

BYLAWS OF COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER 15-2

PREAMBLE

The North Carolina Chapter 15-2 of the Combat Veteran's Motorcycle Association, publishes and declares the following as the bylaws governing said chapter, Combat Veteran's Motorcycle Association, herein referred to as CVMA. **THIS ORGANIZATION IS NOT, NOR DOES IT CLAIM TO BE, A MOTORCYCLE CLUB (MC). IT DOES NOT HAVE "COLORS" AND DOES NOT "PROSPECT." IT DOES NOT LAY CLAIM TO EXCLUSIVE TERRITORY.**

ARTICLE I

NAME AND JURISDICTION

Section 1. Name. This Chapter shall be known as the Combat Veteran's Motorcycle Association, North Carolina, Chapter 15-2, herein referred to as "Chapter."

Section 2. Principle Office.

- a. The principle office of the Chapter shall be located at the following address:

2831 The Plaza
Charlotte, NC 28205

- b. Change of Address. The designation of the county or city of the Chapter's principal office may change by amendment of these bylaws. The Chapter's Elected Officers, herein referred to as Officers, may change the principal office from one location to another within the named state by noting the changed address and effective date below and not require amendment.

- i. New address:

Dated:

- ii. New address:

Dated:

Section 3. IRS Section 501(c)(19) purposes. This chapter is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and/or scientific purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Chapter Officers have the authority to change the Chapter bylaws if any part is found to be in conflict with Federal or North Carolina State Tax Laws.

Section 4. CVMA Emblem/Logo. The emblem/logo used by the Chapter is the sole property of the CVMA. The CVMA patch and logo cannot be reproduced without license from the CVMA National Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as "NBOD." The emblem of the CVMA is in the shape of a skull encompassed by the following colors. The incorporated colors are: Red, representing the blood that has been shed on the battlefield, Military Gold, representing the many ethnic backgrounds of all nations, Black, representing the heavy hearts possessed for those who gave their lives and for those that are considered missing in action or prisoners of war. The Skull and Ace of Spade represents the death that war leaves in its wake.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

General. The Chapter is formed to provide for the betterment of communication and camaraderie between other Motorcycle Association, Veterans Organizations, and or Motorcycle Groups. It does so to meet the objectives of the National CVMA as espoused in Article II of the National ByLaws at the local and State level.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

General. Membership definitions and requirements are as defined in Article III of the National CVMA ByLaws. The following clarifications are provided:

Section 1. Resignation: As it is resignation from the overall organization, resignation in accordance with National CVMA ByLaws must be by letter to the National Level officers. Courtesy copies/notifications may be made to the State Representative and Chapter Officers. The nationally designated 'waiting period' pertains.

Section 2. Voluntarily leaving the Chapter: The member must notify the State Representative and Chapter officers, either through e-mail or in writing, as a record copy must be maintained. One can leave one chapter for another or be a member-at-large at the state level. All Chapter Property remains with the Chapter.

Should members leave this chapter to go to another chapter, no funds or resources follow them. Should members leave this chapter to create another chapter, no funds or resources follow them. In this case, the new chapter can request from all state chapters help with the start up costs, and this chapter will address the request at the next meeting.

Section 3. "In Good Standing" and Discipline: The following is provided to more clearly delineate this issue:

- a. Dues are current (Nat CVMA ByLaws Art III, Definitions).
- b. Each member should attend a minimum of at least one (1) event hosted by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association per year. This can also be an event in any member's state if prior approval is obtained by the state representative from the governing body of the Combat Veterans Association. (Nat CVMA ByLaws Art III, Sec 3).
- c. Must behave in a manner that is not an embarrassment to themselves, CVMA, or the United States (Nat CVMA ByLaws Art III, Sec 6).

Of concern are both public events and private events where nonmembers or another chapter's members are present as guests. When it can be reasonably assumed that the Chapter or CVMA are participants and events can be misconceived as 'being part of' CVMA and therefore harm the image and safety of the Chapter and CVMA. Chapter members should try to contain the incident.

The Chapter Commander or Executive should investigate all incidents and talk with the member to correct it. Should it not be resolved, the officer should give the member a written notification regarding the offences, measures needed to correct the situation, and what can happen should they not be corrected. Should it remain unresolved or the issues continue, the officer will notify the State Representative who will conduct an investigation. See **NOTE** in Art V, Section 8b for further information.

- d. The elected Chapter Officers have the additional responsibility of maintaining an unbiased demeanor and bearing of the highest integrity, with "no hint of impropriety." "An honest question deserves an honest answer." An officer failing to do so faces the possibility of removal from office.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP DUES

General: Definitions, requirements, and actions as defined in Article IV of the National CVMA ByLaws. The following are provided:

Section I. Chapter Patch and Logo Ownership: As the National Patch and Logo remain the exclusive property of the National CVMA, so the Chapter Patches remain the exclusive property of the Chapter. Upon leaving the chapter, the member must return all Chapter Patches to the Chapter Officers.

ARTICLE V

ELECTIONS

General: Definitions, requirements, and actions are as defined by Article V of the National CVMA ByLaws. The following are provided:

Section 1. Rights of Members. Each full member in good standing shall be eligible to one vote. The Full member must be present to cast their vote in association business/elections with the exception of an eVote (See Art VIII, Section 6). Suspended members do not have a vote.

Section 2. Eligibility. All members shall be eligible for any office in the Chapter provided all nominees are active members and in good standing in the association and chapter. A minimum of 1 full year of CVMA membership and 6 months chapter membership is required to hold an elected office. The 6-month requirement may be waived.

Section 3. Good Standing. All elected and or appointed officers must remain active members of the chapter in good standing for the duration of their term while in office.

Section 4. Elections. Chapter elections shall be held in July. The member will be present to accept the nomination. Nominations can be made at the May, June and July meeting for inclusion in the July elections.

Section 5. Term of Office. Newly elected officers will assume office immediately upon their election. The new officers will hold that office for 24 months. If, for any reason, an officer needs to be replaced prior to February 1st of their last year of election, the term of office will be until the next scheduled election. If they are replaced on February 1st or later of the last year of election, the term of office will be that period of time plus 24 months.

Section 6. Nominations. The Commander and Secretary positions are nominated and elected in even number years. The Executive Officer, Treasurer, and Sergeant At Arms are nominated and elected in odd numbered years.

Section 7. Consecutive and Concurrent Offices. Multiple consecutive terms are permitted. Chapter officers may not hold more than one elected office concurrently. Any member may hold one elected office and one or more appointed offices concurrently.

Section 8. Resignation and Discipline.

- a. Should an officer resign they must do so by written communication to the Commander or Executive Officer. Once accepted the resignation takes effect and cannot be rescinded.
- b. The Chapter Commander, or, in the case it concerns the Chapter Commander, the Executive Officer will talk with the officer and if not corrected, the State Representative will be notified.

NOTE: The State Representative will then conduct an investigation, taking statements from all parties and then take the necessary actions to address the situation, either through temporarily suspending the member or recommending termination to the NBOD.

- c. Should there be a vacancy, it will be up to the Full Members to conduct an election as soon as possible to fill the remaining term of the vacant office.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. Elected Officers. (In Order of Precedence)

- a. Commander. The Commander is the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter. All matters concerning relations between the chapter and any outside person or organization should be routed to the Commander for appropriate action. The Commander will preside over all meetings of the Chapter, be a member of all committees, issue the call for all regular and special meetings of the Chapter, schedule elections ensuring consistency with these bylaws, and carryout the directives of the State Representative and the National BOD. The Executive Officer, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms are accountable to the Commander.
- b. Executive Officer. The Executive Officer shall coordinate all committees, and supervise plans for all Chapter events. The Executive Officer shall act as an intermediary between the Commander and the

members of the chapter. Additionally, the Executive Officer is second in command to the Commander, and shall assume all responsibilities and duties of the Commander in their absence.

