

COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION

ALASKA CHAPTER 43-1 BYLAWS



VERSION D

## **ARTICLE 1- NAME AND EMBLEM**

### Section 1

The name of the Association is: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

- a. The address for Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Chapter 43-1 is:  
CVMA 43-1  
VFW Post 9785  
10527 VFW Road  
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

### Section 2

The emblem and logo used by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) is Trade Marked and is the sole property of CVMA. The CVMA patch or 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- MISSION STATEMENT**

### Section 1

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association was formed to promote camaraderie among veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces and our Allies who ride motorcycles; to foster working relationships with other Veteran's Motorcycle Associations and Motorcycle Groups; to promote interest in motorcycling among Veterans; to maintain a positive image with the public, law enforcement and the media to raise public awareness of the plight of MIA's, POW's and their families. Our goal is to support Veteran Organizations, Active Duty Military personnel and their families.

### Section 2

Benevolent fund (War Chest)

- A. Funds from the War Chest will only be distributed to members of 43-1 in good standing within the CVMA and after being voted on by the Chapter during a regularly scheduled meeting. **Cap of \$500 has been set.**

## **ARTICLE 3- MEMBERSHIP**

### Section 1 – Membership

- A. 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 disciplinary reasons, who has paid the necessary State/National dues and conformed to the requirements as set forth in these bylaws.
- B. Active members in good standing with the CVMA 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 the CVMA. Members must submit medical documentation and a minimum of one year as a member and/or NBOD approval is required. Members will lose all voting privileges.
- C. Life members, if for health reasons can no longer ride can at their discretion, remain members in good standing with full voting privileges and can keep their patch.
- D. Legal Endorsement, all members, unless operating a vehicle not requiring a motorcycle license endorsement by law, must possess a valid motorcycle driver's license endorsed by their state, as well as proof of insurance for their motorcycle.

## Section 2-Full Members

- A. A Chapter must have a minimum of fifteen (15) full members.
- B. Members must be of good character.
- C. Have served in the military in a combat theater or foreign war.
- D. Provide proof of service by providing a DD 214 or ERB that will be verified by the SR and National BOD.
- E. Must own and operate a motorcycle of 500cc or larger.
- F. Full members may vouch for only one Support member per year.
- G. Full members will read and abide by all CVMA by-laws, Policies and Protocols.

## Section 3 – Auxiliary Members

- A. Must be of good character
- B. Auxiliary members must be a spouse, widow or widower of a ~~full~~ member who is in good standing with the CVMA.
- C. Auxiliary members will read and abide by all CVMA by-laws, Policies and Protocols.
- D. Cannot hold a Command position, but may hold a “Staff” position.
- E. Cannot vote on CVMA business.
- F. May serve on committees as designated by the Chapter Commander.

## Section 4-Support Members

- A. Support members must be a veteran or active member of the United States Armed Forces whom have not served in combat.
- B. Must be of good character.
- C. Own and operate a motorcycle of 500cc or larger.
- D. Maximum number of support members in a Chapter will not exceed 10% of the state membership.
- E. Support members will read and abide by all CVMA by-laws, Policies and Protocols.
- F. Support members are required to submit their application with proof of military service through a full member of the CVMA who has held a membership for not less than one year. Support members are required to have ridden a minimum of 3,000 miles with their sponsor or attended three CVMA events and be known by their sponsor for a minimum of six months. A full member submitting an application for a support member must verify they meet the above criteria.
- G. Support members may wear a small CVMA Support Patch on the front of their vest or a 10” Support Patch on the back of their vest.
- H. Cannot hold a Command position, but may hold a “Staff” position.
- I. Cannot vote on CVMA business.
- J. May serve on committees as designated by the CO.

## **ARTICLE 4- DUES**

- A. National Annual Dues for Full Members will be at the rate specified in the National By-Laws.
- B. National Annual Dues for Support Members will be at the rate specified in the National By-Laws.
- C. National Annual Dues for Auxiliary Members will be at the rate specified in the National By-Laws.
- D. Chapter 43-1 Annual Dues for all Members will be \$10.00. If not paid, member will not be within good standing within the Chapter, as per CVMA National Policy 8-2-13, 2.b.
- E. Should a full member resign, they will have a five day grace period to rescind their resignation with no penalties. After the 5-day grace period a member will have to re-apply for membership as a new member and will require National BOD approval.
- F. All national dues are assessed effective 1 March of each calendar year, paid straight to national and payable 30 June of each year.
- G. 43-1 Chapter 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 dues year. 43-1 Chapter dues for new members joining between July 1st and December 31st will be paid for the current due(s) year only. The 43-1 chapter dues will be retained and used at chapter discretion and payable by 30 June of each year to the Chapter 43-1 Treasurer.

