

Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department

Requirements for Membership (Revised 2.26.2020)

Eligibility. Any person of good character, in good health, and at least eighteen (18) years of age, and who has for at least two (2) years resided in the area served by the corporation, and who has met the standards of the current application form, and has not engaged in uncivil conduct against persons or property, shall be eligible for election to probationary membership, provided a vacancy exists, and subject to the restrictions below in subsection (a). The two-year residency requirement may be waived at the Chief's discretion.

(a) A person shall not be eligible to apply for membership if they have a criminal conviction or criminal charge pending against them based on any of the following conduct:

- i. Murder, including voluntary manslaughter, or attempted murder;
- ii. Sexual assault, including any sexual conduct involving a minor;
- iii. Domestic violence;
- iv. Elder abuse; Child abuse;
- v. Creation, possession or distribution of child pornography;
- vi. Any conduct that would require inclusion on the sexual offender's database in the State of California if convicted;
- vii. Kidnapping, terrorism or felony assault;
- viii. Theft, embezzlement, or fraud; and/or
- ix. Any drug-related conviction in the past five years.

(b) A person shall not be eligible to apply for membership if they do not currently have an unrestricted driver's license issued by the State of California.

Membership Limitation. The number of Active Duty members shall not exceed forty (40). If no vacancy exists, any eligible person who has been proposed for membership shall be placed on a waiting list kept by the Secretary.

Election to Membership. A proposed Probationary member must be sponsored by three (3) Active Duty members and must complete the Prospective Membership Checklist.. Election requires a simple majority vote of the Active Duty members. Election shall be at a regular meeting of the corporation by secret ballot.

Probationary Status. A Probationary member shall have a minimum six (6) month probationary period, during which the Probationary member must attend at least two-thirds of the training meetings and two-thirds of the regular meetings of the corporation. During this probationary time, the probationary member will work to complete a task book designed to build competency in an array for Firefighter tasks. To become an Active Member, the probationary member must complete this task book in addition to satisfying one of the following requirements: equivalent; or

(a) Graduate from the Mendocino County Chief's Academy, Calfire Academy or equivalent;
or

(b) Become a California licensed Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic; or

(c) Obtain a valid driver's license that enables the firefighter to legally drive the corporation's Class B apparatus in addition to graduating from a State Fire Marshal Driver Operator 1A and 1B course.

The Probationary member shall be familiar with methods of firefighting and control to the satisfaction of the Training Officer and Chief prior to being eligible to become an Active Duty member. The Probationary member's sponsors shall orient the Probationary member concerning equipment, policies and operations of the corporation.

If unusual circumstances exist, the Probationary member may seek an equivalent alternative arrangement that satisfies the intent of these requirements and that meets the approval of the department Chief and the Training Officer. The Probationary member shall read and sign the firehouse copy of these bylaws. The Probationary member may speak at meetings but shall have no vote.

If a Probationary member is charged with any crime involving the conduct listed in Article VI, Section 2(a)(see above), their membership shall be suspended until acquitted of the criminal charge(s) or the criminal charge(s) is/are dismissed. If the Probationary member is convicted of the crime, they shall not be eligible for membership.

If a Probationary member ceases to possess an unrestricted driver's license issued by the State of California, their membership shall be suspended until they regain a driver's license.

The requirements of an Active Duty member are as follows:

Active Duty Membership. The requirements of an Active Duty member:

- Attend at least fifty percent (50%) of all weekly training meetings in each calendar year.
- Maintain a current CPR card.
- Maintain a Title 22 compliant Public Safety First Aid card or equivalent
- Maintain a driver's license acceptable to the Chief.
- Maintain current fire department standards for immunization.
- Minimum call volume (20%)

The Training Officer is responsible for ensuring that all Active Duty members are in compliance with these requirements. The Chief may review the records of each Active Duty member quarterly to ensure compliance with the above requirements. Members who are not in compliance with these requirements will be notified. Once notified, a continued failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for removal from active duty status

and placement on the reserve list, at the discretion of the Chief. Any member performing strictly clerical or radio work is exempt from the above requirements.

Most of the training is done on regular drill nights, Wednesdays 1900-2100 hours. Firefighter training is ongoing throughout the year. In addition, there are opportunities to train in Cliff Rescue ("riggers"), Ocean Rescue ("boats"), Engineering, Entry and Medical usually on Tuesday nights and some weekends.