

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES
August 2010 Executive Board Meeting
Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association

ARTICLE IV
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TERM OF OFFICE

Section 1

Election of officers shall be held at the Executive Board meeting held during the annual conference gathering.

Section 2

All Executive Board positions, except for Trustee, Northern Regional Vice-President (NRVP), and Southern Regional Vice-President positions (SRVP), shall be elected in even-numbered years; Trustees, the NRVP, and the SRVP shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The term of office for all officers shall be two (2) years, unless a vacancy has occurred during the term; an appointed officer will complete the term until the next scheduled election for that specific position.

Section 3

Individuals eligible for Executive Board positions shall consist of association members in good standing for a minimum of twelve (12) months; Executive Board members must possess and maintain valid Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Certified Instructor status both at the time of the election and throughout the tenure of holding the elected position.

Section 4

The only Executive Board positions with previous board experience requirements shall be the President and Vice-President. These two positions require 24 months (two years) of previous MFSIA service on the Executive Board, ending the term in good standing (no removals from office). All other Executive Board positions may be filled with positions from the general organization, provided the requirements in Article IV are met.

Section 5

An Election Committee shall be appointed by the President. This committee will be comprised of two board members and one member-at-large that are not seeking election for the upcoming term. The said committee shall present a slate of officers for election at the Executive Board meeting during the Annual Conference as per sections 1 and 2.

Section 6

The Election Process:

1. The chairperson of the Election Committee shall conduct the business of the election of officers at the Executive Board meeting during the Annual Conference.
2. Only members in "good standing" will be permitted to nominate members, be

nominated for Executive Board positions, and vote during the election. “Good standing” will be determined by the Secretary (or his designee, if the Secretary is involved with the election process), who will cross-reference the sign-in list to the Executive Board meeting with the current list of “good standing” members.

3. The chairperson shall open the election with nominations from the floor for all vacant offices by saying, “Are there any nominations for the office of (position)?” The chairperson will repeat that phrase until there are no other nominations and declare them closed for that office. The chairperson will utilize this same manner to and through the offices of President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees, and Regional Vice Presidents, if applicable for the election year.
4. Nominations do not require a second. The nominee must accept nominations before his/her name can be placed in nomination for only one office. Furthermore, a current board member may also accept a nomination for one other board position during the course of the nomination process.
5. After all nominations have been closed, the chairperson shall offer each candidate, in the order they were nominated, the opportunity to address the meeting. The candidates may speak only to the election at hand. Each candidate shall have up to one (1) minute of time. A member of the election committee will strictly enforce the time limit.
6. The Election Committee will then administer the election by secret ballot. After the ballots are prepared and distributed to the voting body, the election will take place. Any member present and in good standing can vote by marking the ballot with the appropriate symbol. The candidate receiving more than half of the total votes cast for that office is the winner.
7. In the event there are more than two candidates for an office and no one candidate receives more than half of the total votes cast, the election for that office is considered a primary election. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the primary election are the candidates in a final election. Candidates receiving over half of the necessary votes are considered to have won the election for the intended position and need not participate in the next election.
8. Immediately following the primary, the remaining candidates shall be granted a one (1) minute address to the voting body.
9. After the second set of secret ballots are prepared, the election between the remaining candidates will be held.
10. Each candidate receiving more than half the total votes for the remaining positions in the second election is the winner.

11. If the election a of current board member to a different position within the organization leaves a vacancy on the Executive Board, then the election process will repeat itself, starting with #3 of the Election Process. This process will continue until all the vacancies are filled.

12. After the final results of balloting have been approved and announced by the Election Committee and approved by the membership, the committee chairperson shall destroy the ballots and step down from the position; the Executive Board officers leaving office shall also follow suit.

Section 9

- A. Members wishing to be nominated for the position of representative on the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council must have the following qualifications:
2. Must be a member in good standing.
 3. Must have been a member of the Executive Board for 3 years.
 3. Must be able to meet the necessary requirements stated by the State of Michigan Office of Appointments.
- A. Upon meeting these qualifications, and accepting requests and paperwork for the position, the President shall submit a list of names to the Governor for consideration. The candidate selected by the Governor shall fill the role a representative of the MFSIA Executive Board on the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council.
- B. The President will consult for feedback from the Executive Board before making the final recommendations to the State of Michigan Office of Appointments, using this feedback as assistance with the ranking of potential candidates.

ARTICLE V

OFFICER VACANCIES AND REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS

Section 1

- C. Any Executive Board member with unexcused absences from three (3) regularly scheduled Executive Board meetings within a twelve (12) month period will forfeit his/her office, and shall be notified of such action by certified mail.
- B. The President (or his designee) shall determine whether an absence is to be considered excused or unexcused.
- C. Any board member who loses MFFTC Certified Instructor status from the State of Michigan shall forfeit the elected position held within the MFSIA. Upon the organization receiving confirmation of the loss of the Certified Instructor status, the board member shall be notified of such action by certified mail.

Section 2

Should a vacancy occur in any elective office due to resignation, unexcused absences, or loss of MFFTC Instructor Certification, it shall be filled by appointment by the President and a majority vote of the Executive Board. The selected person shall hold this appointment until the expiration of the term so filled. The eligibility standards of this individual are the same as outlined in Article IV of this document.

Article VII Title:

Membership and Awards of the Association

By-Law 3C:

New members are required to pay dues with application. New member dues received as part of the Annual Instructors Conference registration or after November 1 shall be applied as payment in full for the following calendar year.

FINAL CHANGES:

The final draft may require the changing of “Section Numbering” to correlate to the addition of worded sections in order to make the document proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K. Blomstrom, MPA, PEM
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