

Eastern Berks Fire Department
Proposed 2018 Bylaw Changes

*The following is a summary of the proposed changes of the department bylaws.
Some changes/additions were grammatical; others required/suggested by state or federal agencies;
and others made by the committee in meeting.*

Membership

Anti-discrimination wording has been clarified to comply with state requirements for funding.

Application Process

Amended to add, as required for state grants, that votes for membership shall be by written ballot. The department had already approved this as a resolution, but we are now official incorporating it into the bylaws.

Inactive Status

The committee was asked to give an interpretation of Life Members reverting to inactive status – It was agreed by the committee that a life member that has not satisfied the meeting requirement would be considered as “Inactive” as set forth in the bylaws.

Article V “Officer Structure” was moved and renumbered as Article VIII, a more appropriate placement.

Article entitled “Restrictions” for officers has been moved and consolidated to a more appropriate place and two provisions added:

- Members of the Department shall not be eligible for election to more than one (1) office of the Department as listed above. Thee President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer may run for fire officer positions other than chief.
- Members nominated for and serving as fire officers yearly must attend ten (10) percent each of: calls, training sessions and fund-raising events.

Length of service in the department prior to election/appointment has been reduced for many positions to allow for more recent members to qualify for positions. Suggested changes are:

- Fire Chief changed from 15 to 10 years
- Deputy Chief changed to 15 to 10
- Assistant Chiefs changed from 10 to 5
- Lieutenants changed from 5 to 3
- Fire Police Officers changed from 5 (or 3) to 1

Fire Police

The wording “on an annual basis” was stricken from the swearing in of Fire Police

The sections entitled “Duties of Elected Officers” (Sections F, G and H) were moved to the beginning of Article 9 to apply to make it clear they applied to all officers.

Article 9, Section F –

Added between 3 and 4 – “In the event of an elected fire officer consistently fails to perform their duties as prescribed in the bylaws the officer shall be removed.

In relation to this – Article 15 “Vacancy in an elected office” – “A vacancy may occur if there is a failure to consistently perform prescribed duties” was inserted into section B

Article 13 – Who May Vote – Adds additional requirement that those voting for officers must attend ten (10) percent each of: calls, training sessions and fund-raising events. with exemptions for Executive Officers and those excused by chief and president.

Article 22 – Amending Bylaws – Changes rule that proposed amendments have to be physically posed at each station, to proposed amendment must be distributed electronically (*email, web, etc*)

Grants and Monetary Awards of Federal Funding

A lengthy section was added as the next-to-last article to include required language concerning receiving grants from the federal government.