

Section IV.
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

ARTICLE I

Name and Executive Office

- Section 1. This Association shall be known as the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.
- Section 2. The principal office of this Association shall be located in metropolitan Franklin County, Ohio.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Objectives

- Section 1. The purposes and objectives of the Association shall be:
- a. To secure the closer official and personal cooperation among chiefs of police in the State of Ohio.
 - b. To secure proper legislation for the protection of those whom we serve, and the advancement and welfare of the police profession.
 - c. The elimination of political control in law enforcement.
 - d. To disseminate information on methods and procedures to prevent and combat crimes.
 - e. To foster high professional standards of conduct for all law enforcement officers and the recognition thereof by the general public.

ARTICLE III.

Membership

- Section 1. Types - There shall be seven (7) types of memberships, which are defined as follows:
- a. Active Membership shall consist of a full-time:
 - 1. Chief of Police of a municipal corporation.
 - 2. Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol.
 - 3. Chief of Police of a duly authorized township police department.
 - 4. Chief of Police of a state supported or private college or university.
 - 5. Superintendents of Police of railroad police departments.
 - 6. Special Agents or Inspectors in Charge of any governmental law enforcement arm of this state or of the United States Government whose headquarters are in Ohio.
 - 7. The Chief Ranger of a park district established under the Ohio Revised Code.
 - 8. Chief of Police of a metropolitan housing authority police department established under the Ohio Revised Code.

Active Members shall enjoy all privileges of the Association. "Full-time" shall be determined by the definition found in Section 123: 1-47-01(38) of the Ohio Revised Code.

b. Life Membership shall consist of Active Members who retire after having been Active Members in good standing for at least five (5) cumulative years. Under extenuating circumstances, the Executive Committee can confer life member status on a previous or current active member who does not otherwise qualify for life membership by a 2/3rd (two-thirds) majority vote. Life Members shall enjoy all the privileges of an Active Member, with the exception of election to the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer and District Representative. If after having been awarded an OACP Life Membership, an OACP Life Member is at any time reemployed as a law enforcement agency head where the position meets the definition of active member status as defined in Article III, Section I a. of the OACP Constitution and Bylaws, then said OACP Life Member shall be reclassified as an OACP Active Member with all privileges, obligations and rights thereunto pertaining. Upon leaving the position as head of the law enforcement agency, the OACP membership shall revert again to OACP Life Member status. Life Membership shall be awarded only one time per eligible individual.

c. Law Enforcement Administrator (LEA) Membership shall consist of sworn Ohio law enforcement personnel:

1. Full-time sworn personnel employed in a supervisory capacity - agency head must be OACP member and approve membership.
2. Duly elected Sheriff.
3. Chief Deputy - Sheriff must be LEA and approve membership.
4. Part-time sworn executive head of a governmental law enforcement agency.

LEA members shall enjoy the privileges of the OACP with the exception of holding a state-wide elected office.

d. Associate Membership shall consist of retired Active Members ineligible for Life Membership and retired LEA Members eligible to continue membership.

1. Individual must not be engaged in the direct sale of intoxicating beverages.
2. Individual must not be a member of any group, club, or organization which advocates the overthrow of the United States Government by force or which is subversive in anyway.

Associate membership shall be a sustaining one and shall have no vote in any proceedings of the Association nor be eligible to hold elective offices.

e. Honorary Membership shall consist of individuals who have provided outstanding service to Ohio's police community and community of police executives. Honorary membership shall be awarded by vote of the Executive Committee and for the purpose of extending recognition and gratitude. Honorary members shall have no vote in any proceedings of the Association nor be eligible to hold any office.

f. Sponsoring Membership shall consist of business and professional persons, with purpose of said membership being to secure a closer affiliation between business persons and the Association through the official publication of the Association.

Section 2. Approval Process - Each new member, with the exception of Sponsoring and Honorary members, must make application for membership on a form furnished by the District Representative. All members must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Any prospective member not recommended for membership by the District Representative shall have the right of appeal before the Executive Committee.

- Section 3. Dues - The annual dues of the active members shall be determined by majority vote of active members attending the annual business meeting. Annual dues of Law Enforcement Administrator, Associate and Sponsoring members shall be determined by the Executive Committee. All dues shall be due and payable the first day of October of each year. Dues received after the first day of July shall be considered paid up to and including the following year.
- Section 4. Disciplinary Action – The Executive Committee shall be empowered to censure, suspend or expel from office any elected or appointed officer; or from membership in the Association, any member, for just cause or for violations of the ethical standards of conduct set forth in the OACP Canon of Ethics. Such discipline will require a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
- g. Corporate Partner shall consist of professional and business persons. Individual must be either a professional or a business person whose function is of a supervisory nature in their occupation.
1. Shall be limited to persons over 21 years of age.
 2. Must be a good citizen.
 3. Must not be engaged in the direct sale of intoxicating beverages.
 4. Must not be a member of any group, club or organization which advocates overthrow of the United States Government by force or which is subversive in any way.

A Corporate Partner shall be a sustaining one and shall not have a vote in the proceedings of the association.

ARTICLE IV

Executive Committee

- Section 1. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of all elected officers, District Representatives, immediate Past President, and Life Member.
- Section 2. Officers: Officers of the Association shall consist of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Treasurer. These officers shall serve for a period of one year beginning on the first (1st) day of June and ending on the thirty first (31st) day of May of the following year. Once an officer is elected, other than the Treasurer, he shall automatically advance to the next higher office on the first day of June.
- Section 3. District Representatives: There shall be six (6) District Representatives to be elected from each of the Association's six (6) geographic districts. The District Representatives shall take office and serve concurrently with the elected officers.
- Section 4. Life Member: This elected member shall serve for a period beginning on the first (1st) day of June and ending on the thirty first (31st) day of May of the following year.
- Section 5. Duties:
- a. The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Association and shall perform such duties as the Association may require in the conduct of its business.
 - b. The First Vice President or Second Vice President, in the absence or disability of the President, shall perform the duties of the President, in the order above mentioned.

- c. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all surplus funds and shall assume such other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall make an annual financial report supported by the Association audit.

Section 6. Elections:

- a. The Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Life Member shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting.
- b. Each of the six (6) districts shall hold a meeting prior to the Annual Business Meeting to elect a member of the district to serve as District Representative on the Executive Committee for the coming year.
- c. Vote at district level meeting - voting to be by agency - if two or more members are present from same unit, highest ranking member will vote for unit.

Section 7. Vacancies:

- a. In the event an officer, other than Treasurer, is unable to serve out his/her term, there shall be an automatic succession as outlined in Article IV, Section 2. Under Article X, Section 2, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill the unexpired term of that office.
- b. In the event of a vacancy of District Representative, the district which is affected shall hold a meeting within forty-five (45) days of the vacancy and elect a replacement. If the vacancy is not filled within forty-five (45) days, the Executive Committee is empowered to fill such vacancy by selecting a qualified person from the affected district until the next Annual Business Meeting.
- c. In the event the Treasurer is unable to serve out his/her term, the President shall appoint, subject to majority vote of the Executive Committee, an Active Member to serve the unexpired term.
- d. In the event the Past President is unable to serve out his/her term, the President shall appoint, subject to majority vote of the Executive Committee, an active Past President to serve the unexpired term.
- e. In the event the Life Member is unable to serve out his/her term, the President shall appoint, subject to majority vote of the Executive Committee, a Life Member to serve the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V
For future use

ARTICLE VI

Districts

Section 1. The State of Ohio shall be divided into six (6) districts to be known as District Number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

- a. DISTRICT NUMBER 1 shall be composed of the counties of Marion, Morrow, Knox, Union, Delaware, Licking, Madison, Franklin, Fairfield, Richland and Perry.
- b. DISTRICT NUMBER 2 shall be composed of the counties of Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Defiance, Henry, Wood, Ottawa, Sandusky, Erie, Paulding, Putnam, Hancock, Seneca, Huron, Van Wert, Allen, Hardin, Mercer, Auglaize, Wyandot and Crawford.