- H. Dues for active duty personnel will be waived by National providing that the member is in fact serving in an actual combat zone. Other active duty personnel stationed stateside or overseas regardless of branch of service will still be required to pay annual dues. The member deployed to an AOE must send his/her information to his/her respective chapter officers and request their dues be waived. This should include as much information as possible as to their location without compromising mission directives and or security procedures/policy.
- I. Life membership requirements: Three years of active membership in good standing in the CVMA and have attended at least one National Meeting and one CVMA Sanction event per year. Cost for life membership is at the rate specified in the National By-Laws. If a member quits for any reason or the member is removed from the CVMA rolls for any reason, no refunds will be made.

## ARTICLE 5- ELECTIONS

### Regularly Scheduled Annual Officer Elections

- A. Nominees for office must be active, in good standing and have been a full member for at least one year.
- B. Officers must remain active members in good standing during their term of office.
- C. Elections for Officers will occur during the month of February. (See Article 5 (G)).
- D. Officers will hold a term of office for three years.
- E. Officers may hold consecutive terms.
- F. The Chapter Executive Board (CEB) is as follows:
  - G. Commanding Officer (CO)
  - H. Executive Officer (XO)
  - I. Secretary
  - J. Sergeant at Arms (SAA)
  - K. Treasurer
  - L. Public Relations Officer (PRO) (If the PRO is a FM as per the CVMA National Policy 3-1-12, 2.n)
- M. Elections for Chapter Officers should be staggered between three years so that the CO/Public Relations Officer are elected the 1<sup>st</sup> year, the SAA/Secretary are elected the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and the XO/Treasurer are elected the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. A schedule of Officers election dates will be posted on the AK 43-1 website by the PRO.
- N. During elections for Officer Positions, the CO may only vote in the event there is a tie vote.
- O. Should an elected officer resign from office, the remaining CEB may appoint a replacement to serve until the next Chapter meeting where a Special Election will be held for that position, for the remainder of its term. Candidates for Office subject to Article 5, subsection Regularly Scheduled Annual Officer Elections, paragraphs A and B. Officers resigning their positions will not be eligible for an elected office until the next Regularly Scheduled Annual Officer Elections.
- P. 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.
- Q. All voting, whether by an individual member or delegate, requires the member casting the vote to be physically present at the time and location where the vote is taken, with the following exception: deployed military members may vote for chapter officers via email directly to the secretary.

- R. No proxy, email, computer or electronic casting of votes is allowed, with the following exception: deployed military members may vote for chapter officers via email directly to the secretary.

## ARTICLE 6- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. Chapter Officers make up the Chapter Executive Board (CEB) of the Chapter and are responsible for the execution of policies and By-Laws. By majority vote, fills vacancies in any office of the Executive Board and submits to the membership any recommendations affecting the policies of the Chapter which have been previously approved by the CEB.
- B. The Commanding Officer (CO) (Command Position) presides over all meetings of the Chapter.
- a. Has oversight over all committees and delegations
  - b. Issues the call for regular and special Chapter meetings
  - c. Schedules regular elections
  - d. Ensures all proceedings are held in accordance with these Chapter By-Laws
  - e. Carries out any directives of the BOD and the State Representative (SR).
  - f. May appoint delegations to represent the Chapter at any convention, meeting, rally, or other assembly that may be deemed necessary. These delegations are subject to approval by the State Representative. All delegations are authorized to exercise only those powers specifically vested in them by the CEB.
- C. The Executive Officer (XO) (Command Position) is second in command, assists the CO as necessary and assumes the duties of the CO in his absence.
- D. The Secretary (Command Position) shall keep and maintain a record of minutes of all special and general membership meetings.
- E. The Treasurer (Command Position) collects dues and other forms of income due the Chapter:
- a. Set up all accounts and maintain a record of accounting books.
  - b. Makes payments from the Chapter funds when necessary or so directed by CEB.
  - c. Signs all checks or drafts from the Chapter account (A two signature system) and makes regular reports of the Chapter's financial status to the Executive Board and general membership
  - d. **Treasury Audit:** At the annual meeting, the CEB (except the Treasurer) shall establish a committee, comprised of not less than two or more than five general members, to audit the financial records of the Association. The committee will conduct the audit within thirty days of appointment and provide a report to the membership NLT September 30th of each calendar year. The report will be filed in the permanent Association records and may be provided to other parties as required by the articles of incorporation or governing laws.
  - e. Signatures required to draft funds are: Treasurer and one other CEB Member.
- F. The Sergeant at Arms (SAA) (Command Position) maintains order during Chapter meetings:
- 1) The SAA ensures all By-Laws, Policies and Protocols are adhered to.
  - 2) The SAA is responsible for the enforcement of any disciplinary actions within the Chapter. He is also responsible for supervising the Chapter Road Captains.
  - 3) Verify members ID cards before the start of any meeting.
- G. The Public Relations Officer (PRO) (Command Position, if a FM as per CVMA National Policy 3-1-12, 2.n) is responsible for all the CVMA 43-1 publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the Chapter's CO. Duties will include: Historian, Association file, pictures, newspaper articles, TV and radio announcements and the Chapter 43-1 web site. PR (O) is the administrator for 43-1 website, will grant permissions to appropriate members, and will have final approval authority on content added to 43-1 website.

