



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

August 26, 2020

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State Council of the
International Association of
Fire Fighters • AFL-CIO



Brothers and Sisters:

I don't need to tell any of you that we are living in unique and challenging times. The global COVID-19 pandemic has touched the lives of everyone, in particular those sworn to serve and protect our state and its people. The unprecedented public health response to COVID-19 requires all of us to consider how and when we gather to conduct the necessary business of our proud union.

As you know, state and local mandates restricting the size of in-person gatherings forced postponement of the 47th Biennial CPF Convention, originally scheduled to take place this past April. As public health restrictions have continued into the summer, the CPF Executive Board has been forced to make the difficult but necessary decision to conduct the **2020 CPF Convention** "virtually," using the Zoom meeting platform, on **Thursday, December 10, 2020**.

Enclosed you will find the **2020 CPF Call to Convention**. It contains important information regarding credentialing, resolutions, and election of officers and is required by the CPF Constitution and By-Laws. A few items of note:

- **One-Day Only:** The Convention will be limited to formal business only, which will take place entirely on Dec. 10th.
- **No Registration Cost:** CPF will waive the convention delegate registration fee. Since your locals will also be spared the cost of accommodations, we believe this will give all affiliates a chance to fully participate.
- **Committees:** Committee work will be conducted via Zoom and will take place during the week of December 1-4.
- **Resolutions:** Resolutions are due October 26, 2020. Resolutions that were submitted prior to the previously scheduled April convention do not need to be re-submitted.

I know a "virtual convention" is not the same as gathering in person. But as firefighters and union members, we are commanded to place public safety and health first, and that includes the safety and health of you, our members. This format makes it possible for us to conduct our essential business and allows more of our affiliates to participate in charting the course of our proud and strong union.

You will be receiving more information in the coming weeks via email. On behalf of the CPF Executive Board, I look forward to seeing you and all your delegates online at the 2020 CPF Convention.

In solidarity,

Brian K. Rice
President



CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

CALL TO CONVENTION

Due to the health concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and continued uncertainty regarding large group gatherings, the CPF Executive Board has approved a motion to hold its 47th Biennial Convention virtually on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

The convention agenda will be condensed to a one-day – “business only” – schedule through the Zoom platform. Similarly, convention committee work will take place through Zoom and will be scheduled for the week prior to convention. More details about convention will be emailed to you in the coming weeks. In the meantime, below is important information for your review.

REPRESENTATION IN CONVENTION

Pursuant to the CPF Constitution and By-Laws, Article III, Section 4, *Representation in Convention*:

- (a) Each local shall be entitled to representation at conventions of this organization based on a twelve (12) month average of the per capita tax paid prior to convention (November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020), including one-half (1/2) vote for each retired-active member for whom one-half of the prevailing per capita tax has been paid, providing that no local union shall be entitled to representation, unless it shall have paid its full per capita tax up to the month preceding the convention (October per capita is due November 15, 2020).
- (b) In the instance of merger or consolidation of affiliated locals, per capita voting strength shall be based on the twelve-month average of the combined paid membership.
- (c) Any local union having less than 12 months membership with the CPF shall be entitled to representation at convention based on an average of the total per capita tax paid for the months of affiliation prior to convention, using twelve as the divisor for the calculation of representation.
- (d) Local unions of 100 or less members who do not send a delegate to the convention may be represented by proxy at conventions on roll call votes and election of Officers.

- (e) A proxy may be authorized only after nomination and election by secret ballot among the members of the local union granting the proxy. Nominees must be named delegates of another local union in the District which has already elected such delegates to go to the convention. Nominations may be made at any meeting of the local union but a notice of when nominations will be held must be given, and notice of the date, time, and place of election must be mailed to its membership at least 15 days in advance of such election. Nominations and election may be held at the same meeting provided the notice has been sent. The election must be conducted by secret ballot, but if only one delegate is nominated to carry the proxy, it is not necessary to conduct the election.
- (f) No local union delegate may accept proxies to represent membership in excess of 100 and provided further, however, that in no event shall the total of proxy votes carried by all delegates within a local union exceed 200.
- (g) Local unions shall be entitled to four (4) delegates for 100 members or less, and one (1) delegate for each additional 100 members or fraction thereof.
- (h) An "aye" vote by at least thirty percent (30%) of the delegates present and voting at convention shall be required to authorize roll call votes.
- (i) Delegate voting at the CPF convention shall be conducted in the following manner: On election of officers and on all roll call votes, delegate voting for each CPF local shall be apportioned on the basis of one (1) vote for each member upon which per capita tax has been paid and one-half (1/2) vote for each retired-active member upon which per capita tax has been paid (as indicated in Section 4 (a) above). On all other votes, each delegate shall have one (1) vote.
- (j) Each of the elected officers of the CPF, as described in Article IV, Section 1, and all CPF Emeriti shall be entitled to one (1) delegate vote in convention. No officer or Emeriti shall be entitled to vote, carry, or in any other way use proxy votes.
- (k) No delegate shall be allowed on the convention floor unless he/she properly displays an authorized official delegate badge.

