

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
MOTORCYCLE GROUP *of* TEXAS**

BY-LAWS

NAME & EMBLEM

ARTICLE 1

The name of the group is:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Group *of* Texas

OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE 2

The purpose of the group is:

- a.) The **Veterans *of* Foreign Wars Motorcycle Group *of* Texas**, here in after referred to as the **(VFWMG)**, is sponsored by a **Post** of the **Veterans *of* Foreign Wars Department *of* Texas**, here in after referred to as the **(VFW)**, and is a family oriented organization dedicated to the ideals of the *Veterans of Foreign Wars* of the United States, and formed for the betterment of communication and camaraderie between other *Veterans Organizations, Communities* and or *Motorcycle Groups*.
- b.) To promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activities that will promote camaraderie amongst membership and offer support of any programs that are sponsored by the **(VFW)**.
- c.) To encourage a better understanding of Motorcycle Riding as a constructive sport among members of the *VFW*, the *Public*, *Law Enforcement Agencies*, and other *Veterans Organizations*.

MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 3

Section 1.

Any Person:

- a.) Must be of Good Character.
- b.) Must meet all eligibility requirements of and be a member in good standing of the **(VFW)**.
- c.) Must provide the proof of membership to the **(VFW)**, a current membership number and or membership card assigned by the *Veterans of Foreign Wars National Membership Office*.

Section 2.

VFWMG Riding Members must:

- a.) Be recommended by 2 active members of the **(VFWMG)** in good standing.

- b.)** Attend a minimum of two (2) (**VFWMG**) business meetings and/or participate in two (2) rides or events that are hosted by the (**VFWMG**) as a minimum requirement for membership. The event can be in any Area of the State if prior approval is obtained from the governing body of the (**VFWMG**) Post Unit in which the member is applying for membership in.

Section 3.

Membership Voting In:

Once the perspective member has met the minimum requirements for membership, the unit membership committee will make their recommendations (yea, nay, or more evaluation time needed) to the general membership during a regular business meeting at which time a vote will be taken.

Section 4.

Once a member:

- a.)** Is accepted and has been voted in as a member, their membership dues are due payable at that time, and they may purchase a vest with all applicable patches. Any member, being VFWMG, VFW Support, or Auxiliary member that holds either an elected or appointed office is required to purchase a vest with applicable patches.
- b.)** Attendance at Two (2) Unit Meetings annually is required to remain an active member.

Section 5.

For Program Participation:

- a.)** All riding members driving must possess a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement, as well as proof of liability insurance for their motorcycle.
- b.)** Must either ride or operate a motorcycle of sufficient size and power to maintain extended highway speeds. All members must operate their motorcycles in a safe and controlled manner at all times.

Section 6.

Auxiliary Members:

- a.)** Must be of Good Character.
- b.)** Must support the efforts the (**VFWMG**), and be a member in good standing of the (**VFW**) Auxiliaries.
- c.)** The Auxiliary will be attached to the Post Unit that they are sponsored from. They will be governed by the by-laws of the (**VFWMG**).
- d.)** With the exception that if a hosting Post or Unit does not have a Post Ladies or Men's Auxiliary in place, another Unit may give their permission by membership vote only, to allow an

Auxiliary Candidate to join their Post Auxiliary and get credit for their attendance to the Unit Meetings and Activities that they are close to.

Section 7.

VFW & Auxiliary Non-Rider (Support) Members:

- a.) Must be of Good Character.
- b.) Anyone who is a member of the (VFW) and or its Auxiliaries, but is a Non-Rider and wants to support the efforts the (VFWMG) may apply for membership as a Support Member.
- c.) The support members will be attached to the Post Unit that they are sponsored from. They will be governed by the by-laws of the (VFWMG).

Section 8.

Membership Verification:

By applying for membership with the (VFWMG), you are giving the (VFWMG), and its Officers the right, to verify any membership application through the Department, or National Headquarters of the (VFW) or its Auxiliaries.

Section 9.

Conduct of Members:

All members **MUST** conduct themselves in a manner that is not an embarrassment, to himself, herself, the (VFWMG), and or the (VFW/Auxiliaries) organization.

Section 10.

Disciplinary Action:

- a.) In the event of misconduct of a member, under the by-laws of the (VFWMG), the President possesses the right to temporarily revoke that member's membership privileges including wearing of group patch and participation in group activities, until a regular meeting or a special called meeting can be held and the members in attendance can vote on the action that should be taken. Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the by-laws, of the (VFWMG) and or the **Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States** and its Auxiliaries.
- b.) The (VFWMG) **IS NOT** a sanctioned **Motorcycle Club**, and as such they do not have colors. They proudly display the (VFW) Cross of Malta, which shows that they are members of the (VFW) and or the Auxiliaries, and must always conduct themselves with that representation in mind.

(VFWMG) State Chairman/Coordinator

ARTICLE 4

Section 1.

- a.)** A (VFWMG) State Chairman/Coordinator is appointed by the incoming State Commander of the Department of the Department of Texas.
- b.)** If at any time an Incoming State Commander does not appoint a State Chairman/Coordinator, A State Liaison will be elected by the (VFWMG) Council Unit Members.

Section 2.

- a.)** The State Chairman/Coordinator will be the Chief Officer of the (VFWMG) Council.
- b.)** The State Chairman/Coordinator will appoint a State Council Secretary.
- c.)** The State Chairman/Coordinator will appoint a State Council Treasurer.
- d.)** The State Chairman/Coordinator may appoint any committees as he or she deems necessary.

(VFWMG) Council of Units

ARTICLE 5

Section 1.

- a.)**The (VFWMG) Council of Units is to be made up of two Officers of each Unit.
- b.)** It should be the Unit President and one other Rider Member.
- c.)**All matters brought before the Council, must be presented thru the duly authorized Council Members.

UNIT CHARTER

ARTICLE 6

Section 1.

Approval of:

- a.) The Sponsoring Post and the **(VFWMG)** State Special Events Chairman, must approve all applications for a new Charter Unit of the **(VFWMG)**.
- b.) A Unit may be applied for providing the VFW Post membership has voted and passed to sponsor a Unit and provided a copy of the Post minutes to show such vote.

Section 2.

A Chartered Unit:

- a.) Will be sponsored by a **(VFW)** Post.
- b.) It will consist of at least 10 **(VFW)** rider members with a motorcycle endorsement at all times to be recognized as a **(VFWMG)** Post Unit.
- c.) In order to hold harmless the **Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**, the **VFW Men's Auxiliary**, and the **VFW Ladies Auxiliary** it is mandatory that the **American Motorcyclist Association**, hereafter referred to as the **(AMA)** charter any Post Unit, hosting outside events or rides with the general public and Non **(VFWMG)** members or the Unit or Post must show proof of a Liability Insurance.

Section 3.

Charter Members:

- a.) The organizer of a new prospective Unit must follow the membership requirements for membership as stated in Article 3, Section 1.
- b.) All other charter members of a new Unit must be sponsored by a current member or members of the **(VFWMG)**, and may be exempt from some of the attendance requirements, at the discretion of the
(VFWMG).

INSIGNIA

ARTICLE 7

Section 1.

Patches/Logos

- a.) The emblem/logo used by **(VFWMG)** is the Cross of Malta with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States around it which the **(VFW)** has the copy rights to, and as such

will be purchased from the **(VFW)** Supply Catalog. The **(VFWMG)** patch will be a one piece patch, which has two rockers incorporated in it, one on the top that reads Veterans of Foreign Wars and the one on the bottom will read Motorcycle Group, and with a space in the middle for the VFW Cross of Malta to be inserted in. The patch will be worn on the back of a black leather vest. Below that may be a special rocker that denotes Charter Member, Unit Member or Support Member.

b.) That is the only patch, or markings of any kind, that will be displayed on the back of a member's vest, and may only be worn by a member in good standing with both the **(VFWMG)** and the **(VFW)**. All Unit#, Offices held, Name or Nick Name Patches as well as Charter Member patches for Support Members that join during the open charter period, will be worn on the front left side of vest under the Texas Flag and above any military badges & or ribbons.

c.) The Ladies Auxiliary members will use the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Emblem Patch with the same Veterans of Foreign Wars ribbon on top and Motorcycle Group rocker on bottom and an Auxiliary rocker under it. If a Ladies Auxiliary member joins during the open charter period, a smaller Charter Member Patch will be placed on the front left side under the Unit patch.

d.) The Men's Auxiliary members will use the **VFW** Men's Auxiliary Emblem Patch with the same Veterans of Foreign Wars ribbon on top and Motorcycle Group rocker on bottom and a Men's Auxiliary Member rocker under it. If a Men's Auxiliary member joins during the open charter period, then a Charter Member Patch will be placed on the front left side.

e.) The **(VFW)** Post and Auxiliary that the member belongs to as well as but not limited to, being a Life Member of said Post or Auxiliary, will be noted on a patch on the right front side of vest, under the U.S. Flag.

f.) The above mentioned patches may not be reproduced without written permission from the State Unit Council.

g.) Any Unit wanting to use Logos for items to be sold must provide a draft or prototype of item to State Council of Units for written permission to produce.

