



# **FLORIDA ASSOCIATION of LICENSED INVESTIGATORS**

## **2004-2005 CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the founding members of the FALI, in order to promote fellowship and unity within the investigative industry regulated under Chapter 493, Florida Statutes shall pool resources and talent for serving the interests of licensed private investigators that can't be satisfied by individual accomplishment: shall exhibit our resolve by merging PAPI and SWFIA into one statewide organization to sustain effective governmental affairs agendas through assertive lobbying, to enhance member benefits and to expand educational services.

We, the members of the FALI, in order to establish and maintain leadership through one statewide organization shall advance the professional interests of licensed investigators and agency owners and strive to bring investigators from diverse backgrounds together: to serve as the solitary voice and guardian of Florida's licensed private investigators and empower agency owners with a growing professional network where benefits of broad public value can accrue.

We, the members of the FALI, in order to increase our stature and widen our business and social benevolence, shall create and maintain close cooperation with: the Florida Department of State, Division of Licensing-the Private Investigative, Recovery and Security Council-the National Association of Security and Investigative Regulators, NASIR- Licensed Investigator organizations from around the United States-the Florida Legislature-and the Florida Association of Licensed Recovery Agents, FALR. Do hereby enact this Constitution:

**ARTICLE I** - Name and Object

**Section 1.** The name of this association is and shall continue to be the FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED INVESTIGATORS, Inc., hereinafter called the "Association " and abbreviated as "FALI".

**Section 2.** Our purpose shall be to unite Florida's licensed private investigators and agency owners, to promote the highest professional ethics; encourage greater cooperation and communication of effectual skills, heighten consumer trust and understanding of professional investigative work product: explore, cultivate and introduce those arts and sciences that improve abilities and build professionalism: Offer quality continuing education paths: uphold the honor and dignity of our livelihood: Fight to preserve opportunities: acquire a strong proactive voice for prudent public policy: contest oppressive legislation or regulation and to oppose confiscator taxation or fees.

**ARTICLE II** - Location, Seal and Emblem

**Section 1.** There shall be a proprietary office and, when possible, it shall be located in Florida's Capitol, at an address provided for in the Bylaws

**Section 3.** Members of the Association on letterheads, cards and marketing media shall only use the Official Emblem of the Association. A member, for identifying, promoting or advertising any school or publication for sale, shall not use the Emblem.

**Section 4.** The Official colors of the Association shall be black and gray.

**ARTICLE III** – Membership

**Section 1.** Membership in the Association is restricted to seven (8) classes: Active, Student, Honorary Life, Unlicensed Specialist, Corporate Sponsor and Life Member with no provision for reciprocal members. There cannot be more than one membership per license. The first year of membership shall be a probationary; any violation of the Constitution or Bylaws shall be grounds for termination.

**Section 2a.** Composition of Classes

Active Member - Granted to natural persons, who are licensed and in good standing with the Florida Department of State, Division of Licensing, as defined in Chapter 493 Florida Statutes as a Class "C" licensee.

Associate Member - Granted to natural persons who hold a valid license with Florida Department of State, Division of Licensing, as defined in Florida Statutes as a Class "CC" Intern, Class "M" Manager or Private Process Server.

Affiliate Member - Granted to natural persons gainfully employed as in-house investigators as defined in Chapter 493, Florida Statutes, or private investigators living outside Florida, who meet their State and County laws and licensing regulations.

Student Member - Granted to natural persons who are mystery writers or students of the investigative craft, attending an accredited college, university, or other school recognized by the Division of Licensing as having redeeming value to licensed investigators.

Honorary Life Members - Granted to natural person upon approval of the Board of Directors. This life membership will be bestowed upon those who have displayed in words and deeds a sincere interest in the Association Life Membership may be awarded by the majority vote of the Board of Directors. A Life Membership consists of and is limited to free membership in the Association. Eligibility is to be considered for active members only.

Unlicensed Specialist - Granted to natural persons that are not licensed private investigators, but have unique expertise, ability, vocation or access and provide information or services to Florida's licensed private investigators.

Corporate Sponsor - Granted to businesses, organizations, partnerships, or those who do not qualify for membership, but desire to support the Association and take advantage of member benefits. Attending sponsors shall be recognized at meetings.

Life Membership - Granted upon request, to a natural person who is a current Active member in good standing. Life Members will hold the same rights and privileges as that of an Active member and will be held to the same standards and requirements. A Life membership shall be granted after the requesting Active member pays the applicable membership fee as provided for in the ByLaws.

**Section 2b.** All original applications for membership must be made on a form approved or provided by the Association, conjointly with a photocopy of the applicant's current State licenses, and all Agency, or in-house employer's Occupational license (s). Membership shall be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors. Annual dues as defined by the By-Laws must accompany each application.

**Section 3.** If the applicant is a Chapter 493 F.S. licensee, the Board of Directors shall verify the status of applicant's license as provided for in the By-Laws.

**Section 4.** The resignation of any member of the Association, in good standing, shall be accepted without further action and be sent to the President, who will notice the Board of Directors through the Secretary and, Treasurer.

**Section 5.** Only active members in good standing are entitled to vote on Association business.

**Section 6.** Memberships are neither transferable nor a business asset, but a personal privilege of each member.

#### **ARTICLE IV** - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

**Section 1.** A Board of Directors elected from Active members in good standing shall govern this Association.

**Section 2.** Whenever the term "BOARD OF DIRECTORS" is used in this Constitution, it shall mean Fourteen (14) members and the current President who shall serve as the Chairperson for a total of Fifteen (15). Fourteen (14) of the Fifteen (15) shall be elected at the Annual Conference of the Association. The Fifteenth (15) member shall be the newly elected First Vice President as set forth in his duties. The Executive Officers shall attend the Board of Director meetings and shall have one vote. In the event of a tie vote the person's vote that made the motion will not be counted.

**Section 3.** This Association shall be nonpartisan, nonsectarian, nonunion and a not-for-profit corporate organization, whose members have the exclusive right to influence activities through an elected Board of Directors. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors between Annual Conferences, an individual, who is selected by the President, shall fill such vacancy.

- A. The Board of Directors along with the elected Executive Officers shall govern the affairs and policies of the Association.
- B. They shall exercise good judgment for the benefit and enjoyment of the Of the members.
- C. The elected Executive Officers shall be:
  - 1. President
  - 2. First Vice President
  - 3. Second Vice President
  - 4. Third Vice President
  - 5. Secretary
  - 6. Treasurer
  - 7. Editor
  - 8. Sgt. Of Arms
  - 9. Historian
- D. These Officers shall make reports to the President, who shall report directly to the Board of Directors.
- E. A simple majority of qualified Officers and Directors shall be quorum, for the purpose of conducting Association business.
- F. Any member in good standing, has the right to make recommendations for Betterment of the Association, in writing or verbally, by invitation of the Board of Directors, who shall have the right to approve or reject any recommendation or change any proposal
- G. The Board of Directors may conduct Association business in person, Through the Association's bulletin board service (BBS), by facsimile Machine, by telephone or by any means communication, that the Board of Directors determines proper.
- H. All members of the Board of Directors shall have Internet capabilities in order to comply with "G".
- I. In order to comply with "G" and "H" a simple majority of Officers and Directors must be in place before a full and complete vote via the Internet can be made.
- J. The Board of Directors may select an Attorney-Licensed within the State of Florida to represent the Board of Directors through the Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- K. The Board of Directors may enter into any agreement with any person or company, they deem appropriate. The Board of Directors shall provide to the membership by any means it deems appropriate a notice of hiring of any person, company or entity, for bidding purposes, with the exception of limited performance contracts.

#### **Section 4. Standing Committees**

- A. Election Committee - This committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Board, who shall serve as Chairperson and one member appointed by the President. All active members shall have the right to vote either in person at the annual conference or by absentee ballot. Nominations or candidates must declare their intent to seek office, in writing 90 days prior to the first day of the Conference. The Chairperson along with the one member appointed by the President, shall verify the eligibility of all voting members, count the votes and announce the results of the election, including all vote counts. The Board of Directors shall post a list of declared candidates to the members, as they deem appropriate. The candidates shall have an opportunity to write a brief statement, not to exceed 250 words, concerning their qualifications, which will be published in the FALL Forum at least sixty (60) days prior to the election.
- B. Governmental Affairs - This Committee shall be chaired by First Vice President. This Committee shall actively partake in both the Florida and Federal Legislative and Regulatory process for the affirmative passing of proactive legislation of benefits to Private Investigators, Investigative Agency owners and the Public. Develop Association positions on topical issues, communicate issues to the membership and convey member's opinions to the Board of Directors and to the Lobbyists for the Association, negotiate the Lobbyist's contract for the Board of Directors, testify before the Legislative committees, converse with Legislator's and their staff on Association business. Be actively involved with Resident County's Legislative Delegation or political party's Executive Committee and be a registered voter. Attend the Private Investigative, Recovery and Security Committee meetings held in their local areas.
- C. Benefits Committee - This Committee shall identify prepare and promote ways and means to obtain statewide group benefit at discount rates for Licensed Private Investigators, and Agency owners. The First Vice President shall chair this Committee. They shall poll the membership on those benefits they consider the most prized and execute the wishes of the members.
- D. Annual Meeting Committee - This Committee shall promptly secure the Place, date and time of the next Annual meeting, with the knowledge of and the approval of the Board of Director as soon as possible after the last Annual Meeting. They will recommend appropriate awards, media coverage, speakers, and vendors. They shall be responsible for the agenda and shall assist in negotiating contracts for the Board of Directors, who shall remain supportive and involved. The Second Vice President shall chair this Committee.
- E. Education Committee - This Committee shall identify, prepare and promote ways for the educational and professional development of Licensed Private Investigators. They shall ascertain common instructional elements by agencies and interns. They shall resolve representative testing requirements for licensure and serve members in continuing educational needs. They shall promote awareness on the Public's Right-to-Privacy; attempt to qualify for certification; to teach Private Investigation by member's resident County school system. The Second Vice President shall chair this Committee.
- F. Membership Committee - This Committee should assist and oversee the Executive Director, who shall maintain a current list of members, broken down by class and recruit new members. Contact new members and develop professional networking and social

objectiveness to sustain the evolution of beneficial interaction between members. The Third Vice President shall chair this Committee. This Committee shall oversee any applications for membership. The other members of this Committee may be the Executive Director and the Treasurer of the Association. This Committee shall have the authority to grant membership to any applicant.

- G. The By-Laws and Rules Committee - This committee shall be chaired by the Historian. This committee shall annually review and evaluate additional amendments or corrections to the constitutional and by-laws. They shall review and evaluate all standing rules preceding their adoption and annually fix relevance. The Historian shall act as Parliamentarian, for the Association, with final authority on all points of order. The Historian shall strive to make membership an appreciating privilege by sustaining a sound reputation based upon integrity, fairness and democratic principles. This Committee shall be the final authority on any interpretation of the Constitution of this Association.
- H. Advisory Committee - This committee shall consist of all of the Past Presidents of the Association and is to serve in advisory capacity only. The use of the committee shall be solely at the discretion of the sitting Officers and Directors or President. This Committee shall be chaired by the immediate Past President. The immediate Past President shall daily monitor Internet traffic. The Past President shall have no vote, except in this committee.

## **ARTICLE V** - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### **Section 1.** Board of Directors

- A. There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of (15) Members. Fourteen (14) of the Fifteen (15) shall be elected at the Annual Conference of the Association. The Fifteenth member shall be the newly elected First Vice President. The term of Office shall be from the end of that Annual Conference to the end of the next Annual Conference. Those Directors shall direct the activities in the areas as defined in the Bylaws.
- B. The current President of the Association shall serve as the Chairperson.
- C. In the event, a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors between Annual Conferences; such vacancy shall be filled by the President.
- D. All Past Presidents and Officers of the Association may attend the Board Meetings. Those Officers may be heard. By the Board of Directors.
- E. A quorum of the qualified Officers and Directors shall consist of a simple majority.
- F. Any official, who does not comply with their assigned responsibilities and do so in a timely manner, may be relieved of office by the majority vote of the Board of Directors. Appointed of a replacement shall be made by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- G. The Directors shall hold meetings in their areas to conduct good will and to further the interests of the Association.
- H. The Board of Directors shall be the managing body of the Association. They shall control the affairs of the Association.

