

The CENTEX FOOLS Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society

Constitution & By-Laws

Article 1 Name

Section 1: Chapter Name

The name of this organization shall be: CENTEX FOOLS Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society.

Section 2: Definitions

References in this Constitution and By-Laws to “chapter” and “CENTEX” shall refer to the organization as set forth in Section 1 above, and references to “International” shall refer to the Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society International for “International FOOLS”

References in this Constitution and By-Laws to “E-Board” shall refer to the executive board.

Section 3: Compliance

This chapter, its officers, representatives, and members shall recognize, observe, and be bound by the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the International FOOLS and the interpretations rendered by the International FOOLS President, the resolutions, decisions and directives of the E-Board of officers of the International FOOLS when made in conformity with the authority granted by the Constitution and By-Laws of the International FOOLS, and the resolutions adopted and policies established by the delegates at conventions.

Article 2 Jurisdiction

Section 1: Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction shall be as follows: “All firefighters assigned to operational firefighting job functions of any paid or volunteer fire department or in support of those functions.”

Article 3 Membership

Section 1: Active

Any firefighter of good moral character who, at the time of making application is engaged in service within the jurisdiction of this chapter, as given in Article 2, is eligible for active membership. **To become a new member a person must be in good standing and pay their yearly dues.**

Section 2: Maintenance of Good Standing

Membership in good standing includes any person who has fulfilled the requirements for membership in this chapter and has not voluntarily withdrawn, become ineligible for continued membership or been suspended or expelled as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws of the International FOOLS or this chapter.

Section 3: Founding CENTEX FOOLS

The SIX founding members of this chapter that are on the original chapter founding documentation on file with the International FOOLS are lifetime members in good standing free of membership dues and chapter event participation requirements. The founding CENTEX FOOLS are: Kenny Reams, Robert Lundberg, Mikkie Jordan, Thomas Eastland, Jonathan Mills, and Dylan George. Removal of the benefits entitled in this section can only be made by unanimous vote at a chapter meeting.

Section 4: Delinquent Members

Members who fail to pay their full yearly dues or assessments by the first day of May of each year shall be notified by the chapter President that they are delinquent and will be automatically suspended and lose their good standing if payment is not made within thirty (30) days following such notification. Delinquent and suspended members are not entitled to hold any office in the chapter, voice or vote in the affairs of the chapter, or participate in any activities or functions of the FOOLS International.

Section 5: Conduct Unbecoming a FOOL

If at any time the chapter's E-Board finds that a CENTEX FOOL has acted in a way to tarnish the FOOL'S name, the E-Board has the ability to discipline the member as they deem appropriate, up to and including revoking chapter membership. Acts that may tarnish the FOOL'S name consist of, but are not limited to:

- Using the FOOL'S name for personal benefit; either FOOLS Int. (International) or CENTEX FOOLS.
- Theft or Fraud (Accusations beyond a reasonable doubt with verifiable proof).
- Any felony conviction.
- Acting in a manner that disgraces the CENTEX FOOLS or the FOOLS Int.
- Defamation of the CENTEX FOOLS or the FOOLS Int.

Article 4 Meetings

Section 1: Time and Place

Chapter Meetings locations, times, and dates shall be scheduled at the discretion of the E-Board. E-Board meetings will be conducted during the off months that the chapter is not meeting. Notification of the meeting's details, regardless of E-Board or Chapter meeting, should be e-mailed to all members in good standing in a sufficient amount of time prior to the meeting date.

Section 2: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by vote of a majority of the E-Board. All members in good standing shall be notified of such a special meeting at least seven (7) days prior to the same. The notice shall state the business to be considered in such meeting, and no other business than the stated in the notice shall be in order at such meeting.

Section 3: Quorum

The quorum for any meeting of this chapter, either regular or special shall be four (4) members in good standing.

Section 4: Rights of members

Every member in good standing shall have the right to attend any meeting and to participate in such meeting in accordance with the recognized rules set forth in the manual of parliamentary procedure adopted by this chapter. Members shall conduct themselves in such a manner as not to interfere with the legal or contractual obligations of the International FOOLS or this chapter.

Section 5: Rules for Meetings

The rules contained in Atwood's Rules for Meetings shall govern the meetings of this chapter in all cases not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws, or the Constitution and By-Laws of the International FOOLS, or interpretations of these documents.

Article 5 Officers and Elections

Section 1: Number and Titles

The officers of this chapter shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Training Officer, and Quartermaster. These aforementioned officers shall constitute the chapter's E-Board. Members of the E-Board, shall hold office for two years, and until the election and installation of their successors unless removed from office as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws of the International FOOLS or in this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2: Eligibility for Office

Any member in good standing shall be eligible to be a candidate for office in this local.

