

Resolution No. 12

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Constitution & By-Laws

Re: Establishment of International Membership Opportunities Through Global Locals

1 WHEREAS, at the 57th IAFF Convention, the
2 delegates passed Resolution 42 directing the IAFF
3 Executive Board to investigate the development of
4 membership opportunities for international fire
5 fighters; and

6 WHEREAS, since the passage of Resolution 42,
7 the IAFF has received nearly 300 membership
8 inquiries from fire fighters in South America,
9 Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia, as well as
10 Department of Defense fire fighters serving at
11 overseas installations; and

12 WHEREAS, the IAFF is seen across the world as
13 an international fire service leader, maintaining
14 important relationships with international firefighter
15 unions, and these relationships provide opportunities
16 to promote and expand the IAFF's brand and
17 recognition across the world; and

18 WHEREAS, international membership structures
19 used by other major trade unions centered in the
20 United States and Canada provide successful models
21 that can be used by the IAFF to address the
22 significant international interest in IAFF membership
23 and to expand the IAFF's global reach; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the IAFF shall establish a new
25 category of affiliation known as Global Locals

(G-Locals) to enable professional fire fighters and emergency medical workers outside the United States and Canada to join the IAFF; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the IAFF Executive Board shall develop a policy to implement G-Locals, establishing a pay-for-service model, whereby the IAFF will negotiate individualized per capita dues rates based on the specific level and type of services it seeks from the IAFF; however, the per capita shall be no less than the then current individual per capita dues rate for US members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That services available to G-Locals may include training; education; conferences, Conventions, and other events; and advisory support, but shall not include representation in collective bargaining or labor disputes unless specifically authorized and approved by the IAFF Executive Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That affiliation as a G-Local shall not, by itself, constitute or be construed as authorization for the IAFF to act as a collective bargaining representative, unless expressly authorized under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction and approved by the IAFF Executive Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the IAFF and all G-Locals shall operate in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of the countries in which they are located, and no provision of this Constitution shall be interpreted to authorize activity in violation of such laws; and be it further

57 RESOLVED, That services provided to G-Locals
58 shall be limited to those expressly agreed upon, and
59 the IAFF shall not assume legal responsibility for
60 collective bargaining, labor disputes, or employment
61 matters unless explicitly authorized by the Executive
62 Board under applicable law; and be it further

63 RESOLVED, That status and participation as a
64 G-Local shall not confer any voting rights on the
65 membership of G-Locals and shall not confer
66 assignment to a District Vice President; and be it
67 further

68 RESOLVED, That pursuant to Article XIV of the
69 IAFF Constitution & By-Laws, G-Locals may
70 choose to establish a national association when
71 supported by the majority of the G-Locals within that
72 nation. Such national associations shall be considered
73 affiliates; and be it further

74 RESOLVED, That the IAFF Constitution & By-
75 Laws shall be amended as follows:

- 76 • Article I, Section 2 (Constituency) is amended by
77 striking the first sentence and inserting in lieu
78 thereof the following: “The Association shall
79 consist of the International, all local unions in the
80 United States and Canada, Global Locals (G-
81 Locals), state and provincial associations, and
82 joint councils officially chartered by the
83 International as set forth in this Constitution &
84 By-Laws and all members in good standing of
85 such bodies. Global Locals (G-Locals) are
86 subordinate bodies chartered pursuant to Article
87 XIII for professional fire fighters and emergency

88 medical workers in nations other than the United
89 States and Canada. Joint councils shall be the
90 state or regional subordinate organizations
91 established by the Association to represent fire
92 fighters employed by the federal government.”

- 93 • Article II (Jurisdiction) is amended by inserting
94 the following new sentence at the end thereof:
95 “The Association may also charter Global Locals
96 (G-Locals) for professional fire fighters and
97 emergency medical workers in nations other than
98 the United States and Canada, subject to the
99 provisions of Article XIII of this Constitution &
100 By-Laws.”
- 101 • Article III (Membership) is amended by adding a
102 new section 6 immediately after current section 5:
103 “Section 6. Members of Global Locals (G-Locals)
104 Members of Global Locals (G-Locals) chartered
105 pursuant to Article XIII shall be members of this
106 Association. Such members shall pay per capita
107 dues as determined by the Executive Board
108 commensurate with the services they receive,
109 shall be entitled to access IAFF Training;
110 education; conferences, Conventions, and other
111 events; and advisory support, but this shall not
112 include representation in collective bargaining or
113 labor disputes unless specifically authorized by
114 the IAFF Executive Board, and they shall have no
115 voting rights at IAFF Conventions or in the
116 election of International Officers and shall not be
117 assigned to any District Vice President. All
118 concerns, needs, or opinions expressed by G-

119 Locals shall be directed through the Office of the
120 General President.”

121 • Article V, Section 3 (Method of Nomination and
122 Election) is amended by inserting the following
123 new paragraph immediately after the description
124 of District 16: “Members of Global Locals shall
125 not be assigned to any District for purposes of
126 representation or election of officers. Fire fighters
127 and emergency medical workers employed by the
128 United States federal government at installations
129 outside the United States and Canada may
130 organize as a local union within the 16th District.”

131 • Article XIII (Local Unions) is amended by
132 Inserting a new Section 1A immediately after
133 current Section 1:
134 “Section 1A. Global Locals.
135 Professional fire fighters and emergency medical
136 workers in nations other than the United States
137 and Canada may petition the General President
138 for a charter as a Global Local (G-Local). The
139 minimum number of individuals required to form
140 a G-Local shall be at the discretion of the General
141 President. G-Locals shall pay per capita dues as
142 determined by the IAFF Executive Board
143 Commensurate with the IAFF service which the
144 G-Local seeks to receive. G-Locals shall be
145 permitted to access all IAFF training, education,
146 conferences, Conventions, and other events; and
147 advisory support, but this shall not include
148 representation in collective bargaining or labor
149 disputes unless specifically authorized by the

IAFF Executive Board. Status as a G-Local shall not confer any voting rights on the membership of G-Locals at IAFF Conventions or for IAFF Officers, and they shall not be assigned to any particular District Vice President. G-Locals wishing to express any concerns, needs, or opinions shall do so through the Office of the General President. G-Locals within a single nation may, upon the approval of a majority of such G-Locals, form a national association. A G-Local shall not, by itself, constitute or be construed as authorization for the IAFF to act as a collective bargaining representative, unless expressly authorized under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction and approved by the IAFF Executive Board. The IAFF and all G-Locals shall operate in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of the countries in which they are located, and no provision of this Constitution shall be interpreted to authorize activity in violation of such laws. Services provided to G-Locals shall be limited to those expressly agreed upon, and the IAFF shall not assume legal responsibility for collective bargaining, labor disputes, or employment matters unless explicitly authorized by the Executive Board under applicable law.”

- Article XIV (State and Provincial Associations and Joint Councils) is amended by adding the following new sentence at the end of Section 1 (Proposals for Charters): “G-Locals within a

181 single nation may form a national association
182 pursuant to Article XIII, Section 1A.”; and be it
183 further

184 RESOLVED, That the IAFF is authorized to
185 begin chartering G-Locals and implementing this
186 program consistent with the constitutional
187 amendments and pay-for-service model approved
188 herein; and be it further

189 RESOLVED, That any transition of G-Locals to
190 full active local union membership status with
191 voting and other rights of regular IAFF locals shall
192 require additional amendments to the IAFF
193 Constitution & By-Laws adopted by the delegates at
194 a future Convention.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: **None**

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

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: