

Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society  
Articles of Association

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## **PREAMBLE**

The Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society has truly become an international organization. With its inception in 1995, the Founding Fools 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. We, The Founding Fools, as well as all of our members, see a great need for the FOOLS 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 FOOLS 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 ends, 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 FOOLS 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 the "Fraternal Order Of Leatherheads Society" hereinafter referred to as "FOOLS, FOOLS INTERNATIONAL or THE INTERNATIONAL"

Section 2. GOVERNING BODY- The governing body of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL shall hereinafter be known as "Executive Board"

## **ARTICLE II. PERIOD OF DURATION**

Section 1. The duration of the FOOLS shall be perpetual.

## **ARTICLE III. PURPOSE**

Section 1. FUNCTION- The FOOLS 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 or 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

Section 2. MISSION STATEMENT-The Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society was founded in 1995 by a group of Central Florida Firemen. This group, known today as the Founding Fools, 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 the hazards we face everyday 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 FOOLS, 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 a part of this great organization; one does not have to own a leather helmet to be considered a "Leatherhead". ~~The only qualification~~ **We advocate** is that you are true to your profession and true to your Brother and Sister firefighters. Our membership is growing everyday, and we encourage you to start a FOOLS chapter in your department and/or area.

~~One last thing that~~ **We** as the ~~Founding~~ **Founding** Fools **International** 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 hearts and our memories. Long live the FOOLS.

#### ARTICLE IV. DEFINITIONS

1. "CAN, The"- A small flask like container, ~~filled with a mystical potion. U~~ **used** to partake in the "ritual of the CAN"
2. **AFFILIATE** CHAPTER-sub organization of, and chartered by, FOOLS INTERNATIONAL
3. EXECUTIVE BOARD- A panel of officers established to manage FOOLS organizations

4. FOUNDING FOOLS- the founding fathers of FOOLS. 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.- FOOLS Training ~~Continuum~~ Committee, a committee of the International, dedicated to education and training the Fire Service
6. MEMBER- anyone of good standing, officially registered with FOOLS INTERNATIONAL.
7. WEBSITE- internet based web space for the purpose of promoting the FOOLS
8. BROTHERS- A gender neutral term used to recognize all members, male and female
9. MAJORITY – Two thirds of the Executive Board

#### **ARTICLE V. TRAINING (F.T.C.)**

Section 1. The intent of F.T.C. training is to promote a safer and better-trained member of the fireground 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. We, as FOOLS, 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 FOOLS 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 FOOLS 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 FOOLS 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.

#### **ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. PREREQUISITES- The FOOLS invites any firefighter that supports the tradition of the fire service. We have fire chief's on down to the newest firefighter amongst our ranks. ~~Career, Volunteer, Union, Management, FF/EMT's, FF/Paramedic's, or retired~~ All who are currently or have been actively involved in firefighting and wishes to continue supporting their local firefighters are all welcome. The FOOLS 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 FOOLS and help us keep the tradition alive. FOOLS 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 their 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. The decision by the FOOLS International E-Board will be FINAL.

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 MEMBER

1. Members must be true to one's profession and agree to uphold the mission statement of the FOOLS.
2. Members must register and make a \$10.00 donation to FOOLS International. for a lifetime membership.
3. Only members who are registered with the International shall be eligible for appointment or membership to affiliate chapters
4. Only members who are registered with the International shall be eligible to hold office in any FOOLS Organization.
5. Only members who are registered with the International shall be counted for delegate appointment, or International Committee representation

### Section 4. CONDUCT UNBECOMING A FOOL

1. If at any time the an affiliate chapter's E-Board finds that a FOOLS member from their chapter has acted in a way as to tarnish the FOOLS 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 FOOLS name consist of, but are not limited to:
  - a. Using the FOOLS name for personal benefit; either FOOLS International or an affiliate FOOLS chapter.
  - 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 FOOLS International or to an affiliate chapter.

e. Defamation of FOOLS International or affiliate chapter member.

3. The International E-Board will be available to the affiliate Chapter's E-Board for guidance, but the decision will be made by the affiliate chapter.

