



SABINE – NECHES CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS Revised October 6, 2021

ARTICLE I

DUES STRUCTURE

The dues structure for the **SNCA** shall be as follows:

	Classification	Type	Annual Dues
1.	Non-Exempt Government Agencies	Voting	\$250.00
2.	VFD without tax support	Voting	\$ 50.00
3.	Non-Government Health/EMS	Voting	\$250.00
4.	Industrial Facility/Utility	Voting	\$250.00
5.	Industrial Facility/Utility	Non-Voting	\$300.00
6.	Provisional	Non-Voting	\$300.00
7.	Exempt Government and NGOs	Non-Voting	\$ 0.00
8.	Vendors/Sales Company	Non-Voting	\$500.00
9.	Honorary Member	Non-Voting	\$ 0.00

ARTICLE II

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. – Nominating

Responsible to provide the annual slate of officers for vacant positions according to the Constitution of the **SNCA**.

Section 2. – Membership and Dues

Responsible for actively recruiting new members and ensuring continued participation of current members and that all members are current on dues.

Section 3. – Constitution and By-Laws

Responsible to maintain the official copy of the current Constitution, By-Laws, Strategic Plan, and the Standard Operating Guidelines of the **SNCA**. Responsible to prepare any amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws as proposed by the Board of Directors or membership.

Section 4. – Marine Fire, Salvage, and Recovery

Responsible to establish goals, actions, and timelines for regional marine fire, salvage, and recovery and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. This committee works in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard's Area Maritime Security Committee sub-committee for Marine Fire, Salvage, and Recovery.

Section 5. – Training and Exercise

Responsible to monitor the training available to the Emergency Response Community, and report recommendations for improvement to the Board of Directors. Responsible to participate in and conduct surveys from the membership or outside entities and makes a recommendation to the Board of Directors on the findings. Responsible to audit by survey or other means the level and applicability of training offered to the Emergency Response Community and forward recommendations to the President for action by the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of the Training and Exercise Committee shall serve as the representative of the **SNCA** on any outside training or exercise committees such as the Annual School Training Committee. Also, responsible to monitor and present information on all drills and exercises that relates to the purpose of the SNCA. Responsible to either plan or otherwise make arrangements to conduct or participate in no less than (1) full-scale drill or exercise annually that involves a full response of all of the response capable members of the SNCA. The Chairperson of the Training and Exercise Committee shall receive all correspondence relating to drills and exercises sent to the SNCA and shall review it and determine the level of participation by the SNCA. Members are encouraged to submit all drill and exercise information to the SNCA for potential participation.

Section 6. – Awards/Public Relations

Responsible to solicit information and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for annual awards to be presented by the Association according to the Constitution. Also responsible for issuing press releases or other public notices approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. – Communications

Responsible to gather information, prepares, and disseminates the Communications Capability Inventory of the **SNCA**. Responsible to participate at the direction of the President or Board of Directors in any other outside communications committees as necessary. The Chairperson of the Communications Committee serves as the contact for all communications related issues involving the **SNCA**.

Section 8. - Inventory

Responsible to gather, prepares, and disseminates the Inventory List of response equipment available during times of an emergency to **SNCA** members. The Chairperson of the Inventory Committee shall maintain the response inventory information of the **SNCA** and insure that the communications center/s and Response Tasking Group have the latest up-to-date inventory information.

Section 9. – Bosses Night

Responsible to handle all arrangements and details of the Annual Bosses Night. The Bosses Night Committee Chairperson may appoint sub-committees for registration, food and beverage, program, audiovisual support, and any other sub-committee as needed.

Section 10. – Homeland Security

Responsible for serving on the Area Maritime Security Committee sponsored by the United States Coast Guard. Chairman will report allowable sensitive security information to the membership and assist Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and EMS personnel and the Board of Directors with regional action items when necessary.

Section 11. – Oil Spill

Responsible for serving on the Industrial and United States Coast Guard Regional Oil Spill committee. Chairman will assist in developing regional policy and training exercises. Chairman will report to membership any new developing technology and/or incidents to the membership.

Section 12. – Incident Management Team

Responsible for coordinating and recruiting SNCA members to the State recognized Incident Management Team. Chairman will report to the membership any developments regarding team members training or deployment locally, state wide, or nationally.

Section 13. – Golf Tournament

Responsible for the facilitating and coordinating the annual fund raiser at a local golf course for the purposes of assisting public needs or education. The event will be held annually during a time when other fund raisers are not competing when possible. The donations will be awarded to the needs of the community as determined by the membership.

Section 14. – Web Site

Responsible for facilitating content and information to go onto the SNCA Web Site. Chairman will see that a proper vendor is providing adequate service to the SNCA membership. Chairman will see that current training and activities are posted on the web site in a reasonable amount of time. Chairman will work with other SNCA members that contribute to the effectiveness of the web site.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Section 1 – General

Each response member of the Association shall be provided access to the “Members: Database Login”, which is where the member enters contact information, response information, and radio frequencies used. A login and password will be issued to response members. A downloadable copy of the Constitution, By-Laws, Strategic Plan, Standard Operating Procedures, and minutes of past meetings of the **SNCA** can be found on the web site at (www.snchiefs.com) for all members, using the Organization and Minutes tab. An appropriate number of **SNCA** patches and vehicle decals can be requested.