- I. The President shall report to the Board of Directors on the activities of all other elected officers.
- J. The Board of Directors shall select the place and date of the Annual Conference and approve the activities of the Annual Conference.
- K. The Board of Directors shall have the power to conduct a hearing concerning any member of the Association upon any charge by any other member affecting said member's professional ethical conduct, provided the charge is made in writing and has been investigated by the Ethics and Investigations Committee. If the accused is found guilty by a majority vote of all elected Board members, the Board shall have the authority to expel, suspend, censure and admonish such a member.
- L. At meetings held by the Board of Directors membership applications shall be voted upon. The Executive Director and the Treasurer shall present such applications with included background of such applicants.

**Section 2. Duties of the President**

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association And preserve order and decorum, except at the Board of Directors Meetings. The President shall appoint any special Committee Members. The President shall appoint all vacancies caused by Death, resignation or other causes. The President shall represent The Association requiring official FALI representation.
- B. The President shall be elected by the general membership at Annual Conference and shall serve that office.
- C. The President shall report to the Board of Directors on the Activities of the Association.
- D. The President shall co-sign any checks for the Association Accounts. If an emergency arises the President shall inform the Past Presidents for their "Advise and Consent"
- E. The President shall make a report to the general membership during the opening of the Annual Conference and shall conduct the general meeting at the Annual Conference.

**Section 3. Duties of the First Vice President**

- A. The First Vice President, or in the temporary absence of The First Vice President, the Second Vice President, and so on in numerical order, shall act as presiding officer of the Association during the temporary absence or disability of the President.
- B. The First Vice President shall serve on the Board of Directors, with a vote on all matters before that Board.
- C. The First Vice President may co-sign checks for the Association accounts.
- D. Shall remain current on all Association business and act as the Chairperson of the Benefits and Governmental Affairs Committee.

**Section 4. Duties of the Second Vice President**

- A. The Second Vice President, in the absence of the First Vice President, or the First Vice President's inability or Refusal to act, or on expulsion of the First Vice President from the membership of the Association, shall perform the Duties of the First Vice President. When so acting, shall Have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the First Vice President.

- B. Shall remain current on all Association business and shall serve as Chairperson of the Annual Conference Committee, as well as serve as the Chairperson of the Education Committee

**Section 5. Duties of the Third Vice President**

- A. The Third Vice President, in the absence of the Second Vice President or the Second Vice President's inability or refusal to act or on expulsion of the Second Vice President from the membership of the Association, shall perform the duties of the Second Vice President. When so acting, shall have all of the powers of and be subjected to all the restrictions upon the Second Vice President.
- B. Shall remain current on all Association business and serve as the Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

**Section 6. Duties of the Secretary**

- A. The Secretary shall keep the records and the minutes of Association.
- B. Shall report to the President and be aware of Association Business.
- C. Shall keep minutes of the Board of Director's meeting, which shall be presented to the Board for approval, as soon as possible, but not later than forty-five (45) days after a meeting.
- D. Shall monitor FALIBOARD Internet voting and report the final results to the Board, at the conclusion of voting.
- E. Shall furnish the Website Coordinator minutes of Board meetings once they are corrected and approved along with any FALIBOARD Internet voting results that would alter, amend, suspend, or create changes to the Constitution or Bylaws, so they may be posted in the member's only section of the FALI Web page.