## ARTICLE VII. AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS (CHAPTERS)

Section 1. COPYRIGHTS, TRADEMARKS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY- No person, group or organization may use the name "FOOLS", the "Flaming Globe" or any confusingly similar designation except an organization to which FOOLS INTERNATIONAL grants affiliate status. The Flaming Globe is a trademark of FOOLS 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 an affiliate's 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- FOOLS 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 FOOLS 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 FOOLS International. FOOLS 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 bylaws and shall mirror the International.

1. No affiliate chapter will be allowed to form sub chapters within its organization. Refer to Article VII Section 2 for affiliate chapter authorization

Section 4. DUES- International Chapters dues shall be paid by April 1<sup>st</sup> January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Each chapter of the International will be responsible to pay said dues in the following manner:

4 5-50 members = \$50 per year total dues  
50 51-100 members = \$100 per year

100 101-200 members = \$200 per year  
 200 201 members + = \$300 per year max.

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.

Any FOOLS 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.

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

Section 5. WEBSITES- Each Chapter is strongly urged to have a website representing their chapter organization. Each chapter website ~~can~~ will be directly linked to the International Website.

Section 6. AUTONOMY- The autonomy of the affiliate chapter shall not be abridged 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 following is a suggested organizational structure for chapters, and may be amended as necessary. Any amendments to this structure must be approved by the International:

1. President
  - a. The President or his designee shall preside at all Conventions and all meetings of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL.
  - b. The President is the chief executive officer of the FOOLS with full authority to direct its business and affairs.
  - c. The President is responsible for representing FOOLS International and is the primary contact for interaction 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 FOOLS International

- e. The President shall be responsible for the continued growth of FOOLS International and its affiliate chapters
- 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 or his designee shall attend all meetings of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL and all FOOLS INTERNATIONAL Conventions
- c. The Vice President, while holding such executive powers as the 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 will be charged with tracking donations both given and received by all affiliates of this organization
- e. The Vice President shall be accountable for maintaining an up-to-date database of approved charities.
- f. The Vice President shall produce monthly reports for the general membership, listing all donations made in the name of FOOLS International, or affiliated chapters and maintain an effective system of information storage, management, and retrieval.
- g. The Vice President shall ensure that all information pertinent to Fools International is disseminated to the general membership, directors and founding fools. This information will include the minutes from Directors meetings, chapter meetings and yearly convention meetings. This information shall be gathered and submitted to the 3rd Trustee of Internet services for regular postings on the website.
- h. The Vice President must have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office

## 3. Secretary / Treasurer

- a. The Secretary / Treasurer **or his designee**, shall attend all meetings of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL and all FOOLS INTERNATIONAL Conventions and shall act as Secretary Thereof keeping such records as necessary.
- b. The Secretary / Treasurer shall be the recipient for all mail addressed to Fools International and shall distribute same to the appropriate Board member for action.
- c. The Secretary / Treasurer shall receive, expend and account for the funds of the FOOLS INTERNATIONAL under the supervision and direction of the Board of Directors
- d. The Secretary / Treasurer will oversee bank accounts, general accounting, budget, tax and audit activities of FOOLS International.
- 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 will coordinate the accounting activities with outside vendors and suppliers hired or contracted by FOOLS International, including accountants, auditors, web hosting, merchandise vendors, the banking system and other venues.
- h. The Secretary / Treasurer must have a working knowledge of **or the willingness to learn** Microsoft Office, QuickBooks and/or QuickBooks Pro
- i. This position requires experience **or willingness to learn** in accounting and tax reporting .

#### 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 **or his designee** shall attend all meetings of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL and all FOOLS

## INTERNATIONAL Conventions.

- c. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee is responsible for the tracking of current and new chapters & members of FOOLS International.
- d. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee shall assist in the developing and maintaining new chapters.
- e. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee will have the authority to validate new chapters.
- f. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee shall assist the local chapters with membership issues and related items
- g. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee shall abide by guidelines for the establishment of new chapters
- h. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee is the primary contact of the Secretary / Treasurer for all Chapter/Membership fees
- i. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee is the primary contact with all local chapters and general membership pertaining to membership to Fools International.
- j. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee shall ensure that new applicants are assigned to their closest local chapter, when the chapter is within a reasonable driving distance. Make contact with such chapter for assistance with this membership.
- k. The 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee shall maintain an accurate database of membership and maintain an effective system of information storage, management, and retrieval.
- l. 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 – Merchandise

- a. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall perform any and all duties as assigned by the President.
- b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee **or his designee** shall attend all meetings of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL and all FOOLS INTERNATIONAL Conventions
- c. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee is responsible for purchasing, selling and marketing all Official FOOLS International merchandise

through the Secretary/Treasurer.