Section 2 – Bereavement

The SNCA Bereavement and Relief Program is designed to provide monies in certain service-related hardships or line of duty death situations to eligible first responders or their survivors. The amount of the award will be recommended by the Board of Directors and presented to the membership at the next regular scheduled meeting for approval as provided for in the SNCA SOG 100-7 Bereavement-Relief Program.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBER PROHIBITIONS

- a) No member of the **SNCA** shall use, purport, or falsely represent his/her membership with the **SNCA** for personal gain, political reasons, or otherwise engage in activities contrary to the purposes and objectives set forth in the Constitution of the **SNCA**.
- b) Members shall insure that all patches, decals, or identifying markings of the **SNCA** be removed from any and all items of response clothing and equipment prior to disposal or surplus.
- c) No member shall display a patch, decal, or other identifying markings of the **SNCA** in a manner other than in the normal conduct of business associated with **SNCA** membership.

- d) No Member of the **SNCA** shall make any public statement to the media or otherwise acting in the capacity of or representing the **SNCA** without approval of the Executive Officers.
- e) Any violation of any member prohibition may be grounds for termination of **SNCA** membership at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- f) No person or member of the **SNCA** shall use, authorize use of, or falsely represent the **SNCA** logo without full authorization of the SNCA Board of Directors for any personal gain, corporate gain, or social media use.

ARTICLE V

ASSOCIATION RECORDS

- 1) The **SNCA** shall maintain records necessary for the conduct of business of the **SNCA**.
- 2) The Constitution and By-Laws of the Association, list of Past Presidents, roster of Lifetime and Honorary Members, and list of Award recipients shall be maintained on a permanent basis.
- 3) Minutes of Monthly meetings and Board Meetings, financial records, and other correspondence of the Association shall be maintained for (7) years. Upon expiration of the (7) year period, the out-of-date records shall be shredded and/or disposed of.
- 4) The President may recommend to the Board of Directors that certain records or historical accounts of the **SNCA** be forwarded to the Fire Museum of Southeast Texas to be put on display with other **SNCA** memorabilia already on display. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, said information shall be turned over to the curator.
- 5) The Secretary shall maintain the current records of the SNCA necessary for conducting day-to-day business. Every effort shall be made to store such records in an electronic medium to reduce the burden of storage.
- 6) For electronic votes made by the SNCA Board of Directors (BOD), the Secretary shall leave the e-votes on e-file until the next BOD meeting. The e-vote will be recorded and documented under "Old Business" in said BOD minutes. The BOD minutes will then be placed on the SNCA Web Site for record.
- 7) The Secretary/Treasurer shall receive payments from a vendor (Example: PayPal) for payments to the SNCA for the purposes described in the

Constitution. The Secretary/Treasurer must maintain all pertinent information regarding said vendor account. The Secretary/Treasurer must transfer these payments in a timely manner into the Bank Account listed under the name of the Sabine-Neches Chiefs' Association for deposit of record. These funds will be directed as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

APPLICABILITY

These By-Laws revoke and supercede any By-Laws previously adopted.

Approved by the Board of Directors on February 21st, 2001.

Revised: May, 10 2006 Article I addition of penalty for late payment of dues.

Revised 08/06/08 2008 Article I amount of dues, Article II, Section 4 rename Audit to Finance/Budget and new definition, Section VI redefine Awards to Awards/Public Relations and add to definition.

Revised: 12-7-2011 Article II, Committee Responsibility, Section 12, added Homeland Security, Section 13, added Oil Spill, Section 14, added Incident Management Team, Section 15, added Strategic Planning, Section 16, added Golf Tournament, Section 17, added Web Site; Article IV, Membership Prohibitions, f) added SNCA logo representation; Article V, Association Records, 6) added receiving payments from electronic means (Example: PayPal)

Revised: 4-3-2013 Article II, Committee Responsibilities, Section 3. Constitution and By-Laws, added Strategic Plan & Standard Operating Guidelines; Article III, Membership Benefits, Section 1 revised, Section 2 added Donation & Bereavement.

Revised: 10-1-2014 Dues Structure: to correspond to Constitution definitions; reduced Non-Voting for Community Services Organization to \$250.

Revised: 05/06/2015 Deletes Article II, Committee Responsibilities, Section 4, Finance/Budget and replaces Section 4 with Marine Fire, Salvage, and Recovery including definition.

Revised: 06/06/2018 Article I Dues Structure removes "Fifty (\$50.00) dollar processing fee requirement; Article II Committee Responsibilities, Section 2. Membership adds "and Dues", also highlighted "and that all members are current on their dues"; Section 5. Training added "and Exercise"; Section 10 deleted Programs committee and changed to "Homeland Security"; Section 15 Strategic Planning committee deleted.

Revised: 10-06-2021 Constitution was amended to allow Jasper County and any entities therein to join the SNCA. Jasper County had recently joined the SETRPC COG. There were no changes made to the By-Laws, however they were reviewed and current language was re-ratified along with the revisions to the Constitution.