

RULES

AND

REGULATIONS

OF THE

ANCIENT FIRE SOCIETY;

INSTITUTED AT CHARLESTOWN,

Nov. 8th, 1743.

BOSTON:
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1815.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

ANCIENT FIRE SOCIETY.

ARTICLE I.

THIS Society shall consist of a number not exceeding twenty-five. The meetings shall be holden on the first Tuesdays of March, June, September, and December, at such an hour and place as the Clerk and presiding officer shall appoint; and every member shall attend with punctuality.

ARTICLE II.

The list of members shall be called by the Clerk, half an hour after the time affixed for each meeting, and every person then absent shall pay 12½^x cents; but if absent the whole evening, shall be charged the amount of a single club of those who attend.

** 25 cents instead of 12½.*

ARTICLE III.

A Moderator shall be chosen at every meeting from among the members present, who shall be the presiding officer one quarter, with power to call extra meetings; and, together with the Clerk, to appoint the time and place where the Society shall convene.

ARTICLE IV.

A suitable person shall be chosen annually at the meeting in December, as Clerk and Treasurer; to warn the meetings, keep fair and accurate records and accounts; preserve the property, manage the pecuniary concerns, under the direction of the Society, and perform such other services as may be assigned him; for which he shall be compensated from time to time as may be judged proper.

ARTICLE V.

Candidates for admission shall stand proposed three months, unless a shorter time be deemed expedient by a unanimous vote of the members, when fifteen at least are present. On the election of members a ballot at large shall be taken; two negatives shall be decisive, and no questions shall be asked or debate arise respecting the refusal of a candidate, under a penalty of one year for every person who shall break this regulation.

ARTICLE VI.

The meetings shall be warned by written notifications, at least one day previous to the time, when the Clerk, with three members to be taken in rotation shall visit the dwellings of all the members, examine their buckets, bags, and bed keys, and make report of their doings; and any member who does not attend this business when duly notified, shall pay 25^x cents.

**50 cents instead of 25.*

ARTICLE VII.

Each member shall constantly keep together in a convenient place in his dwelling house, two leather buckets, and two bags; each bag at least ~~two~~ ^{1 1/2} yards in length and three quarters of a yard in breadth, with sufficient strings to draw them with dispatch; severally marked with the first letter of the christian, and his surname at length, under a penalty of 50 cents for being deficient in any bucket, or bag, and 25 cents for not keeping a bed key in one of the buckets. †

ARTICLE VIII.

Upon notice of a fire every member shall repair with his buckets, bags, and key, to the place where it happens; and if the building of any member be in danger, shall use his best endeavors under the direction of the owner, if present, to

† also a belt with a small strap

remove and secure all his goods and effects, under the penalty of being an unworthy member, and discarded the Society; and no member shall appear at any fire with a cloak, under the penalty of one dollar.

ARTICLE IX.

When any member shall remove, he shall inform the Clerk thereof within a week of such removal, under the penalty of 25 cents, and the Clerk shall insert the same in the next notification, under the penalty of 25 cents for each person whom he shall neglect to notify of such removal.

ARTICLE X.

Each member shall keep a printed copy of the Articles, one copy to be supplied by the Clerk, at the expense of the Society; with the members names and the places of their dwellings, stores and shops; and at every meeting shall produce the same, completed according to the notification, under penalty of 25 cents; which copy, when worn out or lost, shall be supplied by the Clerk at 25 cents. Every new member shall pay one dollar for the first copy of the Articles.

ARTICLE XI.

If any member lose his buckets, bags, or bed key at a fire, the loss shall be sustained by the Society, provided he make diligent search therefor, and make report thereof to the Clerk within three days ; and in case the same is not found in one month, the Clerk shall make good the loss.

ARTICLE XII.

There shall be a watch word, whereby the Society may know each other ; to be changed when they see cause ; and the same shall be whispered to the Clerk by every member at each quarterly meeting, on his first coming into the room, under a penalty of 12½ cents for neglect ; and any member who shall voluntarily divulge the same shall be expelled the Society.

ARTICLE XIII.

All fines imposed by the above articles, shall be for the use of the Society. They shall not be remitted, but upon sufficient reasons offered and agreed to by a vote of the Society. And any member who absents himself four meetings successively, shall be considered and recorded as

having forfeited and relinquished his connection
with the Society.

At a meeting of the Ancient Fire Society at
Charlestown, on the first Tuesday of December,
1814,

The foregoing Rules and Orders, having been
reported, and duly considered; it was voted,
that they be adopted, and established, for the
Society: and that all former laws and regulations
be repealed.

Attest,

OLIVER HOLDEN, *Clerk.*

*At a quarterly meeting of the
Ancient Fire Society, June 5, 1832,
Voted that every new mem-
ber be allowed four months
from the time of his election
to equip himself.*

*Members who founded the Society,
Nov. 8, 1743.*

*James Flucker	*James Russell
*Thaddeus Mason	*Richard Dane
*Ezekiel Cheever, jr.	*Samuel Bradstreet
*John Foy	*Richard Foster, jr.
*John Sprague	*John Stevens
*William Ford	*Samuel Henley
*John Leppington	*John Codman
*Edward Sheaffe	*John White
*Isaac Foster	*Peter Edes
*Isaac Johnson	*John Breed
*Joseph Austin	*Chambers Russell
*Nathaniel Gorham	*Samuel Dowse
*David Wyer	*James Flucker, Clerk.

Added.

1745 *Thomas Symmes	1756 *John Hay
47 *Francis Dyzer	*Nathaniel Brown
*Joseph Lynds	*William Kettell
48 *Isaac Rand	57 *Eben Kent
*David Cheever	59 *Samuel Cary
50 *John Odin	*John Harris
51 *Timothy Austin	*Benjamin Hurd
53 *John Soley	63 *Caleb Symms
*John Austin	66 *Isaac Foster
*Nathaniel Rand	*Samuel Conant
54 *Caleb Call	67 *William Conant
*Stephen Brown	*Nathl. Gorham
55 *William Wyer	*William Harris
*Edward Wyer	68 *Thomas Russell
*William Ellery	*Nathaniel Austin
*John Stanton	*Robert Ball
56 *John Codman	*Isaiah Edes
*James Gardner	*Joseph Mirick