Section 2.

Vest & Patches Cost:

a.) Any member purchasing vest and patches of the **(VFWMG)** will be done so at cost plus shipping and handling.

b.) The Cross of Malta will be purchased through the **(VFW)** Supply Catalog, at the current rate at time of purchase, plus applicable shipping and handling charges.

c.) To insure the look of the vest and patches remain the same, the Leather Vest as well as the all

Group patches, including but not limited to Charter Member, Support Member, Auxiliary Member Rockers, as well as the Flags and Officer, Post # and Name Patches for the front are to be purchased from a designated source through the original charter group.

FEES AND DUES

ARTICLE 8

Section 1.

Dues:

- a.) Membership dues shall be a minimum of \$20.00 annually, for all members, including the (VFWMG) Rider Members, the (VFW) Non-Rider (Support) Members and the Auxiliary Members, and shall be scheduled or formulated as may from time to time be prescribed by the governing body of group and approved by the general membership.
- b.) The (VFWMG) State Council will receive \$5.00 of the annual dues to cover administration cost payable as may be set fourth each year by the current State Chairman.
- c.) Membership dues for Life Membership shall be a minimum of \$100.00 once, for all members, including the (VFWMG) Rider Members, the (VFW) Non-Rider (Support) Members and the Auxiliary Members, and shall be scheduled or formulated as may from time to time be prescribed by the governing body of group and approved by the general membership.
- d.) The (VFWMG) State Council will receive a one time fee of \$25.00 of the Life Membership dues to cover administration cost.
- e.) If a (VFWMG) Life Member does not pay his or her (VFW) or Auxiliary Membership during a calendar year, and are a Life Member of the VFWMG, they will lose their VFWMG Membership Status for the time of period in which they are not a paid up member.

Section 2.

Membership Year:

A member whose current dues are paid to December 31 is in good standing and is entitled to all membership rights, unless suspended or terminated, in accordance with the National By-Laws.

If the member's dues are accepted after July 1, he or she is a member in good standing and entitled to all of the rights and privileges of membership in the VFW and will not be required to pay dues for any part of the current calendar year.

ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 9

Section 1.

The members of each Unit shall elect a:

- a.) President
- b.) Vice President
- c.) Treasurer
- d.) Chaplain

Section 2.

The President shall appoint a:

- a.) Secretary
- b.) Sergeant of Arms
- c.) Safety Officer
- d.) Public Relations Officer
- e.) 2 Road Captains (or more if deemed necessary)
- f.) Historian (if deemed necessary)
- g.) 2 Council Members
- h.) 3 Trustees

Section 3.

- a.) All nominees for any office must be active and in good standing in **(VFWMG)** and the **(VFW)**.
- b.) Only **(VFWMG)** Rider Members may hold an elected office.
- c.) All officers are to be nominated and elected not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days before the current year's **(VFW)** State Convention, and will assume office the first day after the incoming **(VFW)** State Commander takes office, and will hold that office for 12 months or until a successor is duly qualified and elected.
- d.) The President can appoint any **VFWMG, Support, Men or Ladies Auxiliary** Member to hold an appointed office. They must remain active members in good standing for the duration of the term while in office of both the **(VFWMG)** Post Unit and the **(VFW)** and/or **(VFW Auxiliaries - Ladies or Men's)**.

ARTICLE 10

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

STATE COUNCIL OFFICERS

Section 1.

The State Chairman/Coordinator, or his or her Co-Chair, in his or her absence, will preside over all State Meetings and State Runs.

Section 2.

The State Council of Units will present all matters pertaining to By-Law Changes and any other business that the State Chairman/Coordinator deems should be brought before the general membership.

Section 3.

The State Council Treasurer will be accountable the funds that are sent to the State Council for Membership as well as any other funds collected through out the year. The Treasurer is to keep a separate line item for funds for membership so that any remaining funds at the end of the year may be turned over to the new incoming State Council Treasurer.

Section 4.

The State Council Secretary will be responsible with updating the Units information and forms on the Web Site through the Web Master, as well as tracking membership to all Units and assigning new membership numbers.

Section 5.

All administrative expenses incurred by the State Council Secretary for items such as printing and Web Site Hosting, but not limited to, are to be paid for out of the Membership Dues collected through out the year.

UNIT OFFICERS

ARTICLE 11

Section 1.

The President will preside over all meetings of the groups unit; serve as a member of all committees, issue the call for regular and special meetings, schedule regular elections, and are sure they are held in accordance with the by-laws of the (VFWMG).

Section 2.

