

• **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of the organization shall be: VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The general nature and object of this ASSOCIATION shall be: to encourage closer cooperation of all law enforcement agencies in seeking the detection and prevention of crime, the apprehension and prosecution of criminals, and exchange and dissemination of information; to encourage and assist in the enlightenment and education of the general public to cooperate fully with the law enforcement work; to encourage and sponsor police training by regularly constituted law enforcement officers and agencies; to pledge ourselves to strive for the highest degree of respect for, and maintenance of, law and order; and to make permanent those friendships and social relationships arising from attendance at police conferences; to propose and support legislation for the protection of those whom we serve, and the advancement and welfare of the police profession.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. (Classes of Membership)

The following classifications of membership in the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police and the privileges of each classification are as follows:

Section 2. (Active)

Active membership in this Association shall consist of only those individuals who are actively engaged in law enforcement in Vermont, who hold the title of Chief of Police and are full-time employees of a regularly constituted Municipal Police Department, Capital Police, college or University Police Department, in and for the Municipality in the State of Vermont or for the state recognized college or university for which he/she alleges representation. Active membership shall commence upon receipt of payment of annual dues to the Association in the appropriate amount as determined by the Association and shall continue until or unless suspended in accordance with section 7 of this article.

Section 3. (Professional Associate)

Professional Associate membership shall consist of any persons not eligible for Active membership, but qualified by training, experience and or position of employment as executive head of a local, county, state, federal or private law enforcement agency or security force.

Professional Associate members shall be elected to membership by a majority vote of the Executive Board of this Association. Professional Associate members shall not be

eligible to hold office or vote. Professional Associate membership shall commence upon receipt of payment of annual dues to the Association in the appropriate amount as determined by the Association and shall continue until or unless suspended in accordance with section 7 of this article.

Section 4A. (Business Associate)

Business Associate membership shall consist of any person not eligible for Active or Professional Associate membership but who is found qualified by their position in other police or business fields. Business Associate members shall be elected to membership by a majority vote of the Executive Board of this Association in regular meeting. Business Associate members shall not be eligible to hold office or vote. Business Associate membership shall commence upon receipt of payment of annual dues to the Association in the appropriate amount as determined by the Association and shall continue until or unless suspended in accordance with section 7 of this article.

Section 4B. (Dual Business Associate)

A Dual Business Associate shall be the same as a Business Associate listed in Section 4 of this article with the addition of also being accepted for Business Associate status with the Vermont Sheriffs Association if and when this Dual Business Associate status is approved by the Vermont Sheriffs Association. A Dual Business Associate membership shall commence upon receipt of payment of annual dues to the Associations as determined by the Chiefs and Sheriffs Associations in the appropriate amount and shall continue until or unless suspended in accordance with section 7 of this article or dissolution of the Dual Business Associate classification by either Association. The Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police and or the Vermont Sheriffs Association may at any Annual meeting vote singly or jointly to dissolve their Associations participation in the Dual Business Associate agreement. Upon dissolution of the agreement by either Association, the status of Dual Business Associate members continues until December 31st of the year in which the vote is made.

Section 5A. (Life Membership)

Any active member of this Association [who retires as a police officer] may be voted to life membership as specified below.

A majority vote of the executive board at any lawful meeting is needed to bring forward the name of an active member for consideration for Life membership.

Upon affirmative vote of the executive board, the name of the life member candidate shall be brought forward to the entire membership of the Association at its next Annual meeting or at Special meeting as called by the President or President's designee. A $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote of the voting members present at this Annual or Special meeting is needed to confirm life membership.

Life members shall not be required to pay dues unless otherwise noted in this section, and shall have all other privileges of active membership except they may not vote or hold office in the Association. Any active Chief who leaves Vermont law enforcement in good standing and assumes a law enforcement position in another state may apply for life membership.

The following criteria shall also be considered for those applying for life membership. One or more of the criteria must be met for consideration.

- 20 years as an executive in law enforcement in good standing;
- 5 years or more as an active member of this Association in good standing;
- Past Presidents of this association who have completed their full term and have served the Association with Honor and Distinction;
- Retired as Chief of Police in good standing.

Life members SHALL BE REQUIRED to pay dues while in Active membership status.

Life members NOT in active status may not vote or hold office in the Association and are NOT required to pay dues.

Section 5B. (Retired Membership)

Any active member who retires in good standing may continue his/her membership in the Association as a Retired Member and he/she shall be entitled to all the benefits of the Association as provided under the conditions described in the By-Laws. This section is retroactive to July 1, 1966.

Section 6. (Sustaining)

Persons who are donors of funds to the ASSOCIATION for the purpose of advancing and improving the police profession may be invited by the Executive Board to become Sustaining members of the ASSOCIATION under such rules as the Board may establish.

