

ROWAN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION
Rowan County, North Carolina
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The members of various Fire Departments, Rescue Squads, Fire Marshals Office, 911 Telecommunicators, Forestry Service, and Fire Brigades located within Rowan County or those which service any territory in Rowan County, North Carolina do hereby associate themselves together for the purpose of, and under the terms set forth herein, and shall be subject to by-laws which shall be enacted by a majority of the general members of this association.

ARTICLE I – The Name

The name of this Association shall be “Rowan County Fire And Rescue Association.” Hereafter in this document the Fire Departments, Rescue Squads, and Fire Brigades which make up the Rowan County Fire and Rescue Association, will be referred to as “Members.”

ARTICLE II – The Purpose

The purpose and intent of this Association is to correlate the efforts of all members, in order that the communities may be educated in Fire Prevention, Safety, and that the members may receive uniform Training that is necessary for effective cooperation in the county wide program.

ARTICLE III – The Scope

The Association shall be and remain non-partisan and shall be operated on a non-profit, civic, charitable and non-sectarian basis.

ARTICLE IV – Membership and Voting

The active members shall be limited to persons who are in good standing with a sponsoring organization. Each individual sponsoring organization shall determine the eligibility of its members for membership in the Association under this article. Each member shall be able to cast a vote if their sponsoring organization is in good standing with the Association. A secret ballot vote may be cast if requested by any member. There may also be an auxiliary of persons interested in the promotion of fire and rescue duties, but auxiliary members shall not be entitled to vote in the general affairs of the Association. Auxiliary members such as the Emergency Services Coordinator, Retired members, the Rowan County Emergency Medical Service, etc. will be welcomed as auxiliary members.

ARTICLE V – Officers and Their Duties

The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and a Parliamentarian. They shall be elected annually for a one (1) year term by a majority vote of the general membership present at the annual meeting. All officers shall be limited to a maximum of four (4) consecutive one (1) year terms.

- The President shall be the Chief Executive officer of the association. It shall be the President's duty and responsibility to preside at all meetings, and to represent the Association whenever a representative of the Association is required at public meetings. He or She shall execute contracts, agreements, and other legal instruments on behalf of the Association. The President shall appoint committees as necessary, along with the following standing committees:
 - Benevolence
 - Training
 - Safety
 - Fire Prevention
 - Banquet
 - Muster
 - Public Relations/Membership
 - Chiefs Committee

- The Vice President shall assist the President, and shall act as the Executive Officer in the absence of the President.

- The Secretary shall keep all records, to include minutes of all Association meetings, and the status of the Sponsoring Organizations.

- The Treasurer shall account for all funds of the Association. All funds of the association shall be deposited in any bank within Rowan County, North Carolina, and all funds paid out shall be paid by check signed by the Treasurer.

- The Chaplain shall be responsible for a devotional period at the beginning of each business meeting, and he/she shall see to the spiritual needs of the Members of this Association.

- The Parliamentarian shall work closely with the presiding officer and assist him or her with questions concerning Roberts Rules of Order and to see that the meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion.

ARTICLE VI – Meetings

Meetings shall be held on the third (3) Thursday of all odd months during the year, with special meetings being called if and when necessary. The annual meeting will be held at the Red Room, or at the Emergency Communications Center during the month of September, with other meetings being held elsewhere in Rowan County. Special meetings can only be called by the president or majority of the members, who shall endeavor to have as many members as possible present at the meeting. A quorum shall consist of a majority of sponsoring organizations in good standing with the Association. Questions shall be declined by a majority vote of the members present. Meetings shall be conducted under “Roberts Rules of Order”. Any sponsoring organization of the Association that misses three (3) consecutive meetings shall not be considered in good standing with the Association. The sponsoring organization will be back in good standing after attending two (2) consecutive meetings.

ARTICLE VII – Projects

Projects must be approved by a majority vote at a regular or special meeting of the general membership.

ARTICLE VIII – Annual Dues

The general membership of the Association shall determine the amount of annual dues which shall be levied against the Member Organization. The amount shall not be changed except by a majority vote of the Association. Annual dues will be in the amount of \$50.00 and notices will be sent by January 1st of each year to all Member Organizations which are due upon receipt. Delinquent notices will be sent March 1st and if not received by April 1st the Sponsoring Organization will not be in good standing with the Association. After payment is made, the sponsoring organization will once again be in good standing with the Association.

ARTICLE IX – Amendments

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two –thirds vote of the members present, and in good standing, at a regular meeting of the Association with an announcement at the previous meeting, or at a special meeting when the subject of amendment has been made in the call of the meeting.

ARTICLE X –Financial Review (Audit)

A Financial Review (Audit) of the financial records shall be conducted every two (2) years or after the change of the Treasurer, by a Certified Public Accountant.

List of Amendments to By-Laws

(List of Amendments is effective November 2006. Amendments are highlighted and listed for informational purposes only. This List of Amendments is not an official part of the by-laws.)

Article X- Audit, amended November 2006

At the regular meeting, November, 2006, vote passed to amend Article X- Audit to Financial Review. Amended the words "Audit" to "Financial Review". Announced at regular meeting of September, 2006 and voted on November 16, 2006.