- c. **Sergeant At Arms.** The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for ensuring that the Chapter bylaws are not violated and that the orders of the Chapter Officers are carried out in an expeditious manner. The Sergeant At Arms is responsible for policing and keeping order at all Chapter events. The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for the safety and security of the Chapter. The Sergeant at Arms will maintain order during meetings. In coordination with the Secretary, the Sergeant at Arms will verify each member is in good standing before business requiring votes of the membership. The Sergeant at Arms will have oversight of appointed Road Captains ensuring that the Chapter remains safe on Group rides and runs.
- d. **Secretary.** The Secretary is responsible for making and keeping all records, including: the membership roster, the bylaws, Rules of Order, all written reports, and shall keep correct minutes of the proceedings of the Chapter Officers, Special, and general membership meetings. The Secretary is responsible for the publishing of agenda items and minutes. The Secretary under the direction of the Commander prepares all required reports.
- e. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Chapter and maintain accurate records of receipts and expenditures of the Chapter. The Treasurer will collect all forms of income due to the Chapter, maintain the accounting books, and make payments from the Chapter's funds when so ordered by the Chapter or National BOD. The Treasurer shall maintain the Chapter accounts, including but not limited to the checkbook and shall insure that all checks over \$150 are signed by two authorized signers. Those authorized to sign are the Commander, Executive Officer, and the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall make a report at the Regular and Annual Meetings on the financial status of the Chapter or at any other time as requested by the Commander. The Treasurer shall ensure that standard financial practices are strictly followed. An annual audit will be conducted by a committee of 3 chapter full members. They will provide a written report at the annual Chapter Meeting.

Section 2. Appointed Officers. The Commander may appoint Officers and specify their duties. These may include but are not limited to: Road Captains, Public Relations Officer, Chaplain, and Auxiliary Liaison Officers. Appointed officers do not have to be a Full Member. (Per Chapter ByLaws Art V, Sect 1 only Full Members may vote.)

- a. **Road Captain.** The Road Captain is an appointed position by the Commander. The Road Captain is responsible for all Chapter runs. They shall research, plan, and organize all runs. During actual time on the road or at intermediate stops during a run, he shall act as ranking officer deferring only to the Commander or Executive Officer. The Road Captain is responsible directly to the Sergeant at Arms. The RC is responsible for conducting the pre-Ride Brief to include welcoming all guests, agenda, ride order and procedures, and safety issues.
- b. **Chaplain.** The Chaplain is responsible for the overall morale and welfare of the membership and to veterans who have been entrusted to our care. They coordinate Requests for Assistance, Funerals, Welcome Homes, Meet and Greets, and Mug and Hugs. The Chaplain opens each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. They also maintain a Chapter supplied \$100 petty cash fund for items such as presentation flags, coins, and poker chips for the execution of their duties.
- c. **Public Relations Officer.** The Public Relations Officer will maintain a file and have it ready to present at each meeting and all chapter functions. He or she will be in charge of all chapter publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the chapter's Commander. Duties include: Historian, club file, pictures, newspaper articles, and TV and radio announcements.
- d. **Quartermaster.** The Quartermaster is responsible for the inventory of all chapter items and is central in their acquisition and disposition.
- e. **Web Master.** The Web Master is responsible for the chapter's web presence and works with the Public Relations Officer and elected officers to ensure an accurate image is presented and chapter members have accurate and current information.

Section 3. Attendance of Officers. All elected and appointed officers shall make every reasonable effort to attend every meeting, event and formal function of the Chapter. Those officers should notify the Commander or Executive Officer when they are unable to attend a meeting, event or function. Officers that accumulate three consecutive unexcused absences shall be deemed to have abandoned their office and election shall be conducted as soon as possible to fill such office until the term of the office expires.

Section 4. Performance of Duties. Failure without just cause to perform the duties of the office to which elected or appointed may result in the removal of the officer.

**ARTICLE VII
DELEGATIONS**

Section 1. Appointed. Delegations will be appointed by the Commander, but are subject to the approval of the State Representative to represent the chapter at any convention, meeting, rally, or other assembly that may be deemed necessary. All delegations are authorized to exercise only those powers specifically vested in them by the State Representative and Chapter Commander.

**ARTICLE VIII
MEETINGS AND QUORUM**

Section 1. Regular Meetings. The Chapter membership shall meet every month at the VFW located at 2831 The Plaza, Charlotte, NC 28205-2413. Officers will meet at 1200; the regular meeting will be at 1300. The Commander may cancel a regular meeting in the event of inclement weather or other unusual event or circumstance. In such a case, reasonable effort will be made to notify all members of the cancellation.

Section 2. Annual Meetings. An annual meeting of the members shall occur in place of the regular meeting prior to the Annual State Meeting. The specific date, time and location of which will be designated by the Commander. At the annual meeting the members elect officers according to the bylaws, receive reports on activities of the chapter and association, and determine the direction of the chapter for the coming year.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by an elected Chapter Officer or a petition signed by five (5) percent of the voting members.

Section 4. Notice of Meeting. Notice and agenda of meetings shall be made by mail, email, web site, phone call, or facsimile to each voting member, not less than forty eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Section 5. Quorum. The members present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Voting. Chapter issues that need to be voted on by the members may be done electronically if decided on by the Chapter Commander and Chapter Executive Officer. Chapter Officer Positions will be voted on by Full Members present, with the following exception: Those members on Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard who are forward deployed, TDY, or Drill Status. These Full Members may submit their votes to at least two of the chapter officers telephonically or electronically.

The eVote: In fulfilling our motto, "Vets Helping Vets," there are events that occur that preclude holding a vote at the next meeting. In such cases, an eVote will be held either through email or other internet polling means. The majority of those participating will constitute the motion passing. This eVote ONLY can be conducted if all of the following conditions are met:

- There is an immediate or urgent validated need.
- It is to benefit a validated veteran(s). Specifically name, address, phone number, and email address must be available to the chapter officers. Confidentiality of the veteran must be kept.
- The assistance is limited to \$500 from chapter monies. This does not prevent members from "passing the hat" to up the monies.
- A time limit to vote is included in the poll.
- The record of the vote and actions taken will be included in the next meeting's minutes.
- Include in the poll the current account balance, including pending deposits and withdraws, for the bank account(s) that the funds would be pulled.

Section 7. Rules. Procedural matters shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 8. Minutes. Minutes of all meetings shall be published to the Chapter web site no later than 7 days after the meeting.

ARTICLE IX

SUBORDINATION AND AUTHORITY

Section 1. Authority. The supreme power of this Chapter shall be vested in the National CVMA.

Section 2. Chapter Government. Subject to the provisions of the National CVMA bylaws, the government of this Chapter shall be vested in the membership, the Chapter Officers and the lawful orders of the Chapter Commander.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Altered. These bylaws may be altered, or repealed by new bylaws adopted at any announced meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present. The Chapter Officers may alter or amend these bylaws only to revise a conflicting article and/or section or to improve or clarify wording or intent.

Section 2. Amendments. Any proposed amendment to these bylaws may be acted upon at any membership meeting, provided that a copy of any said proposed amendment shall be provided to each Chapter member thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment may be acted upon. Any such proposed amendment shall be declared adopted upon a majority vote of the meeting. Approved and accepted amendments take effect immediately.

Section 3. Changes. Any changes to any article and or section of the Chapter bylaws will be discussed and voted on by a quorum.

Section 4. Precedence. If any Chapter bylaw conflicts with the National CVMA bylaws, the National CVMA bylaws will take precedence, with the exception of any National CVMA bylaw that conflicts with Federal and/or State of North Carolina Law.

Section 5. Conflicting. If any Chapter bylaw conflicts with Federal and/or State of North Carolina provisions and/or statutes and/or National CVMA bylaws, the conflicting article(s) and/or section(s) shall be revised by the Chapter Officers and shall take effect immediately. Members will be advised of such changes immediately. Proposals for changes to the immediate changes made by the Chapter Officers will be subject to Article X Sections 2 and 3 of these bylaws.

ARTICLE XI

CONSTRUCTION AND TERMS

Section 1. Unenforceable or Invalid. If any of the provisions or provisions of these bylaws be held unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions and portions of these bylaws shall be unaffected by such holding.

Section 2. References. All references in these bylaws to a section or section of the Internal Revenue Code shall be to such sections of the current Internal Revenue Code as amended from time to time, or to corresponding provisions of any future federal tax code.