

***Constitution  
of  
Mokelumne Hill Volunteer Firefighter's Association***

**Article 1. Title and Objectives**

• Section 1.

This organization shall be known and designated as THE MOKELUMNE HILL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION (MHVFA).

• Section 2.

The objective of the MHVFA shall be to promote the preservation and protection of life and property within the Mokelumne Hill Fire Protection District's (MHFPD) response area and to promote the wellbeing of its firefighters, and residents through fundraising efforts and community development.

**Article 2. MHVFA Membership**

Membership shall consist of Regular Members, Auxiliary Members, and Honorary Members.

• Section 1.

Regular Members of the MHVFA shall be those members who are active non-probationary MHFPD firefighters and officers of the MHVFA Board of Directors (Board). Officers of the Board are only considered Regular Members during their current term of office. Regular Members shall be eligible to vote on changes to the MHVFA Constitution and Bylaws.

• Section 2.

Auxiliary Members shall not be eligible to vote on changes to this Constitution but shall have all rights of the Regular Members and are eligible for any office. When elected to an office, membership status shall change on the first day the member serves on the Board. Auxiliary Members shall be eligible to vote on changes to the MHVFA Bylaws.

• Section 3.

MHVFA may elect by a two-thirds (2/3) vote as many Honorary Members as it may select. Honorary Members are non-voting participants of the MHVFA.

**Article 3. Board of Directors Elections**

• Section 1.

Officers of the MHVFA shall be elected at the first regular meeting in March of each year by vote of the Regular and Auxiliary Members at said meeting, with no absentee ballots counting.

• Section 2.

Officers shall be nominated by secret ballot. Balloting shall take place until a nominee receives a majority vote. He or she shall then be considered elected.

• Section 3.

Officers shall be placed on the ballot in the order named: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

- Section 4.

Officers shall take office the first day of the month following an election.

- Section 5.

Vacancies occurring in term shall be filled per Article 3, Section 1 and 2 during the next regularly scheduled meeting once written notice has been given to all Members.

- Section 6.

The Fire Chief of the MHFPD shall call for elections Per Article 3, Section 5 should all elected offices become vacant.

#### **Article 4. Meetings and Quorum**

- Section 1.

Regular meetings of the MHVFA shall be held every month on the date provided in the Bylaws.

- Section 2.

Special meetings may be held at any time provided MHVFA members are provided advanced written notice. Special meetings may be called by the President whenever necessary or upon application of five members or by the MHFPD Fire Chief.

- Section 3.

The MHVFA shall not at any time endorse or recommend any candidate for any political office, nor shall partisan political or religious issues be discussed at any meeting of the MHVFA.

- Section 4.

Quorum, or the minimum number of members required to be present to conduct business, shall be one half of the average attendance of the preceding three regular meetings.

#### **Article 5. Candidate for Membership**

The Board shall investigate and approve all proposed candidates for membership prior to submitting them to the MHVFA for approval of their candidacy. All candidates for membership approved by the MHVFA shall serve a probationary period of sixty (60) days to demonstrate their willingness to participate. At the end of the probationary period the Board shall resubmit the candidate, with their recommendation, to the MHVFA for confirmation of the membership by majority vote.

- Section 1.

All candidates for Regular or Auxiliary Membership shall be eighteen (18) years or older and reside in the Mokelumne Hill Fire District or within MHFPD's immediate response area. Active firefighters that do not live in the immediate response area shall be eligible for Regular Membership.

#### **Article 6. Withdrawal**

- Section 1.

Application for withdrawal from the MHVFA shall be in writing and the Member shall be entitled to honorable discharge providing that all fines against him or her are paid and all property belonging to the MHVFA and the MHFPD have been returned to the proper delegate.

## **Article 7. Expulsion**

It shall be the duty of the Board to request the withdrawal or recommend the expulsion of Members whose actions as firepersons or as Members are detrimental to the MHVFA or the MHFPD or whose lack of participation without reasonable cause weaken the efforts of the MHVFA.

