

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

of the

Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

WE, the members of the various law enforcement officers in Hillsborough County, Pasco County and Polk County, Florida, do hereby associate ourselves for the following purposes:

To support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the State of Florida; to inculcate loyalty and foster the impartial enforcement of law and order; to improve the individual proficiency of our members in the performance of their duties; to encourage social and educational activities among our members; to create a tradition of esprit de corps, insuring fidelity to duty under all conditions and circumstances; to cultivate a spirit of mutual helpfulness among our membership and the people we serve; to increase the efficiency of public service and thus more firmly establish the citizens' confidence in the public service that is dedicated to the protection of their lives and property.

ARTICLE I

NAME, OBJECTIVES and PURPOSES

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER of the FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC., and its offices and meeting places shall be in the State of Florida, unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The general objectives and purposes of this Chapter shall be to promote professionalism among law enforcement officers; to influence the youth of Florida in an effort to combat delinquency; to further police-community relations by informing the citizens of Florida of the day-to-day stress and problems of their law enforcement officers; and to represent officers and other public employees in the legal, labor, legislative, and political matters which affect the law enforcement profession.



Section 3. The West Central Florida Chapter of the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. shall not participate in, nor condone strikes or cessation of duties by law enforcement officers or law enforcement support personnel.

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION, MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The classes of membership in this Chapter shall be Active, Auxiliary, Associate, Affiliate, Retired and Life. The Board of Directors, by policy, shall provide for the appointment, regulation, conduct and rights of each class of membership.

Section 2. All active and retired law enforcement officers and direct law enforcement support personnel within the jurisdiction of this Chapter as assigned by Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. shall be eligible for membership in the West Central Florida Chapter of the Florida Police Benevolent Association. Membership shall not be denied to any person based solely on sex, color, religion, age, nationality, or creed.

ARTICLE III BOARD of DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Executive Committee of this Chapter and two (2) Directors representing each Department within the Chapter. The Board of Directors shall be the policy-making body of the Chapter; it shall meet upon the call of the President or of a majority of the executive committee, or of a majority of the Board of Directors where a majority shall constitute a quorum; the Board shall have the power to make regulations concerning the conduct and attendance of the general membership; the Board shall have the power to make such regulations concerning the policies of the Chapter and to initiate and cease programs for the mutual benefit of the Chapter's members as it sees fit; the Board, by resolution, shall appoint three individuals who shall have the authority to co-sign all checks for disbursement of funds, except that any check in the amount of \$500 or more must be expressly approved by the Board of Directors; the Board, by written policy, shall set the dues of the Chapter so long as dues are not lower than those required by Florida Police Benevolent Association policy; the Board shall have the authority to adopt policies that shall have the full force and effect of the Chapter's Constitution and deviation from or violation of those policies shall be considered a violation of this Constitution; the Board shall have the authority to endorse candidates for political offices in areas assigned and approved by the Board of Directors of Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc.; the Board shall have the authority to appoint unit representatives as deemed necessary; the Board shall have authority to appoint a Parliamentarian whose duties shall be assigned by the Board; and the Board shall have the authority to remove from office any officer or director for proper cause by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board constituting a quorum. Only Active and Life members of the Chapter shall be eligible to hold elected offices in this Chapter. Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors may delegate any of its powers, authority or responsibilities contained in Section 1 above to the Executive Committee or the President.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall be elected in the manner prescribed in the

By-Laws and shall serve for a term of four (4) years.

Section 4. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter; shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter; shall have the responsibility and authority of general management of the business of the Chapter; and the President shall have the exclusive power to speak and act on behalf of the Chapter when it is not feasible to call the Board of Directors into session. However, the President may not obligate the Association for more than \$500 in business expenditures without Board approval; Board approval for such expenditure may be gained via telephonic communication with the Board of Directors.

Section 5. The By-Laws of the Chapter shall prescribe the duties of the Senior Vice President, the Vice President, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 6. The Chapter's President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among its own number to a four-year term, and shall be known as the Chapter's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may exercise the emergency powers of the President should the President choose to call it into session and relinquishes those powers to it; the Executive Committee may be called into session by the President to act as the planning arm of the Chapter. There shall be a Legislative Director appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. He shall serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors and shall sit as a voting Board member and will be a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 7. General membership meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority of the Board of Directors, or by regular members upon submission of a signed petition with the signatures of at least 50 members in good standing and who have paid their dues the preceding month. A petition calling for a general membership meeting shall specify the subject(s) to be brought before the membership meeting and the date, time, and location of such proposed meeting.

Section 8. The Immediate Past President shall convey to his/her successor any and all unfinished business of the Association.

ARTICLE IV FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, Inc.

