



**THE DES MOINES AREA METRO
FRATERNAL ORDER OF LEATHERHEADS**

Est. 2018

The Des Moines Area Metro (D.A.M.) Chapter of the Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society was organized in 2018 by a group of dedicated and passionate firefighters throughout the Des Moines and Central Iowa. These firefighters shared a passion for the fire service with their brothers and dedicated to the improvement of training and the art of firemanship.

The goal of The Des Moines Area Metro (D.A.M.) FOOLS is to bring dedicated firefighters together in order to train, share new ideas, support community activities, and preserve the traditions that have made the fire service so great.

A leatherhead is a term for a firefighter who uses the leather helmet for protection from the hazards we face every day on the streets. The leather helmet is an international sign of a firefighter, a symbol that is significant in not only tradition from the early years of firefighting, but one of bravery, integrity, honor, and pride. This helmet is a sign of who we are, not what we are. The leather helmet is also a symbol of a mindset and professionalism in their actions and their skills.

The FOOLS, like a traditional leather helmet, have always existed throughout the fellowship and tradition of the fire service, and will continue to grow and flourish as long as there are fires to fight and emergencies to respond to.

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Preamble

The Fraternal Order of Leatherhead Society has truly become an international organization. Within its inception in 1995, the Founding FOOLS had no idea that this organization would be have grown to the size that it is today. With the help of the Fire Department Instructor's Conference and the internet, firefighters worldwide have been introduced to our society, one whose main purpose is to preserve the tradition rich heritage and fellowship of the fire service, a coveted possession that is found in no other profession.

We, the Founding FOOLS, as well as all our members, see a great need for the FOOLS in today's society. With all the obstacles we face in our jobs, it is easy to lose sight of what it is we really stand for. Our forefathers have worked hard, struggled and died for what is considered by us the best job in the world, and we owe it not only to them, but also to ourselves to preserve all that they have accomplished. Moreover, it is the spirit of our fallen brother and sister firefighters that we must keep alive.

The FOOLS symbol of the burning globe signifies that, worldwide, firefighters are all brothers and sisters, regardless of racial, ethnic, religious or language differences. Just as fire burns without prejudice, we, the brave soldiers of the war that never ends are bonded in the same way; we are all brothers and sisters, we are all firefighters.

With the exponential growth of the Fraternal order of Leatherheads Society, other chapters have developed. The purpose for the By-laws of the FOOLS is so we may all follow the same path in our never-ending pursuit to preserve of our beloved profession.

ARTICLE I: Name

SECTION 1. Identifications

These By-laws shall govern the association known as "**The Des Moines Area Metro Chapters of the Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society**" here in after to be referred to as "**The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS**" or "**The D.A.M. FOOLS**".

SECTION 2. Governing Body

The governing body of The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS shall here in after being known as the "Executive Board" or "E-Board".

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

SECTION 1. General Purpose

- a. The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS, formed on July 2st, 2018, is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- b. Membership shall be of members of the fire service within the Des Moines Metropolitan and Central Iowa.

- c. No part of the net earnings of The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

SECTION 2. Mission Statement

The Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society (FOOLS) is an organization that was started in 1995 by a group of Central Florida Firemen. This group, known today as the Founding Fools, had a passion for not only the camaraderie and brotherhood that is forged between firefighters, but the rich tradition and heritage of the Fire Service.

The Leatherhead is a term used for a firefighter who uses the leather helmet for protection from the hazards we face every day on the streets. The Leather Helmet is an international sign of a Firefighter, a symbol that is significant in not only tradition from the early years of firefighting, but one of bravery, integrity, honor and pride. The helmet is a sign of who we are, not what we are.

The FOOLS, like the traditional leather helmet, has always existed throughout the brotherhood of the Fire Service, and will continue to grow and flourish as long as there are fires to fight and emergencies to respond to. All firefighters are welcome to be a part of this great organization; one does not have to own a leather helmet to be considered a "Leatherhead". The only qualification is that you are true to your profession and true to your brother and sister firefighters. Our membership is growing every day, and we encourage you to start a FOOLS chapter in your department.