- **Section 1.**

Any Regular, Auxiliary, Honorary, or Board Member may be expelled from the MHVFA by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present at any regular meeting.

- **Section 2.**

No member shall be expelled unless he or she receives in writing from the Secretary a notice of the charges made and the date and place said charges are to be considered at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

## **Article 8. Dues, Fines, and Deposits**

Membership dues of all Regular and Auxiliary members of this organization shall be established in the Bylaws, but shall not be less than one dollar (\$1.00) per year. Membership dues shall be payable in January of each year or once a new member is confirmed.

## **Article 9. Recognition of Authority**

All Members shall recognize the authority and obey the orders of the Fire Chief or his designees during all fires, drills, and when using any equipment or property belonging to the MHFPD.

## **Article 10. Parliamentary Authority**

Roberts Rules of Order, the latest edition, shall govern the organization in all applicable cases that are not inconsistent with this Constitution or the MHVFA Bylaws.

## **Article 11. Major Expenditures**

The Board shall propose a budget for each fiscal year for the consideration and approval of the Members.

All proposed expenditures of \$100.00 or more that are not included in that year's approved budget shall, after being properly moved and seconded by the Members be assigned to a study or special committee for consideration. The motion shall be brought up again at the next regular meeting under "old business". The committee shall report its findings and recommendations prior to a vote.

## **Article 12. Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of the MHVFA, any unexpended funds shall be donated to the Mokelumne Hill Community Historical Trust to be expended on equipment for the MHFPD, at the direction of the MHFPD Fire Chief.

## **Article 13. Bylaws**

Bylaws may be passed by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present at any regular meeting.

- Section 1.

All proposed Bylaws shall be submitted in writing by the sponsoring Member prior to being moved and seconded.

- Section 2.

A copy of any Amendments adopted shall be attached to the Bylaws, with a copy sent to each MHVFA Member. Each copy of any Amendments adopted shall show the date of the meeting(s) when it was adopted, the votes cast, and the certification of the Amendment by the signatures of the Board.

#### Article 14. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by two thirds (2/3) vote of Regular Members present provided that:

- The proposed Amendment has been properly moved, seconded, and submitted in writing.
- Written notice and the full text of the proposed Amendment has been given to all Members.
- The proposed Amendment has been read at the two regular meetings preceding the meeting it is scheduled to be voted on.

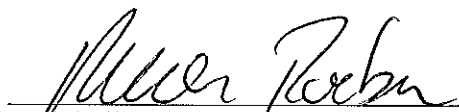
- Section 1.

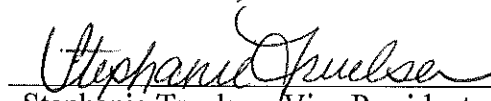
A copy of any Amendment adopted to this Constitution shall be attached to the original Constitution and posted online at [mokehillfire.org](http://mokehillfire.org).

- Section 2.

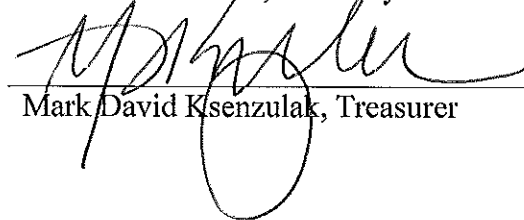
Each copy of any Amendment adopted shall show the date of the meeting(s) it was adopted, the votes cast, and the certification of the Amendment by signatures of the Board.

Attest: the foregoing Constitution amends and replaces the Constitution of the Mokelumne Hill Volunteer Fire Fighters Association. A copy of this Amendment was given or sent to each Member of the MHVFA and read at the June 21, 2010 and June 22, 2010 meetings of the MHVFA and was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions, not voting or not present on June 28, 2010.

  
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Michelle Roeber, President

  
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Stephanie Truelsen, Vice President

  
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Heather A. Willats, Secretary

  
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Mark David Ksenzulak, Treasurer