

BYLAWS
of
COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION (CVMA),
CHAPTER 6-3



This Chapter shall conduct all official meetings under the rules and directions of the CVMA Charter, Constitution or Bylaws, as well as the Chapter 6-3 Bylaws. The decorum and rule of order of any Chapter meeting shall be further guided and maintained by any Chapter standing rules, Robert’s Rules of Order, and lastly, custom and tradition.

PREAMBLE

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Chapter 6-3 (CVMA 6-3) is formed and dedicated to support Veterans, Veterans’ groups, and Military support charities and is dedicated to the motto, “Veterans helping Veterans.” As such, CVMA 6-3 is additionally dedicated to the betterment of communication and camaraderie between Motorcycle Associations, Veterans’ Organizations, and other Motorcycle Groups and/or Clubs.

ARTICLE I : NAME AND EMBLEM

Section 1

The name of this organization shall be: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Chapter 6-3 (CVMA 6-3).

Section 2

In accordance with (IAW) the CVMA national bylaws, the principle office of the CVMA will be located at 1019 Highland, Liberty, MO 64068, USA.

Section 3

Within the state of Louisiana the principle office of CVMA 6-3 will be located in Shreveport, LA, USA. The Chapter Board of Directors may change the principle office from one location to another; this change will require a change in the bylaws.

Section 4

IAW the CVMA national bylaws, the CVMA 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.

Section 5

The emblem / logo used by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is the sole property of the CVMA. The CVMA patch and logo cannot be reproduced without license from the National Board of Directors (BOD). The emblem of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 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. The Military Gold, representing all branches of the military service of the United States. 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 2 : OBJECTIVES

Section 1

The objectives and purposes of this Chapter shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing Preamble and the CVMA national bylaws.

Section 2

This Charter is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to the members thereof and is organized solely for non-profit purposes. The property, assets, profits, and net income of this corporation are irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of the profits or net income of this charter shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

Section 3

Upon dissolution or winding up of this Chapter, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of this corporation, shall be distributed to the CVMA, or to a non-profit fund, foundation or corporation, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable veteran purposes, and which has established its tax exempt status under section 23701d of the Revenue and Taxation Code and/or Section 501 (9)(c)(3) or Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 4

The Benevolent Fund for CVMA 6-3 members will be \$250.00 per incident. The Benevolent Fund will be used for emergency purposes, i.e., unable to pay electric or water bill, and will not be used by members to perform maintenance on their motorcycles. Assistance provided will not

be required to be paid back. A member in need can petition the Chapter for funds. Donations will be taken at each meeting (i.e., a 50/50 raffle is an acceptable means of obtaining donations) and the donations will be separated from the general funds used to perform the daily operations of the Chapter.

ARTICLE 3 : MEMBERSHIP

General – Definitions

The term “good standing” shall be defined as any person who has fulfilled the requirements for membership in the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, who is not currently under disciplinary review or probationary status for discipline reasons, who has paid the necessary dues and conformed to the requirements as set forth in these bylaws.

Section 1

Full Members:

- a. Of good character.
- b. Who is a Veteran of a Foreign War, “Combat.”
- c. The ONLY acceptable proof for membership to the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is a copy of one’s DD-214 or Enlisted Record Brief (ERB) which must be surrendered to the State Representative for verification.
- d. National annual dues of \$20.00 will be assessed for all Full Members. Dues for CVMA members deployed in a war zone will be waived. Dues for all members are payable by June 30th of each year. Dues for all new members joining between January 1st and June 30th will be considered as paid in full for the balance of the current year and up to date required for the next year.
- e. Must own and operate a motorcycle of 500cc or above.
- f. Should a Full Member resign they will be given a 5 day grace period to rescind their resignation with no repercussions. After the 5 day grace period a member will have to re-apply for membership as a new member and will require BOD approval.
- g. Active members in good standing with CVMA 6-3, who become infirm, disabled or otherwise unable to ride their motorcycles will be able to keep their patch and be retired as members in good standing with CVMA 6-3. Members must submit medical documentation and a minimum of one year as a member and/or BOD approval is required.
- h. Must obtain an application from the State Representative or the Chapter Commander or his designated representative before becoming a member.
- i. Life Membership requirements: 3 years in the CVMA. Member must be in good standing for all three years and a minimum participation of one sanctioned CVMA event per year. One of the events must be a National meeting. Cost for Life Membership is \$200.00. If a Life Member quits for any reason or the member is removed from the CVMA rolls for any reason, no refunds will be made.
- j. Pending approval by the National Board of Directors (NBOD), Life Members, if for health reasons can no longer ride a motorcycle can at their discretion, remain members in good standing with full voting privileges and can keep their patch.

