

REGULATIONS,  
FOR THE  
**Jefferson Fire Society,**  
IN CHARLESTOWN,

Instituted January, 1867.

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PREAMBLE.

**WE**, the subscribers, feeling sensible of the obligation we are under to each other for the security of our lives and property, and conceiving ourselves at all times exposed to the distressing calamities of fire, have agreed to unite ourselves into a Society, for the purpose of better securing to each other the productions of our industry and enterprise: we therefore agree to distinguish ourselves by the name of **The Jefferson Fire Society**; and whenever the devouring element may call us into action, let us endeavor, by every exertion in our power, to rescue the lives and property of ourselves and fellow citizens from its devouring influence.

If any incitement be necessary to animate us to the discharge of our duty to each other, and to the world, let us but call to mind the distressing circumstances of our ancestors, at the time they beheld their habitations in flames, and themselves retiring from the awful scene, to seek a shelter for their wives and children among strangers. May we keep in view the precious memory of those sages, who toiled and bled in freedom's cause; and strive to prove ourselves not unworthy of the prize, which they so dearly purchased; and endeavor, so far as circumstances may admit, to follow their example in alleviating the distresses of humanity, by the works of charity and benevolence, while acting as faithful disciples of those, who so magnanimously taught us the instructive lesson of republican virtue.

## RULES AND ARTICLES.

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall consist of a number not exceeding *Thirty-five* ; and no person can be admitted under the age of twenty-one years, or belonging to any other Fire Society, or Engine company.

The Quarterly Meetings shall be on the last Mondays in January, April, July and October.

### REGULATION OF MEETINGS.

ART. 2. The Roll shall be called half an hour after the time affixed for each meeting, and at the closing of the same. A fine of twelve and a half cents shall be incurred for absence at each roll call ; in addition to which, absent members shall pay their proportion of the current expense of the members present.

None but members shall be admitted at any meeting, but by permission of the President ; and no member withdraw from any meeting, but by the same permission, and his settling with the Clerk, under penalty of One Dollar, in addition to the above.

Due respect shall be paid to the presiding officer, at all meetings, and no member shall interrupt another, while speaking.

Each meeting shall be closed at or before eleven o'clock, P. M.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

ART. 3. A President, Treasurer, and Clerk, shall be chosen by ballot, on the last Monday in January, annu-

ally ; two thirds of the votes of the members present necessary to make a choice. A Clerk thus chosen, may be exempted that office for four years, by serving in the office one year, or by paying a fine of Two Dollars.

The duty of the officers elected as above, will commence immediately after the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

The above elected officers shall constitute a Committee, for determining the validity of all excuses for the non-payment of fines and assessments.

#### **PRESIDENT'S DUTY.**

**ART. 4.** At all meetings of the Society, in the absence of the President, the Treasurer shall preside ; in his absence, a Moderator shall be chosen from among the members present, and the presiding officer shall be entitled to a casting vote ; and it shall be his duty to sanction all bills in behalf of the Society.

It shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting of the Society, whenever requested by an application, in writing, signed by five of the members ; likewise, in the absence or inability of the Clerk, to appoint one *pro tem*.

#### **TREASURER'S DUTY.**

**ART. 5.** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies belonging to the Society, from the Clerk ; to keep a fair and regular account of the same ; to pay it out by order of the President, or direction of the Society, keeping his accounts always subject to the

inspection of the members ; and to report the state of the funds, when requested by vote of the Society. He shall deliver his successor in office all the property of the Society in his possession.

### CLERK'S DUTY.

ART. 5. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair record of all the doings of the Society ; to collect all monies due the Society, and pay the same to the Treasurer at the close of each Quarterly Meeting, taking his receipt therefor ; to keep a regular account of all monies due and received ; to have every member notified of each Quarterly Meeting, at least four days, and of each special meeting within such time as circumstances will admit, previous to the same, by leaving, or causing to be left, a Ticket at his dwelling, on which shall be noted the removal and admission of any member, with the name or names of all candidates for admission ; likewise noting all arrearages due. He shall notify two members, in rotation, to attend him in the examination of the equipments of each member, and report the state thereof in writing, at each Quarterly Meeting. He shall deliver to each member a book of Regulations, within ten days after his admission. He shall be excused from all assessments while in office, and shall receive fifty cents for filling each register for members admitted, or for replacing those lost or defaced. Should sickness or absence prevent his discharging any of the above duties, he shall cause due notice of the same to be given to the

**President.** He shall deliver to his successor in office, the books and papers in his possession, belonging to the Society.

### **EQUIPMENTS AND DUTY AT FIRE.**

**ART. 7.** Each member shall keep, in good order, in some conspicuous place in his dwelling-house, two good Leather Buckets, to be painted in uniform with the Society, two good Bags, one and half yard in length, and three quarters yard in breadth; both Buckets and Bags to be marked with the owner's name in full; a good Bed-key and Belt. Bags, Bed-key and Belt, to be kept in the Buckets, nor shall he make any other use of his Bags than that for which they are intended.

At the alarm of Fire, every member shall repair with the above equipments, to the place or dwelling of the member most in danger, and shall use his utmost endeavors, under the direction of the owner (if present) to remove, if necessary, and secure the property, and see it returned.

### **MEMBER'S DUTIES.**

**ART. 8.** Each member shall keep a printed copy of these Articles, with a connected register of all the members' names, and the situation of their houses, stores or shops, &c. for which he shall pay Two Dollars when admitted. And when any member removes to any dwelling, store, or shop, he shall inform the Clerk thereof, in writing, within six days after his removal; and each member shall conform his register thereto, previous to

the opening of the succeeding meeting. When any member shall lose or deface his Book of Regulations, so as to require a new one, he may receive one, on application to the Clerk, by paying seventy-five cents therefor.

### **ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE OF MEMBERS.**

**ART. 9.** Any person desirous of becoming a member of this Society, may make application to the Clerk, and stand proposed from that time to the next meeting, at which time he may be admitted, by a ballot in his favor of three fourths of the members present, and he shall be allowed sixty days to procure his equipments.

And any one wishing to withdraw his membership, shall make known to the President his request, in writing, and by paying to the Clerk all arrearages, shall be entitled to a discharge.

### **FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP.**

**ART. 10.** Any member absenting himself three Quarterly Meetings successively, and refusing to give sufficient excuse, or refusing to pay the Clerk, at least once a year, all such fines and assessments as may not be remitted, shall by vote be discharged;—or becoming an Engine-man, shall no longer be considered a member.

And any member who shall behave in an unbecoming and disorderly manner, at any meeting of the Society, shall, for the first offence, be admonished by the President, in open meeting; and for the second, he may be forthwith expelled, by vote of the Society.

## LOSS OF EQUIPMENTS.

**ART. 11.** When a member may lose any of his equipments at a fire, he shall make diligent search for the same, and if not found within six days, he shall within thirty days re-place such article, the expense of which, on application to the President, in writing, at the next meeting shall be defrayed by the Society; but if he neglect to make application as above stated, he shall sustain the loss himself.

## PENALTIES.

**ART. 12.** The Treasurer, for the neglect of each particular duty enjoined in the fifth Article, shall be subject to a fine of one dollar.

The Clerk, for neglecting to keep a fair record of the doings of the Society, and a just account of the monies due and received, shall be subject to a fine of two dollars.

For neglecting to give due notice of every meeting, fifty cents for each member so neglected.

For neglecting to inspect the equipments of members, as required, fifty cents each.

For neglecting to furnish a member with a Book within ten days after his being admitted, one dollar.

*Members, subject to the following Fines.*

For deficiency of Buckets and Bags, one dollar each.

- For deficiency of Bed-key, fifty cents.
- For deficiency of Belt, twenty-five cents.
- For want of uniformity in Buckets or Bags, 50 cts. each.
- For converting his Bags to an improper use, one dollar.
- For neglect of duty at a fire, three dollars.
- For not producing his Book, corrected, at the request of the Clerk, at any meeting, twenty-five cents.
- For neglecting to inform the Clerk of removals, fifty cts.
- For neglecting to attend the Clerk in the inspection of members' equipments, or providing a substitute, seventy-five cents.
- For any other want of conformity to the 7th and 8th Articles, twenty-five cents.

### RELIEF OF MEMBERS.

ART. 13. When any member sustains a loss by fire, it shall be the duty of the President to ascertain the amount, and report the same to the Society, at their next meeting; and whatever the members agree to assess, subscribe, or contribute from their funds to his relief, it shall be recorded as a transaction of the Society.

### ASSISTANCE TO WIDOWS.

ART. 14. In the event of the decease of a member, leaving a widow, during her widowhood she shall be entitled to the same protection and assistance that was due to her husband while living; she conforming herself to



the regulations of the Society, so far as to keep her buckets, &c. in proper order, and giving information of her removals to any member, whose duty it shall be to inform the Clerk thereof.

### REVISION.

ART. 15. These Articles shall be subject to revision and alterations, whenever it shall be deemed necessary by two thirds of the whole Society. But no revision or amendment shall be adopted in less than thirty days after it is proposed, and only at a regular Quarterly Meeting.

These Articles, revised from former ones, were printed in their present form, and adopted by the Society in April, 1817.