The West Central Florida Chapter of the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. is a permanent organizational part of Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. The name of the Chapter, Chapter status, all property and assets of the Chapter are held in trust for Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. by the Chapter officers. The Chapter shall abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and formal actions of Florida Police Benevolent Association,

Inc. The Chapter shall give maximum cooperation in carrying out the policies and programs of Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

**ARTICLE V
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES and AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Except as provided in this Constitution and By-Laws, "Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Chapter.

Section 2. The Constitution of this Chapter may be amended by the general membership of the Chapter at any meeting of that body, provided that at least ten (10) days notice of the proposed amendment was provided to the membership prior to consideration. In order to be adopted, amendments must receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting. The Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and amendments thereto of this Chapter must be approved by Florida Police Benevolent Association Board of Directors prior to adoption.

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BY-LAWS

**ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. The Board of Directors of this Chapter shall have the power to appoint individuals to Active, Auxiliary, Associate, Affiliate, Retired and Life membership.

Section 2. The classes of membership in this Chapter shall be as follows:

- A. **Active** members shall be those persons who are presently serving as law enforcement employees, or direct support law enforcement employees, of a law enforcement agency in Hillsborough County, Polk County and Pasco County, Florida.
- B. **Auxiliary** members are those Officers sworn as Reserve or Auxiliary Officers with a Law Enforcement Agency within the Service Area of the West Central Florida Chapter who are not full time Officers.
- C. **Associate** members shall be those non-sworn persons within the service area of the Chapter that wish to organize as a collective bargaining unit under the West Central Florida Chapter.

- D. **Affiliate** members shall be those individual citizens, businesses or business persons who are not members of the Chapter, but who support the aims and purposes of this Chapter.
- E. **Life** members shall be those active, individual or retired members of the Chapter who have earned the respect and admiration of the Chapter and its members. Life members of the Chapter may be appointed by the Board of Directors following nomination by the Chapter President and approved by the Board of Directors of Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc.
- F. **Retired** members shall be those persons who have honorably retired from public service while an active member of the Association.

Dues for each class of membership shall be established by the Board of Directors, except that Life Members shall not be required to pay dues.

ARTICLE II DUTIES of OFFICERS

Section 1. The Senior Vice President shall perform such duties as assigned by the President and shall succeed the President should there be a vacancy in that office.

Section 2. The Vice President shall perform such duties as are assigned by the President.

Section 3. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Chapter shall maintain the minutes of the meeting of the Chapter and shall furnish surety bond in the amount specified by the Board of Directors. The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit the financial records of the Chapter to the Florida Police Benevolent Association for auditing, and shall make periodic financial reports to the Chapter Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Legislative Director shall normally chair all Candidate Screening Committees, be responsible for maintaining a liaison between the Association and elected officials, coordinate the legislative programs of the Association as approved by the Board of Directors and/or Association President, report to the President on proposed law enforcement or related legislation and such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

ARTICLE III NOMINATION and ELECTION of OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Chapter as described in Article III of the Constitution shall be elected to a four (4) year term. Except as otherwise provided herein, vacancies in an

office shall be filled by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. This Chapter hereby designates Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. as its Trustee to administer an independent third party nomination and election process.

Section 3. In order to vote in an election, the person must be a member in good standing and must have paid dues for the month preceding nominations. A person who is, or has been within the proceeding six (6) months, a member of a rival employee organization registered in the State of Florida shall not be eligible to run for or hold office. Furthermore, a person running for office must have been a member for a total of at least two (2) years prior to nomination for office.

Section 4. In order to be eligible for nomination to the offices of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, or Secretary-Treasurer, a member must have served on the Board of Directors for at least one (1) calendar year prior to nomination for office.

Section 5. The election of the Board of Directors and subsequent election of Executive Committee members shall occur not less than 45 days prior to the expiration of the term of the seated Board or Executive Committee member. Within a period of no less than 30 days and no greater than 45 days, the newly elected Board shall meet for the sole purpose of electing the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Resignations from officers, in writing, shall be deemed to be accepted when received by the Association President. If resignations are submitted orally, they shall become effective 15 days after the Association President confirms them in writing, if not withdrawn during that period.

ARTICLE IV GRIEVANCES and DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Any member, who has a grievance against another member of this Chapter, group of members of this Chapter, or the Chapter itself, may present the grievance to the Board of Directors. The action of the Board of Directors with respect to the member's grievance shall be the final administrative remedy within the Chapter.

Section 2. The Board of Directors may call for the removal of any member who acts in a manner contrary to the good of the Chapter upon thirty days written notice to appear before the Board to answer to a formal complaint. The member may at that time present any facts evidence or testimony that disputes the allegations of misconduct. If the allegations are sustained a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors are necessary for expulsion from the organization.

ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended in the same method prescribed for amendments to the Constitution of this Chapter.

ARTICLE VI CONFLICT

Should any conflict exist between the Constitution and By-Laws or Policies of Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. and those of this Chapter, the Constitution, By-Laws and Policies of Florida Police Benevolent Association, Inc. shall have supremacy and shall prevail.