If the invitation is accepted, such membership shall be for a period of one year with all privileges of an Associate member.

Section 7. (Limitation to One Membership)

A member shall hold only one type of membership in the ASSOCIATION at any one time.

Section 8. (Dues)

The payment of dues to this Association is required of each individual officer and member. Dues payment and membership is not transferable / assignable.

The dues of the Association are payable upon demand, and are applied to the current Annual year. (January – December)

The amount of the annual dues in all membership classifications shall be set for the following year by the executive committee in April of each year and affirmed or amended by the membership at the annual meeting. Billing will be sent to all membership classifications in February – March of the following year.

Section 9. (Suspension or Revocation)

Membership in this association shall be automatically suspended or revoked:

A. Upon non-payment of all required dues in any given year, in an appropriate and timely manner and after fair notice of said non-payment is given to the member.

B. Upon participation by the member in any activity deemed unworthy of, or inimical to, the best interest of law enforcement, as evidenced by any dismissal from any law enforcement agency based upon malfeasance or misfeasance of office.

C. Upon a majority vote of the Executive Board upon a finding of misuse of membership in this Association.

Any member in any classification that is suspended or revoked shall not be allowed to be present at or participate in ANY Association meetings, activities or functions, and shall be removed from all membership, mail, and e-mail lists. If the member is suspended or revoked for non-payment of dues only, the member may be reinstated in status upon receipt by the Association in full of all unpaid past and current dues as determined by the executive board.

ARTICLE IV TERMS OF ASSOCIATION

Section 1. (Term)

The term of this ASSOCIATION shall be perpetual.

Section 2. (Dissolution)

The Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the membership in attendance at any Annual Meeting. All active members of the ASSOCIATION shall be advised in writing not less than fifteen (15) days prior to an Annual Meeting of a proposal to dissolve the ASSOCIATION.

Section 3. (Dedication of Assets)

In the event that the ASSOCIATION is dissolved all assets of the ASSOCIATION shall be contributed to an organization that qualifies for tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (C) (3).

Section 4. (Fiscal Year)

The Fiscal Year of the ASSOCIATION shall be July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1.

The officer of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont who shall constitute the Executive Board shall be:

- a. President
- b. First Vice President
- c. Second Vice President
- d. Third Vice President
- e. Secretary Treasurer
- f. Six (6) active members elected annually to the Executive Board:
 1. Three Northern Directors
 2. Three Southern Directors
- a. Immediate Past President

The dividing point between north and south shall be an imaginary straight line from Rutland to White River Junction with both of the above being southern towns.

Section 2.

A quorum at any regularly announced meeting as called by the President of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police shall consist of those members who are present at the business session of any annual or regular meeting.

Section 3.

In cases of death, removal, suspension, inability to serve or absence, officer shall advance and serve as President in order of rank as set forth in Section I of Article V.

Section 4.

In case of death, removal, suspension, inability to serve or absence of any officers of this ASSOCIATION, the President shall have the power to appoint an active member of this ASSOCIATION to fill the unexpired term of such office with the approval of a majority of the Executive Board.

Section 5.

The immediate past President shall serve a term of one year on the Executive Board as a director at large. Thereby creating a seventh director.

Section 6.

If an Executive Board member, without good and sufficient reason as determined by the Executive Board, fails to attend three (3) scheduled meeting within a 12-month period, the member's resignation will be deemed to have been accepted.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1.

The officers of Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Chapter and shall serve for a period of one year from the date of their election or until such time as their successors have been duly elected and qualified. Nomination for these officers shall be from the floor

Section 2.

The election of all officers shall be held separately and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.

Section 3.

The Office of the Secretary/Treasurer may be a joint position elected in accordance with Section One and Section Three of this Article.

Section 4.

Members Eligible to Hold Office: Only Active Members in good standing shall be eligible to hold elective or appointed office in the Association.

ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. President

The President shall preside at all regular meeting of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police in conducting meetings of the ASSOCIATION, his decision shall be final unless otherwise provided for by this constitution. His decision may be reversed by a majority of the membership present at any business meeting of the ASSOCIATION.

He shall appoint all pro-tem officers in case of absentees. If, in the opinion of the President, an occasion or circumstance should arise to warrant the calling of a special

business meeting of the ASSOCIATION, he shall have the authority to call such meeting of the ASSOCIATION.

The President must call at least four (4) regular meetings of the ASSOCIATION as near to being quarterly meetings as is reasonably possible.

The President shall appoint the members of all committees not otherwise proved for.

The President shall be a member of all committees.

The incoming President shall present a prepared budget for the ASSOCIATION following the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. First Vice President

The First Vice President shall act in the capacity of President in the absence or inability of the President.

Section 3. Second Vice President

The Second Vice President shall act in the capacity of First Vice President in the absence or inability of the First Vice President.

