

The Emerald Society of Columbus, Ohio

Bylaws

Revised March 21, 2023

I. Name

A. This organization will be known as the Emerald Society of Columbus, Ohio.

II. Purpose

A. The particular purposes for which this organization is formed are as follows.

1. To develop a spirit of camaraderie among the rank and file of the police and fire departments.
2. To encourage greater participation in the activities of organizations existing within both the police and fire departments.
3. To encourage members to fully familiarize themselves with the rules, regulations and procedures set down by both police and fire departments.
4. To promote and recognize exemplary performance of members in their daily lives.
5. To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, the laws of Ohio, and applicable City ordinances.
6. To inculcate and preserve in its members the heritage of the Irish culture.
7. To act as a non-political and social organization.

III. Office

A. The office of the organization will be in the city of Columbus, Ohio at a location designated by the President.

IV. Meeting

A. The place of the meeting will be designated by the President so long as seven days notice is given to the members

B. Meetings will be held at least once a month at a date and time designated by the President. The secretary will make a diligent effort to notify the membership of such meeting.

C. The Executive Board will meet before the general membership meeting.

## V. Membership

- A. Active membership shall be open to full time active or retired Ohio police officers and firefighters who can establish Irish ancestry, and whose sound character is to the satisfaction of the Executive Board.
- B. All members shall be eligible to vote on all matters pertaining to the Emerald Society, including the elections of the officers.
- C. Only active members can hold elective office and propose the adoption, amendment or repeal of the bylaws and vote on the same.
- D. Membership Application
  - 1. Any person applying for membership in the Emerald Society of Columbus must have two active members sign the application with the appropriate dues attached.
  - 2. One or both sponsors may be required to attest to the applicant's Irish lineage, sound character and/or profession to the membership committee.
- E. Life Membership
  - 1. A roster of Life Members shall be comprised of those active members who by evidence of meritorious service to, or exceptional achievement on behalf of the Emerald Society of Columbus, are granted membership for life.
  - 2. Any active member may nominate a candidate to the Executive Board.
  - 3. The written nomination must provide an account of meritorious service to, or exceptional achievement on behalf of the Emerald Society of Columbus.
  - 4. The nominee must have a minimum of 10 continuous years as an active member and be recommended by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
  - 5. The Executive Board shall submit nominee recommendations at the March general membership meeting for approval by a vote of the general membership.
  - 6. Persons granted life membership in the Emerald Society of Columbus shall have all the privileges and voting rights of the organization.
  - 7. The annual dues will be waived and the member issued a Life Membership card by the President.

#### F. Associate Membership

1. Associate membership shall be open to any person of good character who desires to be associated with the Emerald Society of Columbus.
2. Associate membership does not require law enforcement and/or fire service employment nor Irish descent.
3. Individuals shall be recommended by an Active Member, complete an application and receive a majority approval by the membership at a regular meeting.
4. Associate members shall have no voting rights and cannot be nominated or elected to any office in this Society.
5. Associate members may attend all meetings and events of the Society.
6. Dues for Associate Members shall be \$10 a year.

#### G. Honorary Membership

1. Honorary membership shall be open to any person of good character, who has distinguished themselves in a civic, religious, or political manner.
2. The Executive Committee shall nominate a person for honorary membership, and shall receive a majority approval by the membership at a regular meeting.
3. Honorary members shall have no voting rights and cannot be nominated or elected to any office in this Society.
4. Honorary members may attend all meetings and events of the Society.
5. Honorary members may become associate members if they desire and receive a majority approval by the membership at a regular meeting.
6. Honorary members shall pay no dues.

#### VI. Dues

- A. Dues are to be \$15.00 a year, payable on or before January 1st of each year.

#### VII. Officers

- A. The officers of the Emerald Society of Columbus shall be the the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. In addition there shall be 3 at large Executive Board members elected.

B. A total of seven officers shall be elected to their prospective offices and constitute the Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board.

C. They shall be elected for a term of one year, be nominated in March, and elected in May, and assume their duties on June 1st.

D. The President

1. Shall preside at monthly meetings, and by virtue of his/her office shall be ex-officio of all committees.
2. Will be responsible for the appointment of all committees.
3. Shall be the spokesperson for the Emerald Society of Columbus.
4. Will have authority to call a special meeting of Board.

E. The Vice President

1. Shall perform his/her duties at the discretion of the President.
2. Shall preside over monthly meetings in absence of the President.

F. Treasurer

1. Shall have custody of all funds received by the Emerald Society of Columbus.
2. Shall keep an inventory of all property of the Emerald Society of Columbus.
3. Shall collect dues and initiation fees, and shall disburse the same at the discretion of the Board.
4. Shall maintain an account in the name of the Emerald Society of Columbus, Ohio in a depository approved by the Board.
5. The Treasurer along with the President will have authority to sign all checks and drafts drawn on said account.
6. A regular set of books will be kept by the Treasurer, and a financial statement will be made available at the Board Meetings detailing the finances of the Emerald Society of Columbus.
7. Will make available to the members upon their request, a copy of the financial statements.
8. The Treasurer shall hand over, at the end of his/her term, a balanced set of books to his/or successor.