**Section 7. Duties of the Treasurer**

- A. Shall keep all monies due the Association and keep a just and accurate account between the Association and the members.
- B. Shall make presentations to the Board of Directors and to the general membership at the Annual Conference.
- C. Shall co-sign all checks for Association business and serve on the Membership and Election Committee.
- D. Shall provide the President and the Executive Director with a monthly financial report, an annual financial report and a final financial report at the end of term in office.
- E. Shall deposit all FALI monies in a banking facility Approved by the Board of Directors. Shall issue checks to pay FALI expenses, which have been approved by the Board of Directors.
- F. Shall incur no expense on behalf of FALI, without aforementioned approval of the Board of Directors.

- G. Shall maintain and file, in a timely manner, all Reports and tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service, the Secretary of State, the Office of the Comptroller and other agencies as required by law.
- H. Shall perform other duties relating to the positions assigned by the President and/or the Board of Directors.

**Section 8.** Duties of the Editor

- A. Shall received all articles of interest to the Association, Edit them and when necessary, and prepare them for Inclusion in the Association official publication.

**Section 9.** Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms

- A. Shall have command of the outer door of the Conference hall and Boardroom and shall prevent unauthorized entry as determined by the President or the Board of Directors. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall assist the President in preserving order and shall perform such other duties as the President may direct. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall determine the voting eligibility of members at the Annual Conference.

**Section 10.** Duties of the Historian

- A. The Historian shall search for, collect and have Custody of all items of historical interest to the Association. The Historian shall identify and mark each item, acknowledge the donor of each and maintain an inventory of all materials. The Historian shall make a display or presentation at the Annual Conference, of such items. The Historian shall serve as Chairperson of the Constitution and By-laws Committee and shall serve as Parliamentarian for the Association.

**ARTICLE VI** - Annual Meeting

**Section 1.** A statewide membership Annual Meeting and Conference shall be Held annually at the direction of the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** A Board of Directors meeting shall be held during the Annual Meeting and Conference that shall be open to the Active members who wish to attend.

**ARTICLE VII** - Election of the Board of Directors and Executive Officers

**Section 1.** The Executive officers and the Board of Directors shall be elected by secret written ballot at the annual Conference and by absentee ballots. A plurality of votes shall be required for each election.

- A. The term of office shall be from installation through the Annual Conference the following year.
- B. All "active " FALI members, in good standing, may participate in the voting.
- C. There shall be thirteen (13) Directors elected to the Board.
- D. No voting by representation or proxy shall be allowed.

**Section 2.** Candidates

- A. All candidates shall be nominated by “active” members in good standing.
- B. Any “active “ member, in good standing, desiring to become a candidate for an elected office within the association, shall announce his or her candidacy not less than ninety (90) days prior to elections.
- C. Each declared candidate who is an “active” member (C License-holder), in good standing, and who complies with the ninety (90) day notification of intent to seek office, will have their name’s placed on the absentee ballot.
- D. The names and brief statements, not to exceed 250 words, concerning the members announcing their candidacy for office, shall be published in the next two monthly issues of the FALI FORUM, as well as posted on the FALI website.
- E. The candidate for the office of President shall have served on the Board of Directors, either as an Officer or Director for one year within the prior three (3) years.
- F. All candidates shall be notified by the Election Committee Chairperson of the election results within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of the ballot tallying.

**Section 3.** Absentee Ballots

- A. The absentee ballot will be limited to providing the opportunity to the general “active” membership to vote for announced candidates for the Executive Officers and the Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.
- B. Said absentee ballots shall be mailed to the Election Committee Chairperson and shall be postmarked at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference.
- C. All absentee ballots will be opened, verified and counted by the Chairperson of the Board plus one person appointed by the President, who shall report to the membership the results of the election, including all vote counts.

**Section 4.** Nomination from the floor at the Annual Conference

- A. In the event that there are no declared candidates, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Conference.
- B. The procedure for electing candidates shall be Historian, Editor, Sergeant-at-Arms, Treasurer, Secretary, Third Vice President, Second Vice President, First Vice President and finally President and then the Board of Directors.

**Section 5.** Preservation of ballots

- A. All ballots shall be preserved for ten (10) days before destruction, unless an election is challenged, and then they shall be preserved until the resolution of the challenge.