Section 4. Third Vice President

The Third Vice President shall act in the capacity of Second Vice President in the absence or inability of the Second Vice President.

Section 5. Secretary/Treasurer

The Office of Secretary/Treasure shall:

- a. Receive all applications for membership and shall contact all Vermont Chiefs of Police relative to joining the ASSOCIATION.
- b. Keep the minutes of all business meetings.
- c. Serve all notices for emergency meeting of the ASSOCIATION and of committees.
- d. Collect all dues and authorize special assessments of the ASSOCIATION.
- e. Maintain a permanent history of the ASSOCIATION which shall be the minutes of any meeting or communication which is incorporated into the minutes of any meeting upon a vote of the membership.
- f. Receive all moneys of the ASSOCIATION and maintain an accurate record of the financial transactions of the ASSOICATION.
- g. Have the authority to disburse such moneys for incidentals such as membership cards, stationary, mailing, printing, etc. and shall keep an itemized account of moneys received and expenditures of the

ASSOCIATION. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be authorized to pay all bills. Such payment of bills shall be brought up at the next regular meeting of the ASSOCIATION.

- h. The accounts of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be audited by the Executive Board prior to the Annual Meeting. The Executive Board may utilize the services of a professional accounting firm for this purpose.
- i. The Office of Secretary/Treasurer shall be bonded in the amount of, not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00). Such bond shall be provided by the ASSOCIATION.
- j. The Office of Secretary/Treasurer shall be a salaried position. The salary shall be determined by the Executive Board of the ASSOCIATION.

Section 6. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of all officers set forth in Article V, Section 1, Sub Section a., b., c., d., e., f., and g. of this Constitution.

The Executive Board shall govern this organization, unless disapproved by a majority vote of members present at a regular business meeting of the ASSOCIATION.

The Executive Board shall perform all other duties required of it by this Constitution.

A majority of the voting members of the Executive Board present shall constitute a quorum.

The Executive Board shall act on the President's budget by majority vote. They, as the duly elected governors of the organization, can by majority vote, alter the ASSOCIATION'S budget, unless disapproved by a majority vote of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

All committees not otherwise provided for by this Constitution shall be appointed by the President of the ASSOCIATION. All committees shall serve for one year or until successors are re-appointed and may be relieved of their duties at any time by the President of the ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1.

The ASSOCIATION shall meet at least four (4) times each year with such meetings being as close to quarterly meetings as possible.

The Annual Meeting will be held prior to July 1, at a time and place as designated by the President and at which time the election of officers will take place. The terms of the new officers shall commence on July 1.

ARTICLE X. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call of Officers
3. Report of Officers
4. Reading of minutes of previous meetings
5. Bills and communications
6. Report of Committees
7. Unfinished Business
8. Nomination and election of Officers (Annual Meeting Only)
9. Installation of Officers (Annual Meeting Only)
10. New Business
11. Assessment of dues for ensuing year (Annual Meeting Only)
12. Roll call of deceased members
13. Adjournment

ARTICLE XI. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Any changes and amendments to the constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any Annual Meeting of the Association. Such changes and amendments shall be warned at least fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Proposed amendments shall be in writing.

Amended at Annual Meeting on May 21, 1988.

S/s Douglas S. Hoyt

Douglas S. Hoyt, Secretary Treasurer

Amended at Annual Meeting on May 13, 1989.

S/s Douglas S. Hoyt

Douglas S. Hoyt, Secretary Treasurer

Amended at Annual Meeting on May 19, 1990

S/s Douglas S. Hoyt

Douglas S. Hoyt, Secretary Treasurer

Amended at Annual Meeting on May 15, 1992

S/s Douglas S. Hoyt

Douglas S. Hoyt, Secretary Treasurer

Amended at Annual Meeting on May 29, 1993

S/s Douglas S. Hoyt

Douglas S. Hoyt, Secretary Treasurer

Amended at Annual Meeting on June 3, 1994

S/s Douglas S. Hoyt

Douglas S. Hoyt, Secretary Treasurer

Amended at Annual Meeting on June 23, 1995

S/s Douglas S. Hoyt

Douglas S. Hoyt, Secretary Treasurer

Amended at Annual Meeting on May 31, 1996

S/s Douglas S. Hoyt

Douglas S. Hoyt, Secretary Treasurer

Amended at Annual Meeting on June 11, 2015

S/s Nicole Dernier, Secretary

Nicole Dernier, Secretary

The changes in section II (Purpose) were proposed to the Constitution of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police to be voted on at the Annual meeting on June 11, 2015 at the Basin Harbor, Vergennes, VT.

Paul Doucette, First Vice President

The changes in Article 5, section 6 (Officers) were proposed to the Constitution of the Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police to be voted on at the Annual meeting on June 11, 2015 at the Basin Harbor Club Vergennes, VT.

George Merkel, President