9. The Society shall be bonded in such an amount sufficient to protect the Emerald Society of Columbus.

#### G. Secretary

1. Shall be responsible for all communications between the Emerald Society of Columbus and others.
2. Shall maintain all correspondence and work with the membership committee; keeping accurate records of both active and inactive members.

#### H. The Executive Board Members

1. The President shall assign the 3 at large Executive Board Members to duties for which they will be responsible.

#### I. Sergeant of Arms

1. The President shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms for a term of one year, or until such time as new elections of officers are to take place.

#### J. Chaplain

1. The President shall appoint a Chaplain to give spiritual guidance to the Emerald Society of Columbus.

### VIII. Quorum

- A. At least 4 members of the Board must be present for a quorum in order to conduct business.
- B. If a quorum is not met during the Board meeting, the President or his/her designate must call an end to the meeting and schedule for a future date. It will be the Secretary's duty to notify the membership of such meeting.

### IX. Amendments

- A. A bylaw may be adopted, suspended, rescinded, amended or repealed by a 2/3 vote of the members present.
- B. An amendment of the bylaws may be proposed by any member of the Emerald Society of Columbus in good standing. "Good Standing" means that dues are current and the member is not suspended or under appeal.
- C. Any proposal must be made in writing to the Board and shall be filed with the Secretary, and can be made at anytime.

D. The Board will meet at a reasonable time to validate the proposal. Upon validation of the proposal the Secretary will make a diligent effort to make known to the membership that a vote on the proposal will take place. This notification will be at least 2 weeks before the next general membership meeting. Members should have an opportunity to vote by mail.

#### X. Expulsion

A. No member of the Emerald Society of Columbus shall be expelled except for good cause. After a 1 month notification to the member that he/she has been expelled; and after a hearing of the Board, a majority vote by the Board shall make the expulsion effective.

B. The expelled member may appeal in person at the next general membership meeting. A majority vote in favor of reinstatement by the members present shall automatically annul the Board's order of expulsion.

#### XI. Committees

A. Within 15 days after the election of officers, a standing committee chairmen shall be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Board. The chairman shall oversee administrative control, effective communication and financial planning for the Emerald Society of Columbus. The committees will be monitored by the Board.

B. The President shall appoint other committees as needed, subject to approval by the Board.

C. All committees shall, within 15 days after the conclusion of their term or project, transfer the files to their successor or President.

#### D. Vacancies

1. The Board shall have the power to declare a vacancy in any chairmanship by reason of unexcused absence or neglect of duty.

2. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the President with approval by the Board.

#### XII. Dissolution Clause

A. In the event of dissolution of the Emerald Society of Columbus, all assets shall be equally distributed to the Columbus, Ohio Police Sub-relief Fund, and the Columbus, Ohio Firefighters Benevolent Association.

#### XIII. Parliamentary Authority

- A. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the the parliamentary authority where applicable, and where there is no conflict between said rules and the bylaws of the Emerald Society of Columbus.

#### XIV. Standing Rules and Procedures

- A. The standing rules and procedures shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Board. They maybe amended by a 2/3 vote.

#### XV. Death of Member or Immediate Family

- A. In the event of the death of a member the President will have the executive to authorize \$75.00 for flowers, or a donation to a charity or organization that the member's family deem appropriate.
- B. In the event of the death of a member's immediate family the President will have the executive to authorize \$50.00 for flowers, or a donation to a charity or organization that the member's family deem appropriate.
  - 1. The immediate family is defined as the spouse, children, and the parents of the member.

#### XVI. Member of The Year

- A. The Emerald Society Member of the Year nominating committee will be appointed by the President and will be comprised of the President (Chairperson) and two members.
  - 1. The two other members shall be one firefighter and one police officer.
  - 2. Committee members must be a member for at least one year.
  - 3. Committee members cannot nominate or be nominated.
- B. Nominations Guidelines
  - 1. The honoree must have been a member in good standing for at least one full calendar year
  - 2. The honoree must have demonstrated specific works of charity and/or unique special services rendered to the Emerald Society or to the community.
  - 3. Any element of the criteria for the honoree may be satisfied by specific performance during the year nominated or for cumulative performance including the current year.
  - 4. Any member in good standing can nominate a member for consideration. All nominations forms or letters must be signed and dated by the person making

the nominations. The Chairperson will ensure that all nomination forms or letters are provided to the committee members for consideration.

5. All nominations must be presented to the committee by the October Meeting
6. The Honoree will be decided upon by the December meeting.
7. The Honoree will be named and a presentation made the following year at the Clann na nGael Banquet