**ARTICLE VIII** – Discipline

**Section 1.** Any member, Director, or Executive Officer may be suspended or expelled from the Association, by the Board Of Directors for unethical or unlawful behavior, or conduct that harms the interest, welfare and character of the Association or violates this Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, or Canons of Conduct adopted by the Association.

**Section 2.** Any member in good standing may prefer charges against another member, by filing a complaint signed by the complaining member.

- A. Allegations shall be submitted in writing via certified mail addressed to the President and signed by the complaining member.
- B. The President, within ten (10) days of receipt of a complaint, shall appoint a committee of three (3) members to investigate the allegation(s).
  - (1) One (1) by the President
  - (2) One by the Accused and
  - (3) One (1) by the board of Directors
- C. No investigation shall begin before the President confirms the complaint and informs the member against whom the allegation is made.
- D. This Ad Hoc Investigative Committee shall, within forty-five (45) days, submit to the President, in writing the results of their investigation, with documentation and justifiable recommendations, for a timely determination by the board of Directors.
- E. If the allegations are against the President the complaint shall be submitted to the First Vice President, who shall perform the function of the President in appointing an Ad Hoc Investigative Committee and submitting the results to the Board of directors as outlined above.
- F. In all cases, the Investigating Committee shall also inform the accused member of the nature of the allegations and provide for reasonable opportunity to present evidence.
- G. The accused member shall promptly be notified of the Board of Directors' determination, by certified mail and who shall have ten (10) days from the date of the notice to file a request for a formal hearing before the Board of Directors at its next scheduled meeting. If the notice is returned to the Board of Directors undeliverable and it has been addressed to the last known address provided by the member, the Board of Directors will consider this to mean a formal hearing was not desired by the member.
- H. After, considering all the evidence, including presentations made by members concerned, the Board of Directors can, by majority vote:
  - 1. Dismiss all charges against the member.
  - 2. Sustain the charges, and
  - 3. Direct the censure of the member, or
  - 4. Direct the supervision of the member for a certain time.

**Section 3. Appeal**

- A. A member of the Association suspended or expelled, according to Article VIII, shall have the right-to-appeal before the Active Members attending the next Annual Meeting.
- B. To appeal the decision of the Board of Directors, the member concerned shall submit written requests for an appeal to the President and Secretary.
- C. The President and Secretary shall ensure during the Board of Director's business meeting at the next Annual Meeting, sufficient time for the member to present an appeal, in person, before the membership in attendance.

- D The President shall make those in attendance aware of the allegations against the member, the Board of Director's findings and the action taken by the Board of Directors. After that, the members shall, by secret ballot and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority:
- (1) Set aside the action of the Board of Directors
  - (2) Reduce the expulsion from the Association to a suspension for a certain amount of time.
  - (3) Reduce the suspension to a censure.
  - (4) Reduce the censure to a verbal reprimand
  - (5) Sustain the discipline assessed.
- E. Failure of the appellant to appear in person shall void the appeal and the discipline assessed shall stand with the "failure to appear" noted for the Corporate Record.

#### **ARTICLE IX – Dues**

**Section 1.** The annual dues of this Association, the amount set forth In the Bylaws, shall be determined by vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting. The fiscal year covering the payment of dues shall be the twelve (12) months from the date of member's original application or renewal.

**Section 2.** A member, whose dues have not been paid thirty (30) days after the due date, shall be classified delinquent. If the dues are paid before sixty (60) days have elapsed the member shall be automatically reinstated. If the dues are still Delinquent at the expiration of sixty (60) days, membership in the Association shall be terminated and the member will be removed from the mailing list. Reinstatement may be made within the affected fiscal year, upon majority vote of Board of Directors, plus payment of dues for the fiscal year and a reinstatement fee, as provided for in the Bylaws.

**Section 3.** Upon payment of all dues and reinstatement fees, any such member may be restored to membership upon approval of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4.** Any member who has not requested reinstatement before the end of the fiscal year shall be dropped from all membership and benefit rolls.

#### **ARTICLE X - The Official Publication**

**Section 1.** There shall be an official publication of the Association and the name selected through a contest shall forever be the FALI FORUM. Said publication shall be distributed to all members monthly and include three (3) sections for District items of interest.

