

RULES AND REGULATIONS,

OF THE

Attentive Fire Society :

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

MEMBERS NAMES,

PLACES OF ABODE,

AND

BUSINESS.

INSTITUTED IN BOSTON, JANUARY, 1803.

BOSTON:

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RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
ATTENTIVE FIRE SOCIETY.

PREAMBLE.

WE, the Subscribers, influenced by a sense of SOCIAL duty, and the natural motive, SELF-PRESERVATION ; do, for the more effectual assistance of each other, when in distress by Fire—form ourselves into a Society, under the name and title of **ATTENTIVE**, and promise a strict observance to the following

RULES AND REGULATIONS :—VIZ.

RULE FIRST.

THIS Society shall not consist of more than thirty Members ; and when the alarm of Fire is given, we will immediately repair to the dwelling-house or store of the Member who shall be most in danger, with our Buckets, Bags, and Bed-Key ; and will use our best endeavours to

extinguish the Fire ; remove and secure his or their goods and effects, and will prevent any embezzlement of the same.

IF any Member absents himself without sufficient excuse on such an occasion, he shall pay *fifty cents*. Widows of the deceased Members of this Society, are to have the same protection in case of Fire, as any of the Members.

RULE SECOND.

EACH Member shall provide himself with two leather Buckets, two Bags, and an iron Bed-Key—to be made as follows :—viz. each Bag one yard and a half long, and three quarters of a yard wide, with strings at the mouth.

THE Buckets and Bags to be made and painted in uniform, with the first letter of the owner's christian and the whole of his surname on the Bags, and the whole of both christian and surname on the Buckets ; under penalty of *two dollars*, for neglect in each particular. If at Fire, any Member lose his Bags or Buckets, the loss shall be sustained by the Society ; provided he make diligent search therefor, within forty-eight hours, making report of the same to the Clerk. The Buckets and Bags are constantly to be kept in good order.

RULE THIRD.

THAT the Members may be well acquainted with the Houses, Shops, Stores, Alleys, &c.

of each other ; the Clerk shall be empowered to notify six Members in their turns for each meeting, to attend with him in examining the Bags, Buckets, &c. of each Member, and report the same at the next meeting.

ANY Member refusing or neglecting to attend the Clerk, or provide a substitute therefor, shall pay a fine of *fifty cents*.

RULE FOURTH.

THAT we have a watch-word whereby we may know each other, which shall continue until the Society see fit to change it, and every Member when challenged, shall whisper the same to the Clerk, under penalty of *twenty-five cents* ; and if any Member shall disclose the watch-word to any person either a Member or not, he shall pay *fifty cents*.

THE Clerk to whisper the watch-word to every new Member, under penalty of *fifty cents*.

RULE FIFTH.

No person shall be admitted a Member of this Society, until having stood proposed by the Clerk, at a meeting ; and then but by an unanimous ballot of the Members present. No Member shall introduce into the Society meetings, any person who is not a Member of the same ; and no vote shall be taken in any meeting but by ballot.

inserting his name in the book of the Notifications

and having them at the respective dwellings of the members, at least six days previous to the

RULE SIXTH.

THAT on the first Tuesday of January annually, a Clerk shall be chosen, who, refusing to serve, shall pay *one dollar*, and another shall be chosen in his place.

THE Clerk at such times as he visits the respective houses of the Society, shall strictly observe that the Buckets are in their places, and that the Bags and Key are in the Buckets. Each Member shall pay *fifty cents*, when their Buckets and Bags are not so found—and if the Clerk neglects to inspect the same, he shall on complaint pay *fifty cents*, no excuse shall be admitted to take off said fines.

THE Clerk shall keep a just accompt of what Fines he receives, and dispose of them as the Society shall order. He, the said Clerk, to have the one half of said Fines for his care and attention. Also, the Clerk shall be provided with Books at the expence of the Society to keep a fair record of all business transacted; take care that every Member be duly notified of each Quarterly meeting, two days before the same, by leaving, or causing to be left, a dated ticket at their respective houses, with what money is due to the Society from each Member, minuted upon the ticket, with the names of the persons proposed for admission into the Society, under penalty of *fifty cents*.

THE Clerk's club shall be paid by the Society.

RULE SEVENTH.

THAT the Society shall meet at such place as may be agreed on by the Members present, at the preceeding meeting; and the said meeting shall be quarterly; the first Tuesday in January, April, July, and October annually: the roll to be called at half an hour after the time affixed for the meeting; and if any Member be then absent, he shall pay a fine of *twenty-five cents*, if absent the whole evening, he shall pay to the Clerk, the same as any Member present. If the Clerk be absent at the time of Roll call, he shall pay a fine of *fifty cents*; if absent the whole evening without sufficient excuse, *one dollar*.

No Member shall leave the meeting, until the business is over, and he has settled with the Clerk, or provided a substitute therefor, under penalty of *one dollar*. The Society shall close before the hour of ten o'clock.

EIGHTH.

For the preservation of order, a Moderator shall be chosen at every meeting, and all disputes which may arise, shall be determined by the major vote of the members present.

RULE NINTH.

WHEN any Member removes to any other dwelling, store or shop, he shall inform the Clerk thereof, within a week after, under penalty of *one dollar*. And the Clerk shall insert the same,

in the next notification, under penalty of *one dollar*, and each Member shall conform his Articles thereto.

RULE TENTH.

EVERY Member shall keep a printed copy of the Articles, with all the Members names, and places of their dwellings, stores, shops, &c. each paying the Clerk therefor ; and when lost, or worn out, to be supplied by the Clerk as aforesaid ; and every one who does not produce the same at each meeting, shall pay *fifty cents*.

RULE ELEVENTH.

ANY Member who will not submit to the payment of his fines, or absents himself two meetings successively, without sufficient excuse, shall be deemed as quitting the Society.

RULE TWELFTH.

WHENEVER a breach of the preceeding Bye-Laws shall come to the knowledge of the Clerk, he shall inform the Society of the same, under penalty of *one dollar*.

RULE THIRTEENTH.

As we have endeavoured to establish our Constitution upon a plan of economy, do therefore prohibit all species of frolicking, more than once a year, and that to consist of a supper, at one of the Quarterly meetings.

RULE FOURTEENTH.

No religious or political disputes shall be introduced between the brethren of this Society, on the days of our meetings, under penalty of *one dollar*. To be paid by the person who first introduced the same.

RULE FIFTEENTH.

THE preceding Rules and Regulations of this Society, shall not be repealed or amended, without the concurrence of five sixths of the Members present.

RULE SIXTEENTH.

As the Members of a Society, instituted for mutual benefit, we will endeavour, on all occasions, to promote the Interest, Happiness, and Prosperity of each other.