

SECTION IV – MEMBERSHIP

4.7 Membership Classifications

Members of the Washington Township Fire Department are classified in the following manner:

- Active
- Active Life
- Career
- Inactive Life
- Junior
- Probationary
- Social
- Retired

4.7.1 Active:

An active fire fighter is defined as a volunteer member who has completed basic fire fighter training, is currently SCBA qualified, is current on all mandatory training and is medically fit for duty. An active fire fighter is at least 18 years of age, is a sworn member of the department and is subject to internal and external regulations regarding fire fighting activities. An active fire fighter is assigned PPE and uniforms and is assigned to ride fire apparatus. An active fire fighter meeting other policy or procedures of the fire district is eligible to participate in all benefit programs offered by the district, and is fully covered by the district's workers compensation program.

4.7.2 Active Life:

An active life fire fighter is defined as a volunteer member who in addition to all of the requirements established in 4.7.1, has completed at least 15 active years with the Washington Township Fire Department with good conduct and has been awarded life member status. An active life fire fighter may not be required to participate in certain duty and special duty assignments however must maintain mandatory training status and must continue to be medically fit for duty. All benefits afforded to active members are also afforded to active life members.

4.7.3 Career:

A career fire fighter is defined as a full time or part time sworn employee of the fire district hired to perform fire fighting duties in accordance with established job descriptions and in accordance with New Jersey regulations regarding the career fire service. Career fire fighters must maintain mandatory training requirements, must maintain SCBA qualifications, and must maintain medical clearance for duty.

4.7.4 Inactive Life:

An inactive life member is defined as a volunteer member who has previously met the definition described under 4.7.2 but has essentially become inactive from active fire fighting duties. Inactive life members may maintain class B and class A uniforms and may participate in special events with other members of the department. Inactive life members shall not ride apparatus, shall not be assigned turn out gear, and may be present but shall not participate in drills. Inactive life member's participation in department activities is limited to a social and civilian capacity only. The wearing of the department uniform represents the member's respectful years of dedicated service and duty on behalf of the Washington Township Fire Department. Inactive life members shall only be eligible for benefits provided by the district under other policies and procedures for which they are entitled such as LOSAP and NJSFA Relief. Inactive life members are not covered by workers compensation.

4.7.5 Junior:

A junior fire fighter, in addition to the description under 4.1.2 of this procedure is defined as a volunteer member who is sworn, 16 to 17 years of age, must be medically fit for fire fighting duties, must attend mandatory training sessions, is assigned PPE and uniforms and is assigned to ride fire apparatus when riding positions are available. Junior fire fighters

must yield an apparatus riding position to a qualified active or active life fire fighter when necessary. Junior fire fighters shall NOT normally participate in out of town mutual aid assignments without express permission of a chief officer. Junior fire fighters must maintain a "C" or better average while attending high school. Junior fire fighters who drop out of high school before graduating or who do not maintain a "C" or better average for 2 or more marking periods will be dismissed from the fire department however they may reapply for membership after reaching age 18. Junior members are ineligible for LOSAP and NJSFA Relief benefits by New Jersey Statutes but are covered under workers compensation and are eligible for all other district benefit programs in accordance with other district policies and procedures.

4.7.6 Probationary:

A probationary fire fighter, in addition to the description under 4.1.5 of this procedure, is defined as a volunteer member, who has completed a district application for membership, is at least 18 years of age, has been approved and assigned to a company and station, is sworn, but has not completed basic training and/or the minimum time requirements established in 4.1.5. Probationary members must be medically fit for fire fighting duties, must complete mandatory training requirements as established for new members, must attend new member orientation if they have not already completed it as a junior member, and must attend basic fire fighter 1 training within the first 12 months as a member. Probationary members who have not completed basic training within the first

12 months as a member, shall not be removed from probationary status until such time basic training is completed. Probationary members exceeding 12 months to complete basic training must be reviewed on a case by case basis by the company officers and the district training officer to determine continued membership status within the organization. Probationary members are issued PPE and uniforms, are assigned to ride fire apparatus however must yield a riding position to fire fighter trained and SCBA qualified probationary, active, active life, or career member of the department as necessary. Non SCBA qualified probationary fire fighters shall NOT normally participate on out of town mutual aid assignments without express permission of a chief officer. Probationary members when they become eligible are afforded all benefits of active members in accordance with existing policies and procedures. Probationary members are covered by the district's workers compensation insurance.

4.7.7 Social:

A social member is defined as a resident of Washington Township, or a former resident who has an affiliation with fire fighters and supports the good will of the Washington Township Fire Department. A social member may have previously served in this department or another, does not aspire to continue or serve as a sworn fire fighter, but does support the mission, goals, objectives and other members of this organization. Social members are not sworn, are not assigned PPE or uniforms, and are not permitted to ride apparatus or participate in drills. Social members may attend any social function of the department for which they are invited, may attend company functions to which they are invited, may have access to district facilities if approved, however social members are not eligible for district benefits and are not considered members eligible for workers compensation. Social members visit district facilities on their own accord. Social members do not receive a medical review nor are they required to be medically qualified.

4.7.8 Retired:

A retired member is defined as a sworn volunteer or career fire fighter who has served the department in the capacity as an active member, an active life member, inactive life or a career member. Retired members must be vested in their respective retirement systems (LOSAP for volunteer members and PFRS/PERS for career members) and may voluntarily enter this category of membership prior to reaching their 65th birthday. Retired members may attend all social functions of the Washington Township Fire Department and its respective companies, may attend all eligible meetings, may be present but shall not participate at drills, may attend other similar functions, and may wear class B or class A uniforms and as appropriate and IAW other district policies and procedures. Retired members are not excluded from providing classroom instruction based on their qualifications and experience in a particular area of expertise. Retired members may either begin collecting retirement benefits (LOSAP or PFRS/PERS) or it may be deferred depending upon eligibility requirements. Eligible volunteer and career members reaching their 65th

birthday shall automatically be entered into this category of membership. Retired members shall essentially be "retired" from all fire fighting duties and shall not be required to attend training, drills, incidents, meetings, or other events mandated by this department for other membership categories. Retired members shall not ride "in service" fire apparatus, shall not respond to incidents, and shall not normally be covered by workers compensation insurance provided by the fire district. Retired members may continue to receive an annual medical examination provided by the fire district as a benefit for previous service. Retired members may continue to collect other benefits issued by the fire district or the state such as NJSFA Relief, SHB for volunteer members, and SHBP for career members.