

It is the recommendation of the bylaws committee that we do the bylaws proposed changes in three separate votes. Vote on each Article changes separately. I have them listed below anything that is **underlines is the proposed addition** and anything in **yellow is proposed deletion**.

## **Proposed bylaws changes for 2020.**

### **Article I**

#### Code of Ethics

I will conduct both my personal and official life so as to inspire the confidence of the public.

I will not use my profession and my position of trust for personal advantage or profit.

I will regard my fellow investigators with the same standards as I hold for myself. I will never betray a confidence nor otherwise jeopardize their investigations.

I will regard it my duty to know my work thoroughly. It is my further duty to avail myself of every opportunity to learn more about my profession.

I will avoid alliances with those whose goals are inconsistent with an honest and unbiased investigation. I will make no claim to professional qualifications which I do not possess.

I will share all publicity equally with my fellow investigators, whether such publicity is favorable or unfavorable.

I will be loyal to my superiors, to my subordinates and to the organization I represent.

I will bear in mind always that I am a truth-seeker, not a case-maker; that it is more important to protect the innocent than to convict the guilty.

**As fire, arson, and explosion investigators, we shall:**

**Regard ourselves as members of a vital and ethical profession;**

**Conduct both our personal and official lives so as to inspire the confidence of the public;**

**Regard it as our duty to avail ourselves of every opportunity to learn more about our profession;**

**Encourage and support professional standards for fire, arson, and explosion investigators;**

**Avoid alliances with those whose practices are inconsistent with an honest and unbiased investigation;**

**Bear in mind that we are first and foremost truth-seekers, not case makers; it is our duty to protect the innocent and hold accountable those responsible for loss by fire or explosion.**

## **Article II - Membership**

**Section 4. Student Membership.** Associate members who are students are permitted to pay a reduced fee for membership. This fee shall be established by the Board of Directors. “Student” shall be defined as any individual not currently working in a paid position in the fire investigation field who is currently enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited institution of post-secondary education pursuing a degree in fire science, fire investigation, the administration of justice, or related field of study. Student members shall not have the right to hold office or vote on Chapter business.

## **ARTICLE III – OFFICES, ELIGIBILITY, ELECTION, AND TERMS**

### Section 7. Nominating Committee

Prior to August of each year the President shall appoint a nominating committee. The nominating committee will be directed to accept nominations from the membership for all Officer and Board of Director’s positions which are open for election at the next Annual Meeting. These nominations shall be submitted to the nominating committee at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to the Annual Meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the nominating committee to verify the nominee’s eligibility for office and his or her willingness to accept a nomination. At the close of nominations, the nominating committee shall submit a list of all nominees to the Secretary and the Secretary shall then prepare a ballot for use **at with** the next **Annual Meeting. Election.**

### Section 8. Elections

A. Elections for Officers and Board of Directors shall be **available to vote online for thirty (30) days prior to held at** the Annual Meeting.

**B. Election will end at noon on the day of the annual meeting.**

**B. C.** No member can be nominated for more than one position per election.

**C. D.** Majority vote shall rule. In the event of a tie vote between candidates for the same position, a ballot will be prepared and another vote, consisting of only the members in good standing present at the annual meeting **who voted in the original** **can** vote, **and a vote** will be conducted for this position only between tying candidates.

**D. E.** To be eligible for voting **at the annual election**, a member must **present either a current membership card or present proper verification from the membership roster that the member is in fact** **be** in good standing with the North Carolina Chapter. Upon proof that the member is eligible to vote, the member shall be **issued** **allowed access to** a ballot to which the member will cast their vote.

**E. F.** The **Nominating** **Membership** Committee shall administer the balloting.

**F. G.** The President shall appoint a Sergeant of Arms to assist and oversee the **Nominating** **Membership** Committee in the **administering** **counting** of the balloting.

**G. H.** The results of the election shall be announced at the Annual Meeting in which the election is held.

**H. I.** Election results will be turned over to the Secretary and placed in records.

**I.** An absentee ballot may be requested from the Membership Director by any member in good standing no more than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the annual meeting. Upon such request, an absentee vote will be mailed to the member. It will be the responsibility of that member to fill out the absentee ballot and return it to the Membership Director, with a postmark no later than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the annual meeting

**J. In the event of a catastrophic failure of the voting software, the voting shall revert back to a paper ballot at the annual meeting. The ballots will be issued to all members in good standing with the NCIAAI and present at the annual meeting. Ballots would be counted by the nominating committee, and the Sargent at arms. And results announced during the annual meeting.**