- d. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall be the sole representative of FOOLS International to vendors.
- e. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall structure pricing, plan, arrange and sell merchandise at FOOLS International events
- f. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee will be responsible for packaging and shipping all prepaid orders in a timely manner.
- g. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall respond to inquiries and complaints regarding merchandise in a timely manner.
- h. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee controls inventory, checks and maintains records of sales and stock
- i. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee will determine customer demand for new merchandise and coordinate purchases with the Secretary / Treasurer
- j. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee shall forward all monies to the Secretary / Treasurer for deposit into the FOOLS International account.

#### 6. 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee - Internet Operations

- a. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee or his designee shall attend all meetings of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL and all FOOLS INTERNATIONAL Conventions
- b. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee shall oversee and manage all activity related to the content, operation and general administration of the web site of FOOLS International.com, including content, links, and all links to other sites.
- c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee shall manage the content staff, including developing and maintaining articles and content, final approval of content shall be a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- d. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee shall develop, implement and oversee new features to FOOLS International.com.
- e. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee shall check local FOOLS chapter web sites, to ensure proper representation of FOOLS International
- f. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee shall track, compile, report and analyze all web statistics in a timely manner, communicating useful

trends and other observations to the Executive Board

- g. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee will serve as primary point of contact with the General Membership in relation to the Fools International.com
- h. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee must have intricate knowledge or the willingness to learn of web building technology including HTML, DHTML, Java, CSS, PERL and other related technologies

#### 7. 4<sup>th</sup> Trustee - Education

- a. The 4<sup>th</sup> Trustee or his designee shall attend all meetings of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL and all FOOLS INTERNATIONAL Conventions
- b. The 4<sup>th</sup> Trustee shall be in charge of providing information on training materials to our chapters.
- c. The 4<sup>th</sup> Trustee shall spearhead training at all annual conventions.
- d. The 4<sup>th</sup> Trustee shall seek out new and innovative training while maintaining the basics of Firefighter safety with tried and true techniques.
- e. The 4<sup>th</sup> Trustee shall work in concert with the Trustee of Internet Operations to provide the best online training resource available to our membership.
- f. The Trustee of Education or his designee, will ensure that submitted training articles will be reviewed in a timely manner, for posting by the Trustee of Internet Operations on the Fools International.com website. It will be their responsibility to advise the Trustee of Internet Operations if an article is disapprove, and the reason thereof.
- g. Minimum requirements for The Trustee of Education:
  - i. Currently hold the rank of training officer for a minimum of five years or;
  - ii. Past Training officer for a minimum of five years or;
  - iii. National recognized Fire Service Instructor with the ability to provide training commensurate to the FOOLS training initiatives

- 8. Affiliate Chapters may appoint additional positions to their Executive Board, but must maintain at least the office of President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, 1<sup>st</sup> trustee, 2<sup>nd</sup> trustee and

maintain odd number to ensure proper voting status.

9. Family members are PROHIBITED from holding office together on a FOOLS Executive Board.
10. Executive Board Members shall hold office for a period of five years. Elections for the office of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee (Membership) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee (Internet) shall be held in December of every odd number year. The office of Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee (Merchandise) and 4<sup>th</sup> Trustee (Education) shall be held in December of every even numbered year. These positions shall be maintained by said personal until voted out of office, resignation or a unanimous vote of no confidence by the Executive Board of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL.
  - a. In light of the unprecedented change in the International Executive Board, the FOUNDING FOOLS 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 living members of the FOUNDING FOOLS or the remaining Founding FOOLS 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 Fools.
11. Any member of the FOOLS in good standing as stated in Article VI for a minimum of one year is eligible to be a candidate for office in FOOLS International. One individual may not hold two offices on the same Executive Board simultaneously.

Section 2. Management of Affairs- The Executive Board shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties and funds of FOOLS INTERNATIONAL consistent with these Articles of Association. The Executive Board shall establish and oversee an organizational structure to implement the purposes of the FOOLS as stated in Article 3. The FOOLS INTERNATIONAL shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the carrying out of its duties and responsibilities.

## **ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS**

Section 1. Quorum- a majority of the membership of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.

Section 2. The International 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 it's 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 ~~submit bids for convention hosting to the International for site selection consideration.~~ put forth their interest in hosting a convention for the following year, at least two months prior to the current years 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.

Section 4. Affiliate Participation- Chapters are encouraged to sponsor meetings, gatherings and events sponsored by the chapter to celebrate the Brotherhood of our profession. Announcements of meetings and events should be forwarded to FOOLS INTERNATIONAL so FOOLS worldwide can be made aware of the growth of our organization.

Section 5. "Ritual Of The Can"- a symbolic ritual at all FOOLS events, staff meetings, and conventions. All Affiliate organizations are required to have a "Can"

1. The "CAN" must begin all FOOLS events, meeting, and conventions with a shot from it by each member of your E-Board chapter, if you so choose each member attending the meeting or convention.
2. The "Can" shall be filled with a ~~mystic potion or juice~~ beverage of preference all voted on by the E-Board. ~~The FOOLS INTERNATIONAL E-Board recommends TEQUILA. (We use Tequila because if you can take a shot of tequila then you can do anything. It makes small men feel huge and big men look small).~~
3. The member having possession of the "CAN" shall raise the can and toast those present and have the first shot. That member shall then pass the "Can" to the President and likewise down the ranks. Each member will partake.
4. The member who has the "Can" in his possession at the beginning of the meeting, seminar, or FOOLS 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 ranking official of the Executive Board, the "CAN" is then secured in their possession until the next related FOOLS 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" – a symbolic coin at (including but not limited to) FOOLS events, staff meetings and conventions. All affiliate FOOLS chapters are encouraged to have a "Coin".

1. The "Coin" is to be carried on all person(s) in attendance at (including but not limited to) all FOOLS 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 FOOLS Chapter's Logo or the FOOLS International Logo.

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 area 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.

## **ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

Section 1. Rules of Order- the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the FOOLS 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 FOOLS 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 Presidents report
7. Treasurers’ report
8. Trustee’s reports:
  - a. Membership
  - b. Merchandise
  - c. Internet Operations
  - d. Education
- ~~9. Committee report(s)~~
- ~~9.~~ ~~10.~~ Old Business
- ~~10.~~ ~~11.~~ New Business
- ~~11.~~ ~~12.~~ Resolutions
- ~~12.~~ ~~13.~~ Other business (open forum)
- ~~13.~~ ~~14.~~ Adjournment

## **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENT AND RESOLUTIONS**

Section 1. These Articles of Association may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Board

Section 2. Resolutions must be approved by a majority Vote of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Amendments and Resolutions must not conflict with Article III or Article VI of this document.

## **ARTICLE XII . 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 FOOLS

Section 2. Affiliate Chapter’s Responsibility – Each affiliate chapter agrees to “mirror” these written Articles of Association. If there are any “Chapter Specific” amendments, they must be submitted in writing and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board of FOOLS International.

Section 3. Effective Date- ~~03/21/08~~ 03/01/09

~~Michael H. Gilbert, C.E.O. (Founding Fool) Michael A. Stallings, Founding Fool~~

~~Ellen B. Brown, Administrative Director Ken W. Ireland, Founding Fool~~

~~John R. Simpson, Trustee (Founding Fool) Walter J. Lewis, Founding Fool~~

Eric C. DePoto, President

Eric Hankins, Vice-President

Richard Stack, Secretary/Treasurer

Benjamin Sheppard, 1<sup>st</sup> Trustee (Membership)

Lee Hudson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee (Merchandise)

Andre Biron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee (Internet Operations)

Michael Dugan, 4<sup>th</sup> Trustee (Education)

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