Section 3: Rights of Candidates

Every candidate for office shall have the right to request distribution of campaign literature, by mail or otherwise, to all members in good standing, at the candidates' own personal expense. "A candidate for office" includes a candidate for membership on the E-Board. There shall be no discrimination in favor or against any candidate with regard to the use of membership list.

Section 4: Use of Funds Prohibited in Elections

No funds received by this chapter through initiation of fees, dues, or assessments or otherwise, shall be contributed or applied to promote the candidacy of any person in election of officers.

This section does not prevent the expenditure from chapter funds for notices, factual statements of issues and other necessary expenses to conduct elections so long as they do not involve promotion of any one candidate.

Section 5: Method of Nomination and Election

The offices of President, Training Officer, and Treasurer shall be decided in every odd calendar year. The offices of Vice President, Quartermaster, and Secretary shall be decided in every even calendar year. All members in good standing will be notified that nominations are being taken for specific offices by January fifteenth (15th) of each year. Each nominated candidate will be notified of their nomination and will either accept or deny the nomination by the last day of January of that same year. A list with all candidates for office will then be distributed to all members in good standing the first day of February for an election vote. Each member in good standing may cast one vote for each office open for election. Votes may be received through proxy by e-mail or taken in person during a chapter meeting. All votes must be received by midnight on the last day of February. The candidate receiving the majority of the votes will be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, there shall be a run-off election between the two candidates who received the most votes. The calendar start date will be January 1, 2026.

Section 6: Election Officers

The President, Training Officer, and Treasurer shall be responsible for taking nominations, tabulating votes, and conducting all notifications for the offices of Vice President, Quartermaster, and Secretary. The Vice President, Quartermaster, and Secretary shall be responsible for taking nominations, tabulating votes, and conducting all notifications for the offices of President, Training Officer, and Treasurer.

Section 7: Account Change

If there is a change to the position of President, Vice President, or Treasurer these E-Board members must meet to change all accounts in the chapter's name to reflect these changes, (bank account, tax information, social media accounts).

Section 8: Nominations and Votes Preserved

The Secretary shall preserve all records of the election for one-year following such election.

Section 9: Vacancies in Offices

When an office becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or removal of the incumbent, the E-Board shall elect a successor by majority vote, no later than thirty days from the date the office is vacated.

Article 6 Trustees

Section 1: Appointments

The Chapter E-Board can create and appoint Trustee positions to handle specific chapter business that requires a specific expertise or diligence. All Trustee positions will be appointed yearly at the conclusion of all E-Board elections.

Section 2: Eligibility

Any member in good standing shall be eligible to be a candidate for office in this local.

Section 3: Roles & Responsibilities

The appointed Trustee shall perform any and all duties as assigned by the E-Board. The Trustee will be expected to regularly attend Chapter and E-Board meetings. The Trustee will have the authority to develop and maintain the projects of their appointment in all regards with the exception of all financial matters. Any and all financial contracts, obligations, or collections of the chapter must be approved by the E-Board.

Article 7 Duties of Officers

Section 1: Chapter President

It shall be the duty of the chapter President to preside at all meetings and functions of the chapter and meetings of the E-Board. He/She shall be the executive head of the chapter. He/She shall be a member ex-officio of all committees. He/She shall appoint such committees as may be provided for in this Constitution and By-Laws and such special committees as may be authorized by the chapter. Together with the Treasurer, he/she shall sign all orders and checks lawfully and properly drawn. He/she shall enforce strict observance of the Constitution and By-Laws of the International FOOLS as this document relates to the chapter, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the chapter. He/she shall have general supervision of the activities of the other officers and the chair of committees.

The President shall discharge or delegate on behalf of the chapter such duties as may be imposed upon him/her by applicable law including the execution and filing of documents required of any Federal or State authorities, and he/she shall cause to be maintained by the chapter such records as the law requires to be kept in support of reports filed by it.

The President, by virtue of his/her election, shall be a delegate of this chapter at the convention of the International FOOLS at his/her expense if he/she chooses to attend and the E-board chooses not to financially support attendance.

Section 2: Chapter Vice President

The Vice President shall assist the President in such a manner as the President may determine. In the absence of the President he/she shall preside at all meetings of the chapter and of the E-Board. If the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall be the acting President until the office of President is filled by election by the E-Board. The Vice president will be granted spending privileges in the name of the chapter to be used for the chapter together with the Treasurer, he/she shall sign all orders and checks lawfully and properly drawn.