The Vice-President will perform all duties of the President in his/her absence and fulfill any other duties requested by President to help with club activities and membership.

Section 3.

The Treasurer will collect dues and other forms of income due to the group, maintain the accounting books, make payments from the group funds when so ordered by the President and or a vote of the membership, sign all group checks (along with the President's or the Vice-

President's signature) and make regular reports of the groups financial status to the general membership.

Section 4.

The Chaplain shall keep a record of any sick and distressed members and make report of such at meetings. The Chaplain shall give opening and closing prayers of thanks and thoughts at meetings and group functions.

Section 5.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings and take care of membership records and process membership applications, unless, this duty is assigned to someone other than the Secretary by the President. The Secretary will also handle correspondence for the Unit or as ask to do so by the President.

Section 6.

The Sergeant of Arms is to help see that all meetings and Group functions are carried out with out incident or disturbance. He is to with the approval of the President, police and enforces the by-laws, conduct regulations,

Section 7.

The Safety Officer is to Monitor the local and state legislative activities affecting motorcycling. To make sure a meet is properly sanctioned, with liability insurance coverage intact. To review registration procedures and ensure that an adequate supply of all sign-up materials and release forms are available. To research and consolidate information on all participant or spectator mishaps or occurrences. To complete and mail the ICO injury report from within 24 hours after the meet. To call the AMA immediately following the meet to report any serious accident.

Section 8.

The Public Relations Officer will maintain a file and have it ready to present at each meeting and all group functions. He or she will be in charge of all (VFWMG) Unit publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the Group Unit President. Duties will include, but not be limited to Historian, Club File, Pictures, Newspaper Articles, TV and Radio Announcements, Club Community Book, and the Group Unit Web Site.

Section 9.

The Unit is to have 2 Road Captains. Both are to plan all group tours, runs, activities, etc. To stimulate interest in activities. To assist in handling group socials, parties, and other functions. To enforce all rules of group riding. One is to lead the club in formation riding or parades, and the other is to close up the rear to watch for potential problems with riders or equipment.

**ARTICLE 12
MEETINGS**

State Council

Section 1.

The State Chairman/Coordinator shall hold a state meeting at the (VFW) Mid-Winter Conference and the (VFW) State Convention.

Section 2.

A quorum to conduct business shall be at least 50% of Units Represented by Council Members or Representatives.

ARTICLE 13

Section 1.

A quorum of conducting business shall be at least 5 members present at any given meeting.

Section 2.

See Duties of Officers, Article 6, and Section 1 - 9.

Section 3.

Special meetings must be called for a date not more than fourteen (14) days after:

- a.) The Presidents receives the signed, written request; or
- b.) The majority vote of the members at a regular meeting; or
- c.) The date upon which the President determines that a special meeting maybe necessary.

Section 4.

The President rule of order will be applied during meetings to affect Demeter's parliamentary procedure, unless otherwise amended and provided for in by-laws.

Section 5.

A Unit should hold at least one (1) meeting every month with the general membership.

American Motorcyclist Association

ARTICLE 14

Section 1.

The (VFWMG) will follow all requirements to remain members in good standing of the American Motorcyclist Association, here in after referred to as (AMA), as a Promoting Club with at least 10 members if sanctioning events with individual and or group rides that are non (VFWMG) members.

Section 2.

A minimum of two (2) Officers of each Unit, are required to personally fulfill all requirements as a member of the (AMA), and to remain a member in good standing for at least the year they are in office.

Section 3.

All outside Fundraiser, Runs, and or Rally's are to be sanctioned by the **(AMA)** to insure the **(VFWMG)**, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The Men's Auxiliary, and the Ladies Auxiliary, Department and National as a whole are held harmless for any liabilities of injury or damage.

Section 4.

All chartered **(VFWMG)** Post Units that plan to hold Fundraisers, Runs, and or Rally's are required to become a promoting group charter of the **(AMA)**. All event Sanction Applications are to be filed by the Unit through the sponsoring Post officers or membership and then sent to the for State Council Chairman approval prior to scheduling an event.

By-Law Changes

ARTICLE 15

Section 1.

All proposed changes and or additions to these by-laws shall be sent to the State Chairman in writing by the Unit President. He will then send the proposed changes out to all of the Unit Presidents to discuss with their membership. Then if the majority of the Council agrees with the proposed changes, they will be drawn up by the State Secretary and brought to the State **(VFWMG)** Meeting for a Council Vote. A vote of 2/3rds of Council members in attendance of the meeting is required for approval.

Section 2.

After all changes and or additions are made and binding, a copy of the new By-Laws is to be submitted to the VFW Department of Texas and placed on the Web Site.