## **ARTICLE 7- MEETINGS**

- A. Roberts Rule of Order will be applied during meetings to affect parliamentary procedures, unless otherwise amended and provided for in the bylaws. Commander will appoint a member of the Chapter to serve additional duty as parliamentarian.
- B. A quorum of members shall be those members present at any given meeting.
- C. The Chapter CO or XO will chair Chapter meetings and may call for special meetings as required.
- D. Meeting minutes will be maintained by the Chapter Secretary.
- E. Two full members may request special membership meetings. Special meetings can be called by the Commander or full active members.

## **ARTICLE 8- RULES OF CONDUCT**

- A. By applying for membership with the CVMA, you are giving CVMA and the National BOD the right to verify your membership application and DD 214 records.
- B. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that is not an embarrassment to the CVMA.
- C. Misconduct by a member, or violation of CVMA By-Laws, will subject the member to disciplinary action. The NBOD has the authority to revoke a member's membership. Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the By-Laws of the CVMA.
- D. Misconduct also includes any behavior or activity that brings dishonor or discredit upon the CVMA by action, word(s) or deeds, to include commission of crimes in violation of State and Federal laws. If misconduct occurs the following action will take place.
  - 1) The CEB will randomly assign a review board made up of a minimum of 5 full members to review any accusations of misconduct against the member in question. The review board will recommend action to the CEB in writing if any action needs to be taken against the member. The Chapter Commander may issue a verbal/written reprimand which will be annotated in the members' 201 file.
  - 2) The SAA will serve in a (n) advisory role only and will not have any influence on the review board.
  - 3) The Chapter Commander will notify the State Representative of any disciplinary hearing and actions taken.
  - 4) Request for probation, suspension or termination will be forwarded to the State Representative for appropriate action including submission to the NBOD.

**WE ARE NOT, NOR DO WE CLAIM. OR WILL WE BECOME A MOTORCYCLE CLUB. WE DO NOT HAVE COLORS! WE HAVE A VETERAN'S INSIGNIA.**

## **ARTICLE 9- DETACHMENTS/CHAPTERS**

- A. A Detachment may be formed under authority of a State Chapter and with approval of the State Representative.
- B. A Detachment must have eight (8) Full Members.
- C. Must have a designated Detachment CO as their representative.
- D. Maintain communication with the sponsoring Chapter (mother chapter) through the mother Chapter's SAA.
- E. Is supervised by the mother Chapter.
- F. Detachment members are carried as members of the Mother Chapter.
- G. Detachment Officers will be elected at Detachment meetings
- H. The Detachment CO will preside over all Detachment meetings and report meeting minutes and business to the mother Chapter.
- I. The Detachment CO may appoint a detachment Liaison to the Mother Chapter.
- J. The Detachment CO or Liaison will attend the Mother Chapter meetings and make a monthly progress report.
- K. A Detachment may petition the Mother Chapter for Chapter status when they have obtained fifteen (15) full members as approved by the Mother Chapter, State Representative and National BOD.
- L. Detachments are sponsored by and accountable to the state chapter.
- M. Chapters or Detachments should not be located closer than 1-hour ride from a previously established Chapter within the same state unless approved by the