One last thing that we as the Founding Fools ask of each and every one of you, let us never, ever forget those that have gone before us in the line of duty. Because those brave souls have given all, it is up to us to keep them alive in our hearts and our memories. Long live the FOOLS.

SECTION 3. Objectives

1. **Brotherhood.** The FOOLS was established to uphold the traditions and passion of the fire service and enjoy the comradery with their fellow brothers and sisters.
2. **Training.** To serve the citizens and the community, firefighters need to ensure their skills are refined and proficient. Our organization is dedicated to the art of firemanship and provide opportunities to enhance fellow firefighter's skills.

3. **Community Service.** It is this organizations objective to serve the community and be a role model to improve the well-being of the citizens we serve.

ARTICLE III: DEFINITIONS

Brothers and Sisters: A term used to recognize all member

Can, The: A small flask-like container, filled with a beverage of choice, which is used to partake in the “ritual of the CAN”

Chapter: Sub organization of the FOOLS International, within these bylaws, Chapter refers to The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS

Executive Board: a panel of elected officers established to manage the FOOLS chapter.

Founding FOOLS: The founding fathers of the FOOLS. The following are the only people whom may claim this title: Michael A. Stallings, Ken W. Ireland, Michael H. Gilbert, Walter J. Lewis, Thomas B. Redmond, and John R. Simpson.

Founding Chapter Members: The founding members which organized and brought together The Des Moines Area Metro (D.A.M.) Chapter: Ty Wheeler, Ryan Wheeler, Cory Snowgren, Nic Hutchinson, Chris Ford, and Eric Kallem.

F.T.C.: FOOLS Training Continuum, a committee of the International dedication to education and training the fire service.

Member: Anyone of good standing officially registered with FOOLS International.

ARTICLE IV: TRAINING (F.T.C.)

- a. The intent of the F.T.C. training is to promote a safer and better-trained member of the fire ground team. Each year, on average, 100 firefighters die from various causes while performing their duties. Educating and training our firefighters can prevent many of these deaths.
- b. We, as FOOLS, have dedicated our organizations to this monumental task. Whether training is in the form of a formal conference, seminar, or in a manner in which FOOLS members task themselves to perform in-house training, this education is strongly advocated. However, when training occurs, sharing the knowledge gained amongst members is paramount.
- c. Many of our FOOLS members are well versed in the science of fire and share their knowledge openly; some members are new to the fire service. It is incumbent upon all FOOLS to seek opportunities to learn and reach our craft. Training and education have no boundaries; opportunities abound, share your knowledge, and in turn are prepared to learn.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Prerequisites

- a. The FOOLS encourage anyone that supports the tradition of the fire service. We welcome fire chiefs on down to the newest recruit amongst our ranks. Career, Volunteer, Union, Management, EMT's, Paramedics, or retired are all welcome.
- b. The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS exist to keep the tradition of the fire service alive. FOOLS International reserves the right to decline or revoke membership for just cause as seen fit by the Executive Board of the International.
- c. The member may challenge the revocation of its status by written appeal to the International within 30 days of receipt of notice of such revocation. Failure to appeal within 30 days shall confirm the revocation and bar any later challenge or appeal.

SECTION 2. Eligibility

- a. Eligibility requires members to hold the status of firefighter in one or more of the following capacity.
 - i. Career
 - ii. Paid-on-Call
 - iii. Volunteer
 - iv. Fire Service Training
 - v. Retired members of any of the previously mentioned categories

SECTION 3. Membership

- a. Dual Membership- To become an official member to the FOOLS organization, it is required for all chapter members to also be International members. The International dues will be taken out of the chapter dues and paid to the International.
- b. Application- To become a member of the Chapter, an application will need to be filled and submitted for review. It is encouraged each prospective member have a sponsor. An application will be given to the President or Secretary for review.
- c. Once the application is accepted, the member will be placed on a probationary period for 6 months.
- d. "Members in Good Standing"- Each member of the FOOLS will be required to attend a minimum of one (1) meeting per year to remain an active member in "Good Standing".
- e. Resignation- Resignation from the organization must be completed in writing to the Secretary or President of the chapter to remain in good standing. If a member chooses to resign from the organization in good standing, they shall have the opportunity to reapply.
- f. Reinstatement- A member to resigns from the chapter in good standing has the opportunity to be reinstated by submitting an application for membership. If the member was removed from the chapter due to the failure of paying dues or inactivity, the E-Board shall meet and discuss the application.