RESOLUTIONS

Pursuant to CPF Constitution and By-Laws, Article IX, Amendments and Convention Resolutions:

Section 1. Who may submit and how proposed

Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws or resolutions for convention action may be submitted only by affiliated local unions, convention committees, delegates at large, and the Executive Board of the CPF. Amendments or resolutions submitted shall bear the name and signature of the introducer(s). Amendments and resolutions must be postmarked or filed in writing with the CPF President 45 days prior to the convention. Such amendments and resolutions are to be compiled and distributed to the President and Secretary-Treasurer of each local union affiliate through electronic means in an official notification from the CPF not less than 30 days prior to convention and shall be accompanied by an estimate of their associated cost factors prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer. Affiliates unable to access the distribution of amendments and resolutions through electronics means may request a printed copy to be delivered via U.S. Mail.

Section 2. Late submittal and consideration at convention

Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws or resolutions for convention action that are not submitted and published within the time limits prescribed in Section 1 shall require two-thirds vote for consideration by the delegates in attendance at convention and shall be referred to the Ways and Means Committee for cost evaluation. Amendments or resolutions submitted at convention shall be submitted before the nomination of officers.

Section 3. *Adoption at convention*

Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws shall require two-thirds vote for adoption. All other resolutions for convention action shall require majority vote for adoption.

Section 4. *Urgent resolutions*

Resolutions for convention action submitted after the nomination of officers shall be considered “urgent resolutions” and shall require unanimous vote for consideration and two-thirds vote for adoption. Urgent resolutions with potential cost shall be assigned a cost factor prior to a final convention vote.

Amendments and convention resolutions must be mailed to the CPF President, postmarked on or before Monday, October 26, 2020. Copies of resolutions may be emailed to the CPF office; however, emailing does not remove the requirement that an original resolution, signed by the introducers, must be mailed to the CPF office, postmarked on or before Monday, October 26, 2020. Any resolution received or postmarked after this date will be returned to the sender(s), who may submit it as a “late resolution” at convention. See Article IX, Section 2, above regarding “Late submittal and consideration at convention.”

CREDENTIALS

Delegate and alternate-delegate credentials will be sent to each local affiliate. No more than one alternate-delegate may be issued credentials for each delegate.

Credential(s) shall be returned to the CPF office, postmarked on or before Monday, October 26, 2020.

PROXY CREDENTIALS

A local union of 100 members or less (based on a twelve-month average of the per capita tax paid prior to convention), that does not send a delegate to the convention, may be represented at convention by giving its proxy to another local union delegate within its CPF district. However, in no event shall the total of proxy votes carried by all delegates within a local union exceed 200. Proxy voting shall be permitted only in a roll call vote and in the election of officers and shall be cast by the chair of the delegation carrying the local's proxies.

Proxy credentials shall be sent to the CPF office, postmarked on or before Monday, October 26, 2020.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees for this virtual convention will be waived.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Delegates assigned to convention committees will be chosen from delegate credentials postmarked on or before Monday, October 26, 2020. Note: Committees will meet virtually – the week prior to convention – December 1-4, 2020.

ELECTIONS

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 3, *Method of Nomination and Election*:

- (a) CPF officers shall be nominated by accredited delegates from the convention floor and elected by majority vote through secret ballot of duly accredited delegates. At no time can a candidate be nominated for more than one CPF office. In case no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped, until a candidate receives a majority vote. The three (3) candidates receiving the most votes for Insurance Director and the three (3) candidates receiving the most votes for Financial Trustee shall be elected to those offices.
- (b) The CPF President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Trustees shall be elected at large at regular conventions held during even-numbered years.
- (c) The CPF Vice Presidents representing Districts 1-5 shall be nominated and elected by district at regular conventions held during even-numbered years.
- (d) Voting shall be in accordance with Article III, Section 4, of this Constitution and By-Laws.
- (e) CPF Districts 6-8, each of which is comprised of a local union with membership in excess of 2,000, shall be entitled to CPF Vice President representation. Each CPF Vice President, by virtue of being elected by a vote of their respective memberships to the office of CPF Vice President, shall assume the office of CPF Vice President upon written notification to the CPF President within seven (7) days of election. This notification shall constitute formal notification to the CPF Convention Elections Committee for the next Biennial Convention. A CPF Vice President representing District 6-8 shall not hold any other elected office of the CPF.

NOTE: Nomination of Officers will take place during the virtual convention on December 10th.

For the offices of President, Secretary-Treasurer and District Vice Presidents (Districts 1-5), if only one candidate is nominated, that candidate will be elected by acclamation. If more than one candidate is nominated, an election will be conducted.

For the office of Trustee (3 offices), if only three candidates are nominated, those candidates will be elected by acclamation. If more than three candidates are nominated, an election will be conducted.

For the position of elected Insurance Director (3 positions), if only three candidates are nominated, those candidates will be elected by acclamation. If more than three candidates are nominated, an election will be conducted.

Following the Nomination of Officers on December 10th, if it is determined that an election is necessary, the Elections Committee will announce a time frame for a mail-in ballot election. The convention will recess on December 10th and return on a later date when all mail-in balloting has been completed. The Elections Committee will oversee the election(s) according to the Election Rules adopted by the convention and will announce a date for the convention to reconvene for the purpose of announcing the election results.

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

October 26, 2020

- DEADLINE for amendments to the CPF Constitution and By-Laws and resolutions for convention action
- DEADLINE for delegate, alternate and proxy credentials

November 15, 2020

- Per capita tax must be received for the month of October 2020 for delegates to attend convention

December 1-4, 2020

- Convention committees will meet virtually

December 10, 2020

- The 47th Biennial Convention of the California Professional Firefighters will convene virtually — through Zoom
- Convention will act on resolutions
- Convention will nominate CPF Officers and Insurance Directors