



# Texas Fire Marshal's Association

## By-Laws Committee

# 2018 October Report

---

## MISSION

The By-Laws Committee completes a full reviews of the Association By-Laws every three years or as directed by the sitting President of the Association. They are to insure that the By-Laws are consistent with state law and the practices of the Association with regard to the topics they cover.

They are to receive and review By-Laws amendment submittals from the membership and make recommendations to the membership for the denial or approval of submitted amendment requests.

## 2018 Annual Meeting Report Update

This complete "rewrite" has kept as much of the original language as was prudent.

Generally, we have cleaned up grammatical errors and punctuation as we came across them, as well as wordiness and information not important to a specific Article or Section.

Here is a list of the major changes from the old set

- Paragraph Numbering. This link, [http://westsidetoastmasters.com/resources/roberts\\_rules/chap20.html](http://westsidetoastmasters.com/resources/roberts_rules/chap20.html) shows the Roberts Rules of Order recommended order of a set of By-Laws. The original TFMA By-Laws followed that format for the most part. Mostly changing some titled Articles to Sections under a different Article, and the number Articles and Sections in general.
- The addition of an Anti-Discrimination clause
- Added an Indemnification clause for Officers and Directors to protect the board
- Clarified the classes of members based on our actual practice
- Removed the Dues rate from the By-Laws and only explained the method for how they are set and where they are posted
- Added reinstatement procedures for terminations or censure
- Clarified filling vacancies of Officers and Directors based on actual Association Practice
- Defined the Secretary/Treasurer based on Association Practice
- Defined Meetings by type, when they are to be held and minimum requirements
- Expanded the Standing Committees section to reflect Association Practice
- Added the Parliamentary Authority Article
- Rewrote and clarified the procedures for Amendments to the By-Laws to recommended practices
- Cleaned up the Article required by the IFMA to be a Chapter

The FINAL DRAFT was posted on the website to allow for member review and comment from July 19, 2018 until Oct. 1, 2018 (74 days; 29 days longer than the proposed new by-laws will allow [45] for review and comment on a by-law amendment). During that period we received zero comments on the draft.

It is with all confidence that the By-laws Committee (Consisting of John Paul Erskine, Rusty Katner, George Tullgren, Joe Sykora, and John Helwig) recommend this document for approval.