SECTION 4. Suspension or Expulsion for Cause

- a. Any Regular, Honorary, or Lifetime Member may be suspended or expelled, by a majority vote by the chapter members for:
 - a. Failure to maintain a member of good standing
 - b. Failure to adhere to these bylaws as written

- c. Failure to uphold the values and ethics, as well as perform acts unbecoming of a FOOL.

SECTION 5. Lifetime Members

- a. The membership of the FOOLS chapter may, by majority vote, bestow a lifetime or honorary membership to a member or public.
- b. The Lifetime Membership shall be given to those individuals who dedicated their time and effort to The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS and upholds the values and mission of the organization. A person with the Lifetime Membership designation will attain all voting rights and may participate in chapter activities. To qualify for this status, the member must have a minimum of 5 years of superior participation within the chapter.

SECTION 6. Honorary Member

Honorary membership is given to a person of public for their contributions to the organization and the fire service. The status will have no voting right and is not a due paying member or an official member of the chapter.

SECTION 7. Membership Dues

- a. An annual membership due fee of \$25.00 shall be paid on or before December of that year. International due will be paid before January 1st, to comply with the International requirements for affiliated chapters.
- b. Affiliate Chapter will be responsible to pay dues by October 31st of that year:

ARTICLE VI: ELECETED OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Officers and Elections

- a. Only members who are registered with the International shall be eligible to hold office with The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS Chapter.
- b. The elected officers of the association shall include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Educational Trustee.
- c. Executive Board members shall hold office for two-year terms
- d. Elections for the office of President, Secretary and Trustee shall be held on the last meeting of the year on the even years.
- e. The elections for the Vice President, Trustee, and Treasurer; shall be held on the last meeting of the year on the odd-years.
- f. The Secretary and Treasurer position maybe held by the same individual. If the Secretary and Treasurer are a combined position, the election shall be help on the odd years
- g. Any member of The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS in good standing as stated in Article V with a minimum of six month within the organization, shall be eligible to be a candidate for office.

SECTION 2. Elections

- a. Elections shall be held during the last regular meeting of the year.

- b. Nominations shall be taken via word of mouth or by ballot. Once the nominations are counted
- c. The member nominated shall either accept or deny the nomination.
- d. Once all nominations have been accepted or denied, the final vote can be taken. The vote may be taken via word of mouth or ballot.

SECTION 3. Installations

The elected officers shall be installed as the first order of business at the first membership meeting in January.

SECTION 4. Duties and Responsibilities

- a. President
 - i. The President shall preside at all meetings of The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS. He/ She shall appoint members to committee and duties as necessary.
 - ii. The President shall uphold the mission statement, traditions, and brotherhood of the FOOLS.
 - iii. The President shall order disbursement of \$250 or less with notification of the treasurer for normal operating expenses.
- b. Vice President
 - i. The Vice President shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President
 - ii. While holding the position of Vice President, they shall assume all powers and duties of the president in the absence of president or when the president is unable to perform the duties of the office.
- c. Treasurer
 - i. The treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the chapters funds in a written document or digital system. The treasurer shall receive and deposit money and other valuables of the chapter in the name and credit of the chapter and shall disburse the funds in a timely manner. The Treasurer shall not pay any bill which is greater than \$250 unless it had been approved by majority of the E-Board.
- d. Secretary
 - i. The secretary of the chapter shall keep detailed meeting minutes and the chapter and shall maintain custody of the records pertaining to The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS. The secretary shall provide a up-to-date roster of all chapter members in collaboration with the treasurer for members' dues. All written communication shall be distributed by the secretary or their designee.
- e. Educational Trustee
 - i. The educational trustee for the FOOLS chapter will disseminate educational material and assist with any training events the chapter hosts.

