

By-laws

Virginia Search & Rescue Council Inc.

By-Laws

Adopted: July 26, 1986

Amended: October 27, 1990, all amendments receiving unanimous approval and a quorum being present.

1. The purpose of this council is to improve Search and Rescue in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
2. There are three classes of membership in the Virginia Search and Rescue Council: full organizational members, members-at-large, and affiliated members. Full organizational members have two votes, members-at-large shall have one vote, and affiliated members are non-voting.
 - A. Full Organizational Members are:
 - I. Those organizations which have an active Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Department of Emergency Services, or
 - II. Official state or federal agencies which have been voted in as a member of the Council in accordance with the By-laws of the council.
 - B. Members-at-large are those individuals which have an active Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Department of Emergency Services and which have been voted in as a member of the Council in accordance with the Bylaws of the Council. No individual shall be both a member-at-large and a member of an organization represented as a full organizational member on the Council unless specifically excepted by the Council. Exceptions to the dual membership limitations may be made by a two-thirds vote of the quorum at a meeting, if in the Councils view, the service provided by the individual is of such unique nature that it warrants separate representation on the Council.
 - C. Affiliated members are those individuals or organizations which have been voted to that status in accordance with the By-laws of the Council.
 - D. For the purpose of the By-laws, active Memorandum of Understanding: shall mean:
 1. The organization or individual has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Department of Emergency Services, and
 2. The organization or individual is currently available for search missions.
 - E. If the organization or individual requests that they not be called for search missions for a period of over six months or do not respond to search callouts from DES for a period of two years, the status of the organizations or individuals membership in the Council shall automatically be changed from that of a voting member to that of an affiliated member.
 - F. All current members of the Council (October 27, 1990) will retain their full organizational member status, provided they continue to meet all other requirements for retaining membership in the Council.
3. In order to conduct business, each member organization will be represented by their own Council Representative(s). These council Representatives must be appointed by the governing bodies of the member units. The chairperson or the secretary of the Council must be told who the voting representative (s) is (are) at the time of the business meeting.
4. A quorum shall consist of one half the voting members plus one attending a council meeting.
5. If a quorum is present, all decisions will be decided by a simple majority vote, with the exceptions of purging a unit, member-at-large, or affiliate member from the Council, or passing an amendment.
6. To receive any member into the Council, a member of the Council must sponsor the prospective unit, member-at-large, or affiliated member during a business meeting, and a simple majority must vote in favor of admission.
7. To purge a unit, member-at-large, or affiliated member from he Council, at least three quarters of all possible votes must be cast in favor of removal. Furthermore, at least one month prior to the vote, the delinquent member must be informed in writing that such a vote will be taken.

8. Roberts Rules of Order will be used as the guidelines to conduct business at the Council meetings
9. Officers. There are four positions to be filled:
 - a. Chairperson/President
 - . This position will be chosen from among the membership at the last meeting of the year, with the new chairperson/President taking office at the first of the year.
 - i. the chairperson/President will prepare the agenda and conduct the Council Meetings
 - b. Vice-President
 - . This position will be chosen from among the membership at the last meeting of the year, with the new chairperson/President taking office at the first of the year.
 - i. The Vice-President will serve in the place of the President when the President is unable to chair Council Meetings.
 - c. Secretary.
 - . This position will be chosen from among the membership at the last meeting of the year, with the new chairperson/President taking office at the first of the year.
 - i. The secretary should record the Councils minutes, make the minutes available to other members, maintain a roster of member organizations, and if ever necessary, send out letters informing delinquent members of pending votes for removal.
 - d. Treasurer
 - . This position will be chosen from among the membership at the last meeting of the year, with the new chairperson/President taking office at the first of the year.
 - i. The Treasurer shall record and maintain the Councils finances, make financial records available to other members, and make disbursements as required or approved.
10. The officers will coordinate to inform all member organizations of meeting dates at least one month prior to the meetings, and these servants will also receive oral notice of who are the voting representative (s) for each member group.
11. The board of directors for the Virginia Search and Rescue Council shall consist of: the Chairperson/President, Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Registered Agent.
12. Amendments to these rules will be accepted only if two thirds of the quorum at a meeting vote in favor of the amendment. The amendment will take effect immediately upon voting.

Amendment 1 If a voting member of the Council, either a full organizational member or a member-at-large, has not been present at a Council meeting for a period of two years, the Secretary of the Council will send a notice to the last known address for the unit or individual notifying them that, unless they are present at the next forthcoming Council meeting, their status will automatically be changed to that of an affiliated member. This action shall not prejudice the organization or individual against readmission to full voting status on the Council, provided they meet all other criteria for becoming a voting member of the council at the time of readmission.

Last Updated Monday, July 17 2006 @ 03:21 EDT; 802 Hits