- c. DISTRICT NUMBER 3 shall be composed of the counties of Lorain, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Medina, Summit, Portage, Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashland, Wayne and Stark.
- d. DISTRICT NUMBER 4 shall be composed of the counties of Darke, Shelby, Logan, Miami, Champaign, Clark, Preble, Montgomery, Greene, Butler, Warren, Hamilton, Clermont and Brown.
- e. DISTRICT NUMBER 5 shall be composed of the counties of Fayette, Ross, Hocking, Highland, Pike, Vinton, Jackson, Athens, Meigs, Gallia, Adams, Scioto, Lawrence, Clinton, Washington and Pickaway.
- f. DISTRICT NUMBER 6 shall be composed of the counties of Holmes, Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, Muskingum, Guernsey, Belmont, Morgan, Noble, Monroe and Columbiana.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

- Section 1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least every other month or six (6) times per year beginning with the first month the elected officers assume their Association position.
- Section 2. The date of the Annual Business Meeting of the Association shall be determined by the Executive Committee in December of each year.
- Section 3. Each of the six (6) districts shall meet every other month or six (6) times per year the opposite months of regularly scheduled Executive Committee meetings.
- Section 4. Special meetings may be called by the President or Executive Committee in any emergency which may be deemed by them of sufficient importance to justify such action, but due written/email notice shall be sent to each member of the Association by the Executive Director, and no other business than that stated in the notice shall be transacted at such special meetings.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

- Section 1. The President shall appoint members of all standing committees as the need may arise.
- Section 2. The Elections Committee shall consist of the District Representative from each of the six (6) districts and the immediate Past President. The immediate Past President shall serve as Chair. In the event of a tie, the method of breaking the tie will be determined by the Elections Committee Chair. In the absence of the immediate Past President, the President of the Association shall appoint an active Past President in attendance to serve as Chair.

Each member desiring election to the office of Second Vice President, Treasurer or Life Member shall give a written/email notification to the Association's Executive Director no later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening day of the Annual Business Meeting. It shall be the duty of the Elections Committee to certify at the annual business meeting all eligible candidates.

In the event no member declares intent to seek an elected office, the Elections Committee shall, with the approval of the Executive Committee, promulgate guidelines that will ensure that all elected offices are filled.

- Section 3. Special or Ad Hoc Committees may be established by the President with approval of the Executive Committee as the need may arise.

ARTICLE IX

Policy of Operations

- Section 1. The Executive Committee shall maintain a Policy of Operations manual for use by the Executive Director and the Executive Committee as guidelines in the operations of the Association.

ARTICLE X

Modifications

- Section 1. This Constitution and Bylaws shall not be altered or amended without written/email notice having been provided to each voting member of the Association. Said notices will contain the proposed amendment or alteration and shall not be considered as adopted unless presented to the membership in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the membership casting ballots during statewide elections held immediately following the Annual Business Meeting, or by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Association responding to a mail ballot. All Constitution and Bylaws amendments must be approved by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee prior to submission to the voting members.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act as an emergency body on behalf of the Association when time or circumstances make it impossible for the Association to be called together in a business session. It shall be their primary duty to safeguard the interest of the Association.

ARTICLE XI

Indemnification

This corporation shall indemnify the Executive Committee and each former member of the Executive Committee or any person who may have served at its request as a trustee, director or officer of another corporation (whether non-profit or profit) of which it is a member in which it owns shares or of which it is a creditor against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defenses of any action, or suit or proceeding of which they are made a party by reason of being or having been each trustee, director or officer except in relation to matters as to which they shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding or be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty. Such indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which they may be entitled under the articles, the regulations, any agreement, vote of members or otherwise in accordance with Section 1702.12, Ohio Revised Code.

Adopted: 12/16/1930
Amended: 7/22/1983
Amended: 8/1986
Amended: 8/1988
Amended: 8/1991
Amended: 7/17/1998
Amended: 7/15/2004
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