**Southern Forest Service Retirees Association**

Directors David Jolly Malcolm Gramley II Sid Haggard Sonny Cudabac

**Policy on Name Change**

During the past several weeks, and currently ongoing, there has been a discussion about changing the name of the SFSRA Newsletter, *The Dixie Ranger*. Complicating the discussion were questions about who has the authority to make the change and what does the Association’s Constitution say about the issue.

Some feel that if a single person, i.e. the President of the SFSRA, or a small group. i.e. those in the Atlanta area, make the change, there is a reasonable chance that a split in the Association’s membership might occur. There has not been a recommended new name by those proposing the change.

The SFSRA Constitution, Article 1, states the name of the organization shall be the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association. Therefore, a change in this name would require a Constitutional amendment. No other name is mentioned in the document.

The Southern Forest Service Retirees Association (SFSRA) Constitution states the following concerning the duties of the Directors, including the establishment of policy:

*Section 3. Duties of the Directors shall be:*

* *To determine policies of the Association within the limits prescribed by this Constitution.*
* *To counsel the President in the conduct of his/her office.*
* *To provide for audit of records of the Association as deemed proper for the protection of Association funds and purposes.*
* *To determine the places of meeting of the Association.*
* *To fill a vacancy occurring during the term of office of any officer or director by electing another officer or director to serve the remainder of the term – except that the office of president shall be automatically filled by the Vice-President.*

The name of the newsletter is obviously not a policy. However the process of how the change occurs could be established as a policy. Therefore, the Directors have established the following policy to clarify this situation.

**Policy on Name Changes Within the SFSRA**

In addition to the name of the organization, Southern Forest Service Retiree Association, there are others. For example, Membership Committee, Nominating Committee, Programs, Meeting Arrangements, *The Dixie Ranger*, etc.

This policy does not affect the requirement to change the name of the SFSRA must be by Constitutional amendment.

Effective immediately, to change a name within the SFSRA organization a proposal must be (1) approved by the Board of Directors and (2) approved by a majority (50% plus one) of those SFSRA Members whose dues are current and voted on the proposal. This means that half plus one of members whose dues are current and cast a *yes* vote. Voting by the members can be in-person at a regular or special called meeting of the Association, by electronic mail message, or by telephone. The proposal shall state the reason for the change and the proposed new name.

The President shall be in charge of distributing the proposal and conducting the election. The Secretary shall be responsible for the vote tally.

Before the vote, the proposal shall be printed in the newsletter, *The Dixie Ranger*. After the voting is completed, the results must also be printed in the newsletter, *The Dixie Ranger*.

  Sid Haggard 

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July 5, 2022