SECTION 5. Vacancy in Office

- a. President- Vacancy in the office of the president shall be immediately filled by the vice - president. An election shall be held at the next meeting or a special meeting may be called.
- b. All other offices- Vacancies in all other offices shall be filled by an election, held to fill the vacant position at the next membership meeting. If the vacancy cannot be filled, the

president will appoint a member in good standing to fill the vacancy for the remaining portion of the term.

- c. Any officer may be removed from the office for failure to perform the duties of office held, by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting.

SECTION 6. Management of Affairs

- a. The Executive Board shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS consistent within these by-laws. The Executive Board shall establish and oversee the organizations operations and act in good faith for the good of the chapter.
- b. The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS shall adopt rules for the procedures for the conduct of its meetings and carry out the duties and responsibilities set forth by these bylaws
- c. The association officers may authorize any officer or officers, agents of the association, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of the and on behalf of the association. Such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.
- d. One officer and/or the treasurer of the association shall sign all checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the association up to the value of \$1000. Any payment of \$1000 or greater requires the signature of the treasurer and an officer.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

SECTION 1. General Membership Meeting

- a. General membership meetings shall be held at the discretion of the E-Board with a minimum requirement of quarterly meetings.
- b. The meetings dates will be scheduled prior to start of the new year and will be held on the first Sunday of the month. The location and time will be set 14 days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings

The E-Board may convene special meetings by giving at least five (5) days' notice, unless special circumstance requires quicker actions. Any member can petition the E-Board for a special meeting, by detailing the purpose of the special meeting.

SECTION 3. Quorum

- a. A Quorum for the chapter shall constitute of at least three (3) E-Board members.
- b. If quorum is not met, the meeting is cancelled, but can be rescheduled.

ARTICLE VIII: ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening Ritual of the CAN

2. Reading of minutes of previous meeting and action thereon.
3. Communications and New members
4. Treasurers report (bills, etc.).
5. Reports of committees.
6. Unfinished business
7. New business
8. Sickness and absentee report.
9. Adjournment.

ARTICLE IX: PARLIMENTARY PROCEDURE

The rules of order for this association shall be the “Robert’s Rules of Order” revised.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

SECTION 1: Proposals of Amendments

Any member in good standing shall present an amendment change to the bylaws within 48 hours of meeting via electronic means.

SECTION 2: Required Vote

Any proposed amendment change shall be voted on during a meeting by members attending the meeting or by proxy voting via electronic means.

ARTICLE XI: CHAPTER FUNDS AND PROPERTY

All moneys belonging to the chapter shall be deposited in a financial institution insured by the FDIC or the FSLIC, at the business of choice of the E-Board. The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS shall hold property and funds.

ARTICLE XII – COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARKS

SECTION 1. Logo

No person, group, or organization may use the name “The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS” new or old logos or any similar designation except when authorized by the E-Board and majority vote, when presented a request in writing. They may however be used, with permission in conjunction with an affiliate logo or design.

SECTION 2. Merchandise

All merchandise created by the chapter shall be the property of the organization until the merchandise is sold. All fund shall be deposited into the organization’s account.

ARTICLE XIII: WAIVER OF NOTICE

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Code of Iowa or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation by the bylaws of the organization, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE XIV: DISSOLUTION OF THE CHAPTER

Upon the dissolution of The Des Moines Area Metro FOOL, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE XV: ADOPTION OF BYLAWS

These bylaws shall become effective immediately upon adoption by majority vote of all members present at a general membership meeting. These by-laws are used in conjunction with the 2017 Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society (F.O.O.L.S.) Article of Association.

Approved By The Des Moines Area Metro FOOLS Executive Board

Ty Wheeler

Cory Snowgren

Nic Hutchinson

Eric Kallem

Chris Ford