

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

ARGUS FIRE SOCIETY ;

INSTITUTED

MAY, 1811.

BOSTON,

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1811.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
ARGUS FIRE SOCIETY.

THE Subscribers having associated under the title of the **ARGUS FIRE SOCIETY**, for the purpose of protecting and securing the property of each other when endangered by fire.—Do pledge themselves, each one to the whole, to conform to this Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

Stated Meetings.

SEC. 1. This Society shall meet on the second Tuesday of January, April, July and October, at such time and place as the President for the time being shall appoint. And the number of its members shall not exceed Forty.

ARTICLE II.

Appointment of Officers.

SEC. 1. At the meeting in January, there shall be chosen annually by written

ballot ; a President, and two Vice Presidents (first and second according to their election) who shall not be eligible to either of these offices at the succeeding election.

SEC. 2. The office of Secretary shall be sold at the same meeting by the President to the lowest bidder ; the Secretary liable to the same assessment as other members.

SEC. 3. A Messenger shall be appointed at every meeting, by lot, the same member shall not be twice appointed, until all have served or paid a fine for refusal.

ARTICLE III.

Duty of Officers.

SEC. 1. The President shall preserve order at the meetings, detail all committees, and communicate their reports ; direct the Secretary, the time and place to warn the meetings to be held and the refreshments to be provided. He shall order a special meeting on the joint application of any six members addressed to him in writing.

SEC. 2. The Vice Presidents shall ex-

amine the book containing this constitution and correct the annexed list of *members' names, places of abode and business* at every quarterly meeting—Giving each member whose list is incorrect a hearing, and report in writing thereon : from their report there is no appeal ; they shall examine and report on the Secretary's records and accounts at the meeting in January, they shall hear and determine on all excuses offered against fines. .

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall keep a fair record of all the votes and transactions of, and reports to the Society which are to be read at the succeeding meeting. He shall keep a correct account with every member, apportion the expenses and make assessments when expedient ; collect all fines and assessments, and deliver to the Vice Presidents his records and accounts, three days previous to the meeting in January, for examination.—He shall leave printed notifications at the dwelling of every member—three days previous to each meeting, containing notice of the time and place of meeting. Removals of members—Candidates proposed, members admitted or withdrawn,

and the *dues* from the members to whom it is addressed. He shall notify one fourth part of the existing members in turn to accompany him in the quarterly examination of Buckets, Bags, &c. giving 24 hours notice. He shall call special meetings when ordered by the President, and report at every meeting the money in his hands, or due from members.

SEC. 4. The Messenger shall wait on committees during the meetings of the Society, and be subject to the orders of the President.

ARTICLE IV.

Duty of Members.

SEC. 1. Each Member shall furnish himself with two good fire buckets, and two firebags, painted and lettered uniformly with his own name thereon; also one bed-key and a screw-driver, these shall be kept hung up together as near the entry door of his house as convenient.

SEC. 2. Each member shall attend every meeting of the society, and accompany the Secretary when notified to examine the buckets, bags, &c. of every member, and on the alarm of fire, shall

repair to the place of conflagration, and the abode or place of business, of that member most exposed.

SEC. 3. Any member may speak twice to any question under debate in the Society, and no more unless called on to explain, and shall always rise in his place and address the President—But shall not introduce any subject of a personal, religious or political nature in his arguments or conversations in the society.

SEC. 4. Any member refusing to pay his fines or assessments when demanded by the Secretary, or who shall absent himself from the society, for three successive meetings without excuse to the satisfaction of the Vice Presidents, or disregards the orders of the President may be expelled, provided seven eights of the members present, at any quarterly meeting, shall so determine.

ARTICLE V.

Admission of Members.

SEC. 1. Candidates for membership must be proposed at a meeting previous to the ballot, their names written on the notifications, and a clear ballot in their

favour ;—Provided however, that two negatives shall not exclude a candidate.

ARTICLE VI.

Widows of Members Deceased.

SEC. 1. The widow of any deceased member shall be entitled to the same protection her husband was, on condition of notifying the Secretary of her removals.

ARTICLE VII.

Fines.

SEC. 1. Any member duly elected President or Vice President and refusing to serve, shall pay a fine of *two dollars*, which shall exempt him from re-election in the same manner as though he had served.

SEC. 2. The President neglecting to preserve order at any meeting when present while any business is unfinished *one dollar*.

SEC. 3. The Vice Presidents neglecting to examine and report on the books, containing the Constitution, and abode, and business of the members (whether

correct or not) for every member present at roll call, who is neglected at any quarterly meeting *one dollar*. Refusing to hear and try excuses *one dollar*; neglecting to examine the Secretary's books of records and accounts *two dollars each*.

SEC. 4. Any member refusing to serve as Messenger when it falls to his lot *one dollar*—Neglecting to deliver to the Vice Presidents his book, with annexed list of names, abode and business of every member correct, at each quarterly meeting, *fifty cents* for every error, and *one dollar* for default of delivering his book, &c. for examination. Neglecting to notify the Secretary of his removal at least seven days previous to the next meeting *one dollar*. Leaving the Society without leave of the President at any meeting *one dollar*. Neglecting to attend the Secretary at a quarterly examination when notified *three dollars*, and considered as having attended. Neglecting to keep his buckets and bags painted uniformly *one dollar*. Neglecting to keep buckets, bags, bed-key and screw-driver in their proper place *one dollar*—for a bucket or a bag, out of place,

and *twenty five cents* for a bed-key or screw-driver. Introducing in debate or conversation a subject of a personal, religious, or political nature *one dollar*.—Absent at roll call *fifty cents*, or if absent during the meeting *one dollar*. Losing his book of Constitution *one dollar*, and to the Secretary *fifty cents*, for a new one. Neglecting to repair to fire on any alarm *one dollar*—and neglecting to rise when speaking to a subject before the Society, *twenty-five cents*.

SEC. 5. The Secretary neglecting a proper record of every transaction according to his duty prescribed *one dollar*. Neglecting to notify according to the duty prescribed *one dollar*, for every omission. Neglecting the quarterly examinations *one dollar*, for every place omitted.—Neglect of any legal order of the President *five dollars*.

ARTICLE VIII.

Amendment of Constitution.

SEC. 1. Two thirds of the members at any meeting may alter, revise or amend this Constitution.