Section 3: Chapter Secretary

The secretary shall have custody of all documents, records, books and papers belonging to the chapter, except as may be otherwise provided by this Constitution and By-Laws. He/she shall keep an accurate record of the meetings of the chapter and of the E-Board, of which he/she shall be the Secretary. He/she will attest to all official documents with his/her signature. He/she shall conduct the correspondence of the chapter promptly. He/she shall maintain the official list of members in good standing, which shall be kept accurately and on a current basis.

The Secretary shall discharge on behalf of the chapter such duties as may be imposed on him/her by applicable law including the execution and filing of any reports to Federal or State authorities, and he/she shall cause to be maintained by the chapter such records as the law requires to be kept in support of reports filed by it.

Section 4: Chapter Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive all money due to the chapter, from whatever source, and shall disburse the same only by voucher signed by the President in conformity with a vote of the E-Board or chapter. Such disbursement shall be by approved method determined by the E-Board, which shall also be signed by the President and/or Vice President. He/she shall maintain and keep current a record of members with their dues payments, assessments, and all financial transactions promptly and accurately entered. He/she shall be prepared to exhibit receipts and vouchers upon the audit of his/her books.

Section 5: Training Officer

The Training Officers duties encompass designing, implementing, and evaluating training programs to ensure FOOLS acquire necessary skills, knowledge, and brotherhood while also promoting a positive training environment and ensuring compliance with the chapters needs and purposes.

Section 6: Quartermaster/PIT (Public Information and Technology)

The Quartermaster/PIT shall track merchandising, sales, and inventory of products used by the chapter and members. PIT provides updated information via social media accounts and keeps members updated on events planned by the chapter.

Section 7: Chapter Executive Board

The E-Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Quartermaster, Training Officer, and Treasurer of this chapter. It shall be the duty of the E-Board to exercise with general supervision and control of any chapter funds and property of the chapter. It shall have the authority to act in the name of the chapter in intervals between meetings, such acts being subject to confirmation by the membership at the next chapter meeting. It shall meet at the call of the President or on call signed by a majority of the members in good standing. A majority (4) of the E-Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article 8 Delegates and Alternates to the International FOOLS Convention

Section 1: Delegates

In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the International FOOLS, this chapter is entitled to one delegate to represent the chapter at the International FOOLS Convention and all President's Meetings. The President, or Vice President in the President's absence, shall be the chapter's delegate.

Section 2: Alternates

In the event that the President or Vice President is unable to attend the said International FOOLS functions, the E-Board will appoint a member in good standing to represent the chapter by majority vote.

Article 9 Initiation Fees and Dues

Section 1: Initiation Fees

Initiation fees shall be paid to the chapter in the amount of \$10.00. This money shall be applied to the \$10.00 initiation fee as required to entrance with the International FOOLS.

Section 2: Dues

Dues shall be \$50.00 per year. Notification of yearly dues shall be made by April 1 of each year. All members shall pay dues by May 1 of each year to remain in good standing.

Section 3: Change in Rates

Changes in Initiation Fees and Dues shall require notice of proposed change to be given to all members in good standing at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date on which the vote for such increase is to occur. The proposed increase shall become effective upon a majority vote of members in good standing in proxy or at a general or special meeting.

Section 4: Reinstatement Fees

Reinstatement fees shall be \$10.00 and full payment of that year's dues at reinstatement.

Section 5: Membership Dues Exemptions

All six founding members of the CENTEX FOOLS are exempt from paying any membership dues. Active E-board members are exempt from paying yearly dues while holding office..

A member's single annual dues may be waived in gratitude of exemplary service to the chapter by a majority vote by the E-Board.

Article 10

Financial Accountability/E-Board Voting

Section 1: Financial

To ensure rigorous financial accountability and transparency, the E-Board will conduct comprehensive audits of all financial activities every six months. These regular reviews will encompass a thorough examination of financial statements, internal controls, and compliance with relevant regulations. The board will meticulously analyze revenue, expenditures, assets, and liabilities to identify any discrepancies, inefficiencies, or potential risks. Findings from these audits will be documented, discussed in detail, and used to implement necessary corrective actions and strengthen financial governance, thereby safeguarding the organization's financial health and trust within the chapter.

Section 2: E-Board voting

In instances where the E-Board's vote on a particular issue results in a tie, the president holds the authority to cast the deciding vote. This tie-breaker mechanism ensures that the board can reach a resolution and move forward on critical matters, preventing potential deadlock and maintaining the efficiency of decision-making processes within the organization. The president's tie-breaking vote is a crucial element of the governance structure, designed to facilitate clear and timely outcomes when the E-board is evenly divided.

Signature of Chapter President

 4/22/2025