**Section 2.** The official publication shall be printed and distributed by the Association Manager, provided for in the Bylaws.

**Section 3.** The Association, an amount set forth in the Bylaws for preparing and submitting material, shall reimburse the Editors of the official publication.

**Section 4.** The official publication shall be mailed to the general membership, via bulk mail permit, so it is received no later than ten (10) days before the next scheduled general meetings, or first business day of the following month, if no meetings are scheduled.

**Section 5.** The term of the Copy Editor ends whenever the President's term expires.

**Section 6.** Any materials published within the official publication shall be subject to edit and copyright by the Association. All material printed shall be subject to final approval of the President, or by a person duly appointed by the President for such a purpose.

**Section 7.** Manuscripts shall be judged on the following points: Factual accuracy, style, and ease of reading, structure and logical flow, length, relevance and analysis of information. Articles used to promote a members' product or a service shall be rejected.

#### **ARTICLE XI** – By-laws and Executive Standing Rules

**Section 1.** By-laws shall be issued for the implementation of the Constitution and for the orderly governing of the Association by the Board of Directors, for the membership.

**Section 2.** No By-laws shall be adopted that in any way alters, amends changes or violates any of the Articles of this Constitution.

**Section 3.** Proposed By-laws or changes to By-laws shall be adopted by simple majority vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting of the Association. Any proposed changes shall be submitted to the Board of Directors not less than two (2) months before the Annual Meeting to notice members in the Official Publication.

**Section 4.** For situations not covered by this Constitution or Bylaws, the Parliamentarian shall draft and publish Executive Standing Rules. Executive Standing Rules shall not be an Amendment to the Constitution or any By-laws.

- A. Standing Rules are so named because they are intended to stand until revoked.
- B. Be kept to a minimum and be as simple as possible.
- C. Be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors, reviewed annually and rescinded when no longer necessary, or revised when outdated.
- D. Be conditionally approved by the membership as adopted, unless, at the Annual Meeting, a majority of Active Members in attendance, modify or draft an alternate rule by signing a Floor Vote Petition, with Specifically proposed language attached.
  1. The Secretary, Treasurer, Election Committee Chairperson and Historian shall verify the petition's validity.
  2. After verification, the petition shall be openly discussed on the floor and a vote held before the Annual meeting adjourns.

#### **ARTICLE XII** – Amendments

**Section 1.** After adoption of this Constitution, drafted in response to the unified statewide initiative by organizations with members regulated under Chapter 493, Florida Statutes, it shall only be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) yes vote of Active members of this Association present at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 2.** No Amendment shall affect or repeal any portion of the Constitution not specifically delineated in the Amendment.

**Section 3.** Proposed Amendments will be published in the official publication at least two (2) issues before the Annual Meeting.

**Section 4.** Each proposed Amendment should relate to a single Article only.

## **AFFIRMATION**

We, the members of FALL, the Florida Association of Licensed Investigators, Inc. have by unanimous vote retired and merged the organizations, formerly known as PAPI, the Professional Association of Private Investigators, and SWFIA, the Southwest Florida Investigators Association. We approved the adoption of the foregoing Constitution for governing the growth and administration of this unified Association. And we merged and elected a Board of Directors on the 6th day of November 1993, in Hillsborough County, Tampa, Florida. The Board of Directors convened on December 4, 1993 in Hillsborough County, Tampa, Florida and approved this Constitution. Without objection, this Constitution shall forever take effect, January 1, 1994.

We, the full Board of Directors of FALL, have adopted the official emblem, the official colors and name of our official newsletter at the Board Meeting of February 6 and 7, 1994 in Tallahassee, Florida.

There are changes within this Constitution which were voted upon by the general membership at its' Annual Conferences in:

Orange County, Orlando, Florida October 1998

Orange County, Orlando, Florida October 2000

Broward County, Coral Springs, Florida October 2001

Dade County, Miami, Florida October 2002

Brevard County, Cape Canaveral, Florida September 2003

Orange County, Orlando, Florida September 2004