

Resolution No. 8
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Constitution & By-Laws
Re: IAFF Jurisdiction

1 WHEREAS, in 1918, the International
2 Association of Fire Fighters was born from the need
3 to advocate for those full-time, professional fire
4 fighters; and

5 WHEREAS, the fire service culture in the United
6 States and Canada is marked by the adversarial
7 relationship between professional fire fighters and
8 part-time fire fighters; and

9 WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of part-
10 time fire fighters are compensated for their service;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, those employers exploit the system
13 by creating massive departments staffed with part-
14 time fire fighters to get millions of dollars in grant
15 money each year; and

16 WHEREAS, many of those paid, part-time fire
17 fire fighters are seeking union representation to
18 negotiate their rights and benefits as bargaining units;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, in most IAFF districts, these paid,
21 part-time fire fighters have not been organized by the
22 IAFF; and

23 WHEREAS, these paid, part-time fire fighters are
24 seeking representation from other unions; and

25 WHEREAS, it is the IAFF who should represent
26 all fire fighters in the United States and Canada; and

27 WHEREAS, through that representation, the
28 IAFF can help those part-time fire fighters become
29 full-time, professional fire fighters; and

30 WHEREAS, this approach proved successful in
31 the 6th District where the IAFF experienced a large
32 increase in its active IAFF members due to the
33 organizing of departments which were mandated by
34 the province having authority, which compelled the
35 inclusion of paid, part-time fire fighters; and

36 WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VI,
37 Section 3, of the IAFF Constitution and By-Laws, all
38 organizing is at the discretion of the District Vice
39 President; and

40 WHEREAS, if our union does not continue to
41 grow, anti-union forces will attempt to take
42 advantage of any possible weaknesses to undermine
43 the IAFF and its members; therefore be it

44 RESOLVED, That the delegates assembled at the
45 57th IAFF Convention amend Article II of the IAFF
46 Constitution and By-Laws to read as follows:

47 “The jurisdiction of the International Association
48 of Fire Fighters shall be as follows: All paid
49 employees engaged in fire fighting, emergency
50 medical or rescue service activities, or related
51 services; provided, however, that the Association
52 may allow other categories of employees as
53 required by applicable state, provincial or U.S. or
54 Canadian federal laws, subject to appropriate
55 documentation and the approval of the General
56 President.”

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: **None**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **N/A**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: