



**BYLAWS OF**  
**THE FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

Revised 10-30-2002

**ARTICLE I**

Name:

The name of this organization shall be

**THE FLOAT FISHERMEN OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

**ARTICLE II**

Objectives:

- A. To provide recreation and enjoyment for members and their families
- B. To protect the wild and scenic rivers of Virginia for float fishing and related activities.
- C. To promote, popularize and publicize safe and competent float fishing.
- D. To promote the establishment of local chapters throughout this state.
- E. To educate and encourage newcomers, particularly young people, in the sport of float fishing and the objectives of the organization.
- F. To actively promote the conservation and protection of the natural resources of this state for the benefit of present and future generations, to influence and inform legislators and public officials.
- G. To publish and distribute, through the State Organization, a newsletter throughout the Commonwealth and to all members, furthering these objectives and notifying members of chapter activities and important events or developments in areas of organizational interest.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Non-Profit Purposes:**

This organization is established for non-profit purposes. Neither the organization nor any of its members shall profit or recognize pecuniary gain, incidental or otherwise, through its existence and activities.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Organization:**

- A. There shall be a state organization and local chapters.
- B. Local chapters shall be chartered by the state organization upon approval of an application by a two-third (2/3) majority of the officers and directors.
- C. All members in good standing of a local chapter shall automatically be members of the state organization.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **State Organization:**

- A. The state organization shall become operative only when there are two or more local chapters.

- B. **Officers and Directors:**

- 1. Officers:

- The state organization shall have the following officers: President, four Vice-Presidents and a President-elect dependent upon current needs of the organization; Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer), Membership Chairman and Conservation Chairman.

- 2. Directors:

- The Directors shall be elected by each chartered local chapter. Each chapter is entitled to elect one Director for each twelve (12) members, or majority fraction thereof, in good standing with a minimum of one (1) director per chapter.

- Chapter membership shall consist of those members in good standing as of April 1st of each year.

- C. The purpose of the state organization shall be:
1. To provide insight and discussion on ecological and conservation issues.
  2. To foster the establishment of new local chapters and to charter same.
  3. To provide a medium of leadership and exchange of ideas for local chapters.
  4. To publish and distribute throughout the Commonwealth and to all members, a newsletter, furthering the objectives and purposes of this organization and notifying members of chapter activities and important events.
- D. The state organization shall meet and operate through its officers and directors, who shall meet at least annually and upon the call of the State President or by a two-third (2/3) majority call of the officers and directors. Between meetings, the functions of the state organization shall be carried on by the Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the corporation. If it is necessary to increase the Executive Committee by one, a director may be selected by draw from those available.
- E. The directors shall be elected by their respective local chapters. The state officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the directors, each having one vote at the annual Labor Day meeting.
- F. Terms for officers shall be from Labor Day to Labor Day; the term for directors shall be the calendar year.
- G. The nominating committee for officers shall consist of the immediate three past state presidents.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### Local Chapters:

- A. Local chapters shall be chartered by the state organization upon application of five (5) or more persons of good character professing adherence to the objectives of this organization and upon approval of an application by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the officers and directors. New chapters will be considered as “provisional” chapters until approved at an Annual Meeting.

B. There shall be two “floating” chapters comprised as follows:

1. River Styx: This chapter shall be comprised of all persons residing outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia who are not members of local chapters. The only requirements for membership in this chapter shall be:

- a. Payment of dues, which shall be payable to the state organization;
- b. Adherence to the objectives of this organization.

2. Commonwealth. This chapter shall be comprised of residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia who are not members of a local chapter. The only requirement for membership in this chapter shall be:

- a. Bona fide residence in the Commonwealth of Virginia;
- b. Payment of dues, which shall be payable to the state organization;
- c. Adherence to the objectives of this organization.

C. Local chapters shall adopt a Constitution identical to this and may adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the Constitution.

D. Membership:

- 1. Membership shall be open to any person and their immediate family who shall make application and be approved in accordance with the procedure set up in the bylaws of the chapter.
- 2. Active members shall mean those who are dues paying chapter members.
- 3. Honorary members shall not be assessed dues. They must be approved by the Executive Committee for honorary membership and reviewed by the Executive Committee annually. They shall have no voting privileges.
- 4. Only active chapter members shall have voting privileges in local and state affairs.
- 5. A member may be expelled from the organization for misfeasance in office, for conduct inconsistent with the good name and purposes of the organization, or for conduct in deliberate disregard of the safety and well being of other members upon a hearing and upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee. However, a local chapter may expel one of its members for violating state or local chapter Constitution or bylaws.

E. Meeting of Local Chapters:

Meeting of local chapters shall be held at the call of the chapter President or in accordance with local bylaws.

F. Policy:

Matters of policy shall be decided at the regular meetings by the majority vote of the members present and voting. No officer or member shall use his office or affiliation with his organization in such a way as to suggest or publish chapter policy without the prior consent expressed by the members pursuant to this Section;

G. Local Awards and Designation:

The local chapters may adopt special awards and designations. Awards may be made which are not in conflict with, nor confusingly similar to the State awards program.

## **ARTICLE VII**

Affiliations:

This organization shall work in harmony with other organizations having similar purposes, ideals and goals, and to that end shall affiliate with other organizations in projects or otherwise to the extent the same is consistent with the continued separate and distinct identity of this organization.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

Amendments:

This Constitution may be amended after the proposed amendment has been approved by the officers and directors of the state organization. Amendments shall be published in full in a newsletter preceding the meeting at which the proposed amendment shall be presented for a vote. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of all state officers and directors is required to pass such an amendment.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **F.F.V. State Awards:**

- A. F.F.V. state awards shall be awarded at the annual meetings to members who have distinguished themselves as outstanding members. The recipient should have demonstrated outstanding qualities of float fishing, leadership, responsibility, instruction, organization ability, safety and conservation activity.
- B. Award recipients will be chosen by officers and directors from nominations by the local chapter president.
- C. Written nominations must be received by the state president sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting. Written nominations shall include nominees detailed qualifications and accomplishments. All available documentation must be included with the nomination material.
- D. The state president shall be responsible for calling a meeting of the officers and directors to judge the nominations.
- E. No more than five (5) shall be awarded in any calendar year.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Dues/Roster/Financial Statement:**

- A. Local dues may be assessed at the discretion of the local chapters.
- B. State dues shall be set by the Executive Committee by the winter meeting based upon a budget projection for the next fiscal year. All members who have not paid by April 1st shall be dropped from membership immediately by the State's Secretary and Treasurer (Secretary/Treasurer).
- C. A state membership roster shall be published in the state newsletter once each year based on those members in good standing as of April 1st in any given year.
- D. A financial statement shall be published in the first state newsletter following the annual winter meeting.