Section 2 (a)

Auxiliary Members:

- a. Must be of good character.
- b. All Auxiliary Members must be a spouse, widow or widower of a Full Member or Support Member who is in good standing with the CVMA.
- c. Must support the efforts of ALL branches of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.
- d. Will have a vote in CVMA 6-3 for business dealing with Chapter Functions and fundraisers but not on Officer Elections or items intended for National business.
- e. Cannot hold a position on the BOD, but may hold an Appointed/Non-BOD office in CVMA 6-3.
- f. \$10.00 National annual dues will be assessed by CVMA Auxiliary Unit.

Section 2 (b)

Support Members:

- a. Must be of good character.
- b. Must own and operate a motorcycle of 500cc or greater.
- c. Maximum number of Support Members will not exceed 10% of total CVMA Full (Combat Veterans) Membership of CVMA 6-3.
- d. Support Members must be a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States of America.
- e. Support Members will read and abide by all CVMA bylaws applicable to them. Sections excluded:
 - i. Article 5 and subsection 2 (except Appointed/Non-BOD offices)
- f. Support Members are required to submit their application with proof of military service through a full member of CVMA 6-3 who has held membership for not less than one year. Support Members are required to have either ridden a minimum of 3,000 miles with their sponsor, attended three CVMA events or be known by their sponsor for a minimum of 6 months. A Full Member submitting an application for a Support Member should verify they meet the above criteria. Only 1 Support Member can be vouched on per year by an individual CVMA 6-3 member. Support Members will be a 1 to 10 ratio, 1 Support Member to 10 Full Members based on Chapter.
- g. Will have a vote in CVMA 6-3 for business dealing with Chapter Functions and fundraisers but not on Officer Elections or items intended for National business.
- h. Cannot hold a position on the BOD, but may hold an Appointed/Non-BOD office in CVMA 6-3 with the exception of Liaison / Confederation of Clubs (CoC), which can only be held by a Full Member.
- i. \$10.00 National annual dues will be assessed.
- j. Support members in good standing can wear a small CVMA Support Patch on the front of their vest or jacket which will be supplied by the Chapter. Support members can also wear the 10 inch support back patch which will be supplied by the Chapter.

Section 3

By applying for membership with the CVMA 6-3, you are giving the Chapter and its Board of Directors the right to verify any membership application and DD-214 records.

Section 4

Each member should attend a minimum of at least one (1) event hosted by the CVMA 6-3 per year.

Section 5

All members **MUST** conduct themselves in a manner that is not an embarrassment to themselves, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, or the United States of America.

Section 6

All members must possess a valid motorcycle driver's license endorsed by their state as well as proof of insurance for their motorcycle.

Section 7

In the event of misconduct by any member, under the National and/or Chapter bylaws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, the Board of Directors will appoint a disciplinary board, to be made up of not less than 10% of the Full Members to discuss and vote on the misconduct and the punishment and or to revoke the member's membership. Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the bylaws of CVMA 6-3 and any organization that the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association supports.

- a. Bringing dishonor on the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association in action, word(s), or deeds. Always remember **WE ARE NOT, NOR DO WE CLAIM TO BE, A MOTORCYCLE CLUB! WE DO NOT HAVE COLORS!** We do not prospect. We do have membership fees.

Section 8

No person expelled from another Chapter for cause shall be admitted to this Chapter without the explicit consent of the expelling Chapter and the CVMA National Board of Directors.

Section 9

Each member should pay his/her National dues online by PayPal or credit card (processed by PayPal) using the Pay Member Dues button in the Dues section of his/her 201 File found on the National website of the CVMA (<https://combatvet.org/>).

Section 10

"Patching In" ceremonies are conducted by the Commander to bestow the patches of the CVMA on new Full Members, Support Members and Auxiliary Members. Such ceremonies shall be held at the earliest opportunity after a member is approved for membership in the CVMA and in a dignified location befitting of this organization. At no time shall such ceremonies be held in a location that could bring discredit upon the CVMA and/or its members. Appropriate locations include, but are not limited to, National, Regional, State and Chapter meetings, properties owned, leased or otherwise occupied by veterans organizations, such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Veterans (AMVETS), etc. Inappropriate locations

include bars, lounges, nightclubs or any other location that exists primarily to serve alcoholic beverages.

ARTICLE 4 : ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Section 1

All nominees for any office, Elected and Appointed, must be active and in good standing in the Chapter with a minimum of 1 full year CVMA membership. All nominees for an elective office must be present at the Chapter meeting to accept nomination and election results. Retired members cannot hold a Chapter officer position.

