

Garda Síochána Retired Members' Association



Constitution

2019

Fidelity and Justice

(As amended 17 June 2019)

Contents

Article 1	The Association
Article 2	Aims and Objectives
Article 3	Management and Policy
Article 4	Membership
Article 5	Association Organisation
Article 6	Branch Structures
Article 7	Branch Business
Article 8	Duties of Branch Chairman
Article 9	Duties of Branch Secretary
Article 10	Duties of Branch Treasurer
Article 11	Annual Delegate Meeting
Article 12	Special Delegate Meeting
Article 13	Standing Orders
Article 14	Central Committee
Article 15	The General Purposes Committee
Article 16	National President
Article 17	National Vice President
Article 18	National Treasurer
Article 19	General Secretary
Article 20	Deputy General Secretary
Article 21	Trustees
Article 22	Code of Conduct
Article 23	Voluntary Dissolution
Article 24	Validity

Article 1: The Association.

- (a) The name of the Association shall be the Garda Síochána Retired Members' Association and its abbreviation GSRMA shall be construed accordingly.
- (b) The Central office of the Association shall be located at such a place as the Central Committee from time to time determines.
- (c) Subject to his/her consent the Garda Commissioner shall be the patron of the Association in keeping with established tradition.

Article 2: Aims and Objectives.

The objects of the Garda Síochána Retired Members' Association shall be: -

1. To make representation to improve the social and economic status of members.
2. To voice the views of the members in all matters affecting their pensions and Garda Superannuation Schemes.
3. To disseminate the views of members, to lobby on their behalf and to promote their aims.
4. To represent members on the boards of St. Paul's Garda Medical Society, the Garda Benevolent Trust Fund and any other body or group in which its members may have an interest.
5. To promote welfare of the members and to represent them on the committees established for that purpose.
6. To negotiate group schemes to meet the requirements of the members.
7. To promote the members work prospects by way of vocational training and a jobs liaison service.
8. To enhance the organisational strength and national image of the Association by means of a magazine, handouts, recruitment drives, establishment of branches and the development of a veteran's society dimension

9. To affiliate with kindred retired associations and national federations for the purpose of lobbying government and its agencies in order to advance the causes of the retired community in general.
10. To disseminate information concerning the operation of the GSRMA amongst its members at all times thereby providing an equitable and transparent means of consultation and representation.
11. To liaise with Garda Staff Associations and other Police Associations both serving and retired in a spirit of fraternal co-operation.
12. To liaise with any other Associations and Societies as the GSRMA Central Committee deem desirable in order to advance the interests of the membership.
13. To promote and develop good relations between the GSRMA and the media.
14. To develop a spirit of friendship and camaraderie at branch, regional and national level.
15. To pursue changes in legislation for the benefit of its members in or towards achieving any or all of these objectives.

Article 3: Management and Policy.

- (a) The day-to-day management of the Association shall be vested in The Central Committee.
- (b) The policy making decisions of the Association shall be vested in the Annual Delegate Meeting and Special Delegate Meetings.

Article 4: Membership.

- (i) Subject to any conditions that may be determined by the Association, membership of the Association shall be open to:
 - a) All persons entitled to a Garda pension for service in An Garda Síochána.

- b) All widows who are or were in receipt of a Garda widow's pension.
 - c) Widows and widowers of Garda Pensioners who are not members of the Garda Children's and Spouses Scheme.
 - d) Persons other than those already provided for in this article, who, on application may be approved as either honorary or associate members of the Association but shall not be entitled to vote on any issue concerning the Association
 - e) Female members of An Garda Síochaná who were required to resign prior to 1974 on marriage and did not qualify for a Garda or Garda Widows pension.
- (2) A 'member' of the Association is a person who is subject to the conditions above and pays the subscription for the then current year.

Article 5: Association Organisation.

- (a) For the purpose of organisation, generally a county or part of a county may form the branch area or areas outside of the Dublin Garda Metropolitan Region.
- (b) Where a county is divided into more than one Garda operational division, then each such division may be a branch area or areas. An operational division in the Dublin Metropolitan Region may have more than one branch.
- (c) In so far as possible branches of the Association shall be formed at a convenient location and shall consist of not less than twenty-five (25) members.
- (d) Members of the Association shall be members of the branch within whose area they normally reside unless they declare for an alternative branch subject to the discretion of the Central Committee. Members who declare for an Alternative Branch, must do so in writing and their existing Branch be informed accordingly.

- (e) Members of the Association resident outside the Irish Republic shall be facilitated at a branch of their choice subject to the discretion of the Central Committee.
- (f) The Central Committee shall decide the area of application of each branch and compile a schedule of branches for each Region as set out at Article 14.

Article 6: Branch Structures.

