter or International F.O.O.L.S name for personal benefit.
  - 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 the F.O.O.L.S.
  - e. Defamation of the Chapter or F.O.O.L.S International.

- f. Hazing that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule, risks emotional and/or physical harm to members, whether new or not, and regardless of the person's willingness to participate.
- g. Harassment of any one firefighter due to sex, age, gender, race, color, religion, creed, national origin, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **-AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS (CHAPTERS)-**

#### **Section 1- Copyrights, trademarks, and 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 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 affiliates 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 Articles of Association.

- [ No affiliate chapter will be allowed to form sub-chapters within its organization.

#### **Section 4- Dues**

International dues shall be paid by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Chapter will be responsible to pay set dues in the following manner:

5-50 members = \$50 per year  
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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Members not complying by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year will have their membership revoked.

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

Dues for the First Whip F.O.O.L.S Chapter’s membership shall be set forth by the chapters Executive Board, and each member shall pay the established dues annually.

#### **Section 5- Changes in membership**

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- Website**

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

The First Whip F.O.O.L.S chapter will maintain a chapter website ([www.firstwhipfools.com](http://www.firstwhipfools.com)) for its members and all others to use. The site will be periodically updated and should include such features as: Membership information, Photo’s, Links, Training, Upcoming events and Forum.

#### **Section 7- Autonomy**

The autonomy of the affiliate chapter shall not be abridges 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 Voting officers of the Executive Board of the Chapter shall be comprised of the following positions:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary/ Treasurer
4. Education Trustee
5. Membership Trustee

Non-voting officer of the Executive Board of the Chapter shall be comprised of the following position:

1. Web Master

**1. President:**

- a. The President or his designee shall preside all Conventions and meetings of the F.O.O.L.S.
- 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 the F.O.O.L.S and is the primary contact for interactions 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
- e. The President shall be responsible for the continued growth of F.O.O.L.S. International and the First Whip F.O.O.L.S.
- 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 the First Whip F.O.O.L.S
- c. The Vice President while holding such Executive powers as the President, the Vice 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 attend all meetings of the First Whip F.O.O.L.S. The Vice President must have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office.

### **3. Secretary/ Treasurer:**

- a. The Secretary/ 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 Secretary Thereof keeping such records as necessary.  
The Secretary/ Treasurer reports to the President and shall be recording officer of the First Whip F.O.O.L.S and shall perform such duties as are assigned by the president  
The Secretary/ Treasurer shall attend all meetings for First Whip F.O.O.L.S and shall act as Secretary thereof, keeping such minutes and records as necessary. The Secretary/ Treasurer shall document all meetings; prepare the minutes of the meeting and forward to the president.
- b. The Secretary/ Treasurer shall be the recipient for all mail addressed to F.O.O.L.S. International and First Whip F.O.O.L.S. and shall distribute same to the appropriate Board member for action.
- c. The Secretary/ Treasurer shall receive, expand and account for the funds of the First Whip F.O.O.L.S under the supervision and direction of he President.
- d. The Secretary/ Treasurer will oversee bank accounts, general accounting, budget, tax and audit activities of First Whip F.O.O.L.S.
- e. The Secretary/ 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.
- f. The Secretary/ 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.
- g. The Secretary/ Treasurer must have a working knowledge or the willingness to learn of Microsoft Office, QuickBooks and/or QuickBooks Pro.

### **4. 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee – Membership**

- a. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee shall perform any and all duties as assigned by the President.
- b. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee shall attend all meetings of F.O.O.L.S International and the First Whip F.O.O.L.S, and all F.O.O.L.S. International Conventions.
- c. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee shall maintain an accurate database of membership and maintain an effective system of information storage, management, and retrieval.
- d. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee must have a working knowledge or the willingness to learn of Microsoft Office and database technology.