Section 2

All Elected and or Appointed Officers and Board of Directors must remain active members in good standing for the duration of the term while in office.

Section 3

In the event that any Elected Officer is absent for more than three consecutive meetings without being excused by the Commander, such office shall be declared vacant by a simple vote of the membership. The vacancy so created will be filled by election at the next regularly scheduled meeting of CVMA 6-3. This section shall apply equally to Appointed Officers, but the vacancy so created will be filled IAW Section 12 of this article.

Section 4

All officers are to be nominated and elected at the CVMA 6-3 meeting will assume the office immediately following elections and hold that office for 24 months or until their successors are duly qualified. Consecutive terms are permitted.

Section 5

Nominations and elections for officers must be made at the CVMA 6-3 meeting.

Section 6

Members nominated for any office, Elected and Appointed, are qualified if he or she is a paid member in good standing with the Chapter or the CVMA for a minimum of 1 year.

Section 7

BOD members will be considered for re-election in the following order: Commander, Secretary, XO, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms. Should any officer resign or be removed for any reason the BOD will call a special election of the Chapter Full Members and nominations for the newly filled position will be taken at this time.

Section 8

For election purposes, if an Officer wishes to run for an Office other than his/her existing Office, they will remain in their current position. If he/she is unsuccessful during elections he/she will continue to hold their current officer position.

Section 9

Should an Elected Officer resign from office for any reason the XO will hold the position until a special election can be called.

Section 10

All officer resignations should provide a minimum of one month notice prior to vacancy.

Section 11

Elections for Chapter Officers will be done by ballot voting with the candidate receiving the highest number of votes being elected. All Full Members present at the meeting for the vote will be given a ballot after the member has been verified on the roster by the Sergeant at Arms or Secretary if the Sergeant at Arms is for election. All members will be allowed to remain in the room but as per Article 3 Section 2 (a, b), only Full Members will be allowed to cast a vote for Elected Officer positions. Full Members of CVMA 6-3 in good standing who are deployed military members may vote for Elected Officer positions via e-mail directly to the Secretary.

Section 12

Appointed Officers are appointed by the Commander and confirmed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5 : DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1

Commander (Elected/BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Will preside over all meetings of the Chapter.
2. Serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors.
3. Shall be, *ex officio*, a member of all standing and special committees.
4. Issue the call for regular and special Board of Directors meetings, schedule regular elections, and be sure they are IAW this constitution.
5. Carry out the directives of the Board of Directors.
6. Chair the Executive Committee.
7. Distribute a tentative agenda for the next membership meeting.

XO (Elected/BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Will perform all duties of the Commander in his absence.
2. Serve as member of the Board of Directors.
3. Assist the Commander in the execution of his/her duties as necessary.

Secretary (Elected/BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Record the minutes of membership meetings and take attendance.
2. Maintain correspondence files.
3. Serve as member of the Board of Directors.
4. Provide administrative support required by the Chapter.
5. Keep the Chapter roster current, to include the dues currency of members and to report on those currencies at regular meetings.
6. Maintain social contacts (e-mail, phone numbers, etc.).

Treasurer (Elected/BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Will collect dues and other forms of income due to the Association.
2. Maintain the accounting books.
3. Make payments from the Association funds when so ordered by the Board of Directors.
4. Sign all Association checks (along with other another officer signature).
5. Make regular reports of the Association's financial status to the Board of Directors, State Representative and the general membership.
6. Serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Sergeant at Arms (Elected/BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Maintains order during Chapter meetings.
2. Ensures eligibility of those participating in Chapter elections, and ensures ineligible persons are not allowed to participate in the vote.
3. Will lead the Chapter in any pledges or oaths as requested by the Commander.
4. Should the Chapter be required to present arms at any activity, the responsibility for the order will fall upon him/her. The Sergeant at Arms shall use the following terms when the Chapter renders the hand salute: "present arms" and "order arms."
5. Serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Public Relations Officer (Appointed/Non-BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Handles the publicity for the Chapter, including but not limited to newspaper articles, TV and radio information and appearances.
2. He or she will be in charge of the Chapter website, Facebook page and other social media, should it exist, and he/she shall serve as historian by maintaining a file of Chapter photos and activities.

Quartermaster (Appointed/Non-BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Organizes and maintains items designated by the BOD to sell at all Chapter functions.
2. Reports the status of the Chapter store to the BOD as deemed necessary by the Commander.

Chaplain (Appointed/Non-BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Lead the group in prayer before all organized rides and events.
2. Monitor the Patriot Guard website, social media, etc. and notify the BOD of any funeral processions in our area to be passed on to the general membership for attendance if requested.

Senior Road Captain (Appointed/Non-BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Responsible for all logistics of organized runs of the Chapter, including determination of dates, times, routes, and meeting places for those taking part in a run activity.
2. Appoints, directs, and dismisses assistant road captains and/or security personnel as may be required by activities and/or circumstances of the Chapter.
3. Responsible to plan for the safety of Chapter members during participation in any run or activity; and to plan for the safety of other participants in any Chapter-sponsored run or activity.

Liaison / Confederation of Clubs (CoC) (Appointed/Non-BOD; MUST be a Full Member)

The duties are as follows:

1. Act as a liaison between the Chapter and all local Motorcycle Clubs and Riding Clubs.
2. Provides information to the Commander on all events.
3. Be the Chapter's voice at all CoC meetings and functions.
4. Maintain the roster for call to actions as per the CoC leadership on items of special interest to the biker community.

Auxiliary Chapter Representative (Appointed/Non-BOD)

The duties are as follows:

1. Chairs the Chapter Auxiliary meetings.
2. Acts as a liaison between the Chapter Auxiliary and the State and National Auxiliary.
3. Provides information to the BOD on Auxiliary needs and fundraisers scheduled for the Chapter.

Section 2

The Board of Directors constitutes the Executive Committee of CVMA 6-3 and consists of all Elected Officers. The responsibilities of the Board of Directors are as follows:

1. Considers and drafts CVMA Chapter policy and guidance to be presented to the general membership for discussion and vote. Between regular meetings of the CVMA 6-3 the legislative and judicial powers of the Chapter shall be vested in the Board of Directors for the proper guidance of this organization, subject to ratification at the next Chapter meeting.
2. Advise on and confirm candidates to fill appointed positions.
3. Appointed Officers and other Chapter members may be invited to the Board of Directors meetings to discuss special interest topics.
4. The Commander may convene additional meetings of the Board of Directors if necessary.
5. A Quorum to convene a meeting of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the BOD.

Section 3

OFFICER REMOVAL

Chapter Officers may be removed from office for cause with due process, as necessary, by request of two-thirds (2/3) of the active membership in the form of a signed petition and vote of no confidence. The State Representative will have the duty of informing the Chapter Officer of such petition. The Executive Board members remaining will call a special election to replace the Officer as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 6 : MEETINGS

Section 1

A Quorum of conducting business at a Chapter meeting governed by these bylaws shall be a minimum of two Elected Officers from the Board of Directors and three additional members.

Section 2

Two active Full Members may request a special membership meeting with Board of Directors approval. Special membership meetings can be called by the Commander at his/her discretion.

Section 3

Robert's Rules of Order will be applied during meetings to affect parliamentary procedures, unless otherwise amended and provided for in the bylaws. The Commander will appoint a member of the Chapter to serve additional duty as parliamentarian.

Section 4

The regular Chapter meeting shall be held monthly, on a Saturday as scheduled in a previous regular meeting. It shall be the Commander's responsibility to notify the Chapter of all meetings.

Section 5

The regular Chapter meeting shall be held at a location determined and voted on by the Chapter membership present and may be moved from time to time to support necessary functions and rides.

ARTICLE 7 : COMMITTEES AND DELEGATIONS

Section 1

Delegations will be appointed by the Commander, but are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, 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 Board of Directors.

Section 2

All standing committees that support functions of this Chapter shall consist of members who have been approved of by a general vote in a Chapter meeting. Standing committees are considered committees that have a recurring task or responsibility and report their activity at a regular Chapter meeting. (Example: fund raising committees)

Section 3

The Commander may, from time to time, appoint a special committee for a particular task. This committee need not be approved by the membership and should serve only as a short term working entity. (Example: memorial preparation)

ARTICLE 8 : AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Proposed amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing at a Chapter meeting. CVMA 6-3 members with a valid e-mail on the roster, will be notified of the proposed amendment prior to a ratification vote which shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting of CVMA 6-3. The proposed amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those present and voting. The amendment must be forwarded to the NBOD for review and approval before formal adoption by the Chapter.

Section 2

These bylaws shall be amended to conform to any change in the CVMA charter and bylaws.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the above bylaws were read at a Chapter meeting and adopted on **September 19, 2015**, by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those present and voting.

Signed: Kent "IRISH" Harrison ///Signed///
Chapter Commander

Signed: Shawn "BO" Bohannon ///Signed///
Chapter Secretary