- (a) The affairs of the branch shall be conducted by a branch committee elected triennially in accordance with the policy of the Association.
- (b) A branch committee shall consist of chairman, branch secretary, treasurer and other committee members.
- (c) An Annual General Meeting of each branch shall be held not later than the 1st April each year.
- (d) Special general meetings of each branch shall be held whenever the branch chairman deems it necessary or on the instructions of the Central Committee.

Article 7: Branch Business.

- (a) The business of the branch will be to conduct the affairs of the branch in accordance with the aims and objectives of the association as outlined in the Constitution herein.
- (b) The branch chairman will receive the report of the secretary and treasurer on the activities of the branch for the preceding year.
- (c) In an election year the branch members will elect for the forthcoming three year period a branch committee of not less than four (4) members including a branch chairman and secretary/treasurer.
- (d) The branch will elect delegate(s) to the Annual Delegate Meeting and, in an election year, nominate candidate(s) for election to the Central Committee. Such delegate(s)/ candidate(s) where possible shall be member(s) of the branch committee.
- (e) Each Branch may submit Motions to the national ADM

- (f) In addition to the branch AGM each branch committee shall meet at least four times annually.

Article 8: Duties of Branch Chairman.

- (a) The Branch Chairman or in his/her absence some other such person as the committee will agree, shall chair meetings of the Branch and shall be responsible for the bona fides of each person attending and for the orderly conduct of the meetings.
- (b) Any member of the Association who is desirous of attending a meeting of a Branch other than that which he/she is a member, shall only be admitted to that meeting on production of a membership card or other evidence as shall be satisfactory to the Chairman. He/she shall not however, be allowed to take part in or vote on proceedings.

Article 9: Duties of Branch Secretary.

- (a) The Branch Secretary, in conjunction with the Branch Committee, will be responsible for the administration of the Association at Branch level.
- (b) He/She will keep an up to-date database of members of the Branch.
- (c) He/She will notify each member, in writing by email and/or text or post as appropriate, of details of the Annual General Meeting and also of any other meetings which are held throughout the year.
- (d) At the Annual General Meeting he/she will present a report outlining the activities of the Branch during the preceding year and following that meeting a copy of such report will be forwarded to the General Secretary for the information of the Central Committee.

Article 10: Duties of Branch Treasurer,

The Branch Treasurer will be responsible for the receipt, custody and disbursement of Branch funds.

- (a) He/She will maintain suitable financial records of all monies received and payments made. All payments will be approved by the Chairman and/or Committee.

- (b) At the end of the financial year, 31st December each year, the Treasurer will prepare a Balance Sheet in respect of that year. This Balance Sheet will be presented to the Branch Annual General Meeting by the Treasurer, following that meeting a copy of such Balance Sheet will be forwarded, with the Branch Secretary's report to the General Secretary for the information of the Central Committee.

Article 11: Annual Delegate Meeting

- (a) The supreme authority of the Association shall be vested in the Annual Delegate Meeting or any Special Delegate Meeting.
- (b) The Annual Delegate Meeting (ADM) shall be held in the month of June each year. Notwithstanding this requirement the Central Committee at its discretion, may include a Seminar, Workshop or other important element to run in conjunction with the business of ADM.
- (c) Each branch shall be entitled to elect delegates to the ADM as follows:
 - i. Up to and including fifty (50) members - one delegate
 - ii. More than fifty (50) members and up to and including 100 members – a second delegate
 - iii. Additional delegates per each block of fifty (50) members in excess of one hundred (100) members.
- (d) Membership of branches will be determined as on the 1st of January each year.
- (e) Any motion or amendment to an Article voted on and declared lost at any Delegate Meeting of the Association shall not be considered in its original form or in a form substantially similar to its original form at any Annual Delegate Meeting or Special Delegate Meeting of the Association until a period of three years has elapsed from the date of the rejection of the Motion or amendment to an Article/Rule.
- (f) All Motions for inclusion on the Agenda of the ADM shall be submitted in writing six clear weeks before the date of the ADM.

- (g) The venue for the Annual Delegate Meeting shall be decided by the Central Committee having due regard to costs and other factors.
- (h) Details of Motions approved for inclusion on the agenda of the ADM will be forwarded to each branch secretary three clear weeks before the date of the ADM.

Article 12: Special Delegate Meeting

- (a) The Central Committee may at any time at its discretion, or on request in writing by at least ten branch committees of the Association convene a Special Delegate Meeting (SDM) of the Association.
- (b) Such Special Delegate Meeting shall be convened by the General Secretary within twenty-eight (28) days after the date of decision of the Central Committee to convene such Meeting, or within twenty-eight (28) days after the receipt by the General Secretary of the requisition by the members to convene such meeting. Not less than ten (10) days clear notice thereof shall be given specifying the special business of the meeting and it shall be convened in the same manner as the Annual Delegate Meeting is convened. No other business except the business for which the Special Delegate Meeting is convened shall be transacted at the Meeting.
- (c) Any Motions or amendments to these Articles/Rules of the Association at a Special Delegate Meeting shall be treated in the same manner as a Motion or amendment to the Articles of the Association at the Annual Delegate Meeting. For the purposes of clarity, the Association will act upon the decision of the Special Delegate Meeting pending the final decision of the following Annual Delegate Meeting.

Article 13: Standing Orders

- (a) All delegate meetings of the Association shall be conducted in accordance with standing orders.
- (b) A copy of standing orders shall be included in the agenda for the Annual Delegate Meeting and Special Delegate Meetings of the Association to be approved by the delegates prior to the commencement of any such meeting.

Articles 14: Central Committee

- (a) The Central Committee shall consist of elected representatives
- (b) The elected representatives shall consist of not more than fifteen (15) members.
- (c) (1) The representatives shall be elected by the delegates at an ADM in secret ballot vote of the delegates and outgoing members of the Central Committee present and voting from regions as follows:
 - Connaught/Ulster Region - three (3) members (Schedule 1).
 - Dublin Metropolitan Region - five (5) members (Schedule 2)
 - Leinster Region - three (3) members (Schedule 3)
 - Munster Region - four (4) members (Schedule 4)
- (2) A member who has been elected at the ADM to the Central Committee and served two (2) consecutive terms, shall not be eligible for re-election to that committee until a further term has expired.
- (d) The Central Committee shall hold office for a period of three (3) years, commencing at the close of the Annual Delegate Meeting, where elected.
- (e) At a Central Committee meeting a quorum shall consist of one half of the members of the committee plus one.
- (f) The Central Committee may at their discretion convene a meeting of all branch chairmen and secretaries.
- (g) Where a vacancy occurs on the Central Committee the candidate having the next highest number of votes in the region where the vacancy occurs shall be co-opted by the Central Committee to fill the vacancy. In the absence of such a candidate the Central Committee may co-opt a member from the region where the vacancy occurs. The person so co-opted will hold that position until the next election.

- (h) The Central Committee shall elect at its first meeting after the ADM a sub committee to make recommendations to Central Committee on matters pertaining to the income and expenditure of the Association and any other matter of relevance to the proper administration of the affairs of the Association; the sub committee to be termed the General Purposes Committee.
- (i) The Central Committee shall, through the General Secretary keep its membership regularly informed throughout the year on the update / progress / result of motions and amendments to the Constitution carried or remitted at the previous Annual Delegate Meeting.

Article 15: The General Purposes Committee

- (a) The functions of the General Purposes Committee shall be as designated from time to time by the Central Committee.
- (b) The General Purposes Committee shall consist of the Association Vice President, Treasurer and two members of the Central Committee nominated by that Committee
- (c) The Vice President of the Association shall preside as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.

Article 16: National President

- (a) The election of the National President of the Association shall be held at the Annual Delegate Meeting of the Association in an election year and shall be for a term of three (3) years.
- (b) The National President of the Association shall be elected by the Delegates, duly appointed by their Branches to attend the Annual Delegate Meeting of the Association and all serving members of the Central Committee of the Association.
- (c) Candidates for election as National President shall be nominated from amongst the members elected in the Regional Elections to serve as members of the Central Committee by not less than two Delegates, who shall not be members of the one Branch of the Association.

- (d) The election shall be by secret ballot, using the proportional representation system, single transferrable vote, by the Delegates appointed to attend the Annual Delegate Meeting and all serving members of the Central Committee of the Association.
- (e) The President shall serve one term of office, commencing at the close of the Annual Delegate Meeting, where elected, and shall not be eligible for re-election to that office unless and until a further electoral term has expired, save where the President has been elected under the provisions of sub article (f) herein.
- (f) In the event of the office of National President becoming vacant in the course of a three year electoral term, the Vice President shall fill the role until the following Annual Delegate Meeting, where, if it is not an election year, the National President of the Association will be elected in accordance with Sub Article (d) herein, by the Delegates attending that Annual Delegate Meeting of the Association and all serving members of the Central Committee of the Association and shall serve until the end of the Association's three year electoral term. Nominations for election to the Office will be made as provided for at Sub Article(c) herein.

On the occasion, within a three-year electoral term, where the Office of National President is required to be filled, an Annual Delegate Meeting may not be substituted by a Seminar, as otherwise provided for at Article 11 (b) herein.

- (g) The duties of the President shall be to conduct the business of the Association on behalf of the members of the Association, to chair all meetings of the Central Committee, Annual Delegate Meetings and Special General Meetings and to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Association are being observed and advanced.

Article 17: National Vice President

- (a) The Central Committee at its first meeting after election shall from amongst its number elect a Vice President for a term of three (3) years.

- (b) The Vice President shall in the absence of the President exercise the same rights and duties as the President.
- (c) The specific duty of the Vice President shall be to chair all meetings of the General Purposes Committee.
- (d) The Vice President shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and shall not be eligible for re-election to that position unless and until a further term has expired.

Article 18: National Treasurer

- (a) The Central Committee at their first meeting after election shall elect from among their number a National Treasurer of the Association.
- (b) The Treasurer shall ensure the receipt and custody of all monies and the keeping of all financial accounts are carried out in such manner, as the Central Committee shall direct.
- (c) The Treasurer shall inspect the financial records of the Association and ensure that the correct accounts of receipts and payments of the Association are kept.
- (d) The accounts of the Association shall be audited annually by a firm of Accountants appointed by the Central Committee. The financial year of the Association shall end on the 31st December.
- (e) The Treasurer shall attend at the meetings of the General Purposes Committee and be a member thereof.
- (f) The Treasurer shall attend at the ADM to report on the financial affairs of the Association.
- (g) The annual accounts shall form part of the agenda for the national Annual Delegate Meeting.

Article 19: General Secretary

- (a) The Association shall employ on a contractual basis, a suitable person to the office of General Secretary

- (b) The General Secretary shall be a paid official of the Association who is appointed to carry out the duties assigned to him/her by the Central Committee. He/she shall be responsible for the safety and keeping of all records including financial records and the property of the Association. He/she shall be responsible for the day to day running and administration of the Association.
- (c) The General Secretary shall act as secretary to the Central Committee.
- (d) The General Secretary shall call meetings when directed to do so by the President.
- (e) Whenever the post of General Secretary becomes vacant the position should be advertised in *Síocháin*, so that all members are made aware of the vacancy and may apply for the advertised post of General Secretary.

Article 20: The Deputy General Secretary

- (a) The Association may employ on a contractual basis, for what ever periods it considers necessary a suitable person in the office of Deputy General Secretary.
- (b) The Deputy General Secretary shall be a paid official of the Association who is appointed to deputise for the General Secretary. He/she shall be responsible to the Central Committee either directly or through the General Secretary and shall carry out any work allocated to him/her by the Central Committee and/or the General Secretary.

Article 21: Trustees

- (a) Pursuant to the Constitution, the property and assets of the Garda Síochána Retired Members Association shall be vested in three Trustees, which said Trustees shall hold property and assets in trust for the Association. The Trustees are authorised to deal with property and assets only as directed by the Central Committee. Save as in accordance with sub-section (I) (ii) below. An entry in the Minute Book of the Garda Síochána Retired Members Association shall be conclusive evidence of a resolution from the Central Committee directing the trustees of the manner in which the property and assets of the Association may be dealt with.

The property known as “GSRMA House”, No. 5 Harrington Street, Dublin 8 shall not be;

- (i) Offered for sale, or sold.
- (ii) Allow its deeds of ownership to be used or given as collateral or guarantee to any person or institution, for further borrowing of finances without prior approval of two-thirds majority of the delegates present at a special delegate meeting.
- (b) Borrowings are to be taken in the name of the Trustees in their personal names. In this regard, the trustees shall be indemnified against all liabilities and expenses incurred by them in their capacity as trustees for the Association.
- (c) The trustees shall be elected by the Annual Delegate Meeting and shall hold office for life or until they resign or are removed by an Annual Delegate Meeting.
- (d) Should the number of trustees be reduced, the Central Committee shall have the power to propose a member as Trustee for election at the next Annual Delegate Meeting.
- (e) In the event of a new Trustee(s) being appointed, the Committee shall arrange for a new appointment of trustee to be completed and recorded in the Minute Book of An Garda Síochána Retired Members Association.
- (f) In the event the trustees having being directed by the Central Committee in relation to the property and assets of the Garda Síochána Retired Members Association, consider the direction to be of such importance as to require consultation with the members of the Association, then they the trustees shall call upon the Central Committee to call a Special Delegate Meeting for the purpose of considering and if appropriate ratifying such resolution and direction.
- (g) “Existing trustees” shall hold office until death, resignations from the Association as a trustee or removal from office by resolution of the members at the Annual Delegate Meeting.

Article 22: Code of Conduct

There shall be a charter of rights and code of conduct, which shall regulate the relationship between Association members, employees and others, including Committee Members and Trustees.

Article 23: Voluntary Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved at any time provided that a proposal for dissolution put forward by the Central Committee is passed by not less than a two-thirds majority of members so voting by ballot. The proposal shall come into force on such date or dates as determined by the ADM or SDM and the surplus assets of the Association, after settlement of debts and liabilities, shall be disposed as resolved at that, or a subsequent ADM or SDM.

Article 24: Validity

These Articles shall rescind all previous Articles of the Association and will come into effect on the 17th June 2019.

Signed: _____

Matthew Givens

President

17th June 2019

GSRMA House, 5 Harrington Street, Dublin