**5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee – Education**

- a. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall attend all meetings of F.O.O.L.S. International, the First Whip F.O.O.L.S, and all F.O.O.L.S International Conventions
- b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall be in charge of providing information on training to the Chapter.
- c. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall seek out new and innovative training while maintaining the basics of Firefighter safety with tried and true techniques.
- d. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall work in concert with the person responsible for maintaining website information, to provide the best online training resource available to the membership.

**6. Web Master**

- a. The Web Master is a non-voting member of the Chapter E-Board and reports to the President.
- b. The Web Master is responsible for maintaining, updating, and modifying the Chapter's website and associated social media sites.

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 Presidents and 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee – Membership shall be held. Effective December 2015, elections for the office of President, Secretary/ Treasurer and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee-Membership (2013,2017,2021 etc.). Rotation #2: Elections for the position of President, Secretary/ Treasurer and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 position take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 unprecedented change in the International Executive Board, of 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 (3) 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. The “only” position which can be “split” on the Executive Board is the Secretary/Treasurer position. If this position is split, that would take the place of one of the Trustee positions.

#### **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 Article of Association. The Executive Board shall establish and oversee an organizational structure to implement the purpose of the F.O.O.L.S as stated in Article III. The First Whip F.O.O.L.S shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the carrying out of its duties and responsibilities. First Whip F.O.O.L.S may delegate its authority in any manner it deems necessary.

### **ARTICLE IX** **-MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS-**

#### **Section 1- Quorum**

A majority of the membership Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.

#### **Section 2- Meeting call**

The Chapter 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, at a time and place selected by the Executive Board. Affiliate Chapters shall put forth their interest in hosting a convention for the following year, at least two months prior to the

current year's convention. At that time, the International's E-Board will narrow the choice down to two potential candidates. Those candidates will create a presentation, **to be given at the current year's convention**. The final decision will be made by the E-Board. For both submissions, candidates will follow the guidelines that are put forth in the convention package. It is recommended that the chapter holding the next year's convention have the dates in place by November 1<sup>st</sup> so that members that need to pick their vacations for the following year have a set of dates available.

#### **Section 4- Affiliate Participation**

The Chapter is encouraged to sponsor meetings, gatherings and events 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 the organization.

#### **Section 5- "Ritual of the Can"**

A symbolic ritual at all F.O.O.L.S events, staff meetings, convention and training sessions.

1. The "CAN" must begin all First Whip F.O.O.L.S events, meetings, convention and training sessions with a shot from it by each members of the chapter E-Bard, 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. That member shall then pass the "CAN" to the president and likewise down the ranks. Each member will partake.

The official toast shall be:

*"In the grips of death we depend on our sisters & brothers, through smoke and 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 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”**

The “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 encourage to have a “Coin”.

The Challenge Coin is given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale.

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. “Coin” checks are permitted ANYTIME-ANYPLACE.
4. Each member having possession of a “Coin” shall produce said coin when requested.
  - a. Said, “COIN” must be within arms 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 are 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.

A COIN IS A COIN- COINS ATTACHED TO BELT BUCKLES ARE BELT BUCKLES; A COIN ATTACHED TO A KEYCHAIN IS A KEYCHAIN. NO HOLES ARE TO BE DRILLED OR MODIFICATIONS THAT COVER ONE SIDE OF THE COIN ARE ALLOWED (I.E. GLUE TO BELT BUCKLE)”

## **Article X** **-PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES-**

### **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 President’s report
7. Treasurer’s report
8. Trustee’s reports:
  - a. Membership
  - b. Education
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Resolution
12. Other business (open forum)
13. Adjournment

**ARTICLE XI**  
**-AMENDMENT AND RESOLUTIONS-**

**Section 1- Amendments**

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

**Section 2- Resolutions**

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

**Section 3- Conflict**

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

**ARTICLE XII**  
**-DISSOLUTION-**

**Section 1- 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 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**  
Effective Date: September 9, 2014

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Greg LeDoux, President

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Robbie Hendrikx, Vice President

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Jill Fullerton, Secretary/ Treasurer

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Rick Wunsch, Membership Trustee

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Maggie Blackwood, Education Trustee