

Resolution No. 36

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety

Re: Behavioral Health Committee

1 WHEREAS, despite the well-documented need
2 for behavioral health programs for uniformed
3 personnel, this is often received with mixed reviews
4 as most fire departments are lodged in small
5 municipal or district settings lacking resources for
6 behavioral health care and have limited service
7 providers to care for their populations; and

8 WHEREAS, studies estimate up to 30% of all fire
9 fighters suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
10 (PTSD); and

11 WHEREAS, studies show that 46.8% of fire
12 fighters surveyed had suicide ideation, 19.2% had a
13 plan to commit suicide, 15.5% have attempted
14 suicide and 16.4% had non-suicidal self-injury; and

15 WHEREAS, the IAFF has established the IAFF
16 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health
17 Treatment and Recovery to treat IAFF members
18 suffering from substance use disorder, PTSD and
19 other behavioral health conditions; and

20 WHEREAS, the IAFF collaborates with
21 Advanced Recovery Systems and the clinical team at
22 the IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health
23 Treatment and Recovery to develop the treatment
24 protocols for IAFF members in treatment; and

25 WHEREAS, the IAFF by action at the 40th
26 Convention committed to a program of assistance to
27 local affiliates in need of information on Employee
28 Assistance Programs; and

29 WHEREAS, the IAFF General President

30 appointed a committee of eight members qualified to
31 provide such information and assistance to local
32 affiliates; and

33 WHEREAS, a committee of eight members
34 leaves eight districts of the IAFF unrepresented when
35 it comes to advising the General President and
36 Executive Board on behavioral health resources and
37 programming for affiliates; and

38 WHEREAS, the employee assistance programs
39 have proven to be largely ineffective in assisting
40 IAFF members with their behavioral health needs;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, the behavioral health needs of IAFF
43 members extend beyond the services available from
44 most employee assistance programs throughout the
45 United States and Canada; therefore be it

46 RESOLVED, That the IAFF change the name of
47 the Labor/Employee Assistance Program Committee
48 to the IAFF Behavioral Health Committee; and be it
49 further

50 RESOLVED, That the IAFF Behavioral Health
51 Committee shall be comprised of a maximum of
52 sixteen committee members, one from each District,
53 appointed by the IAFF General President; and be it
54 further

55 RESOLVED, That 1 ½ cents from Resolution 42-
56 2016, which is scheduled to sunset after this
57 convention, shall be allocated to fund this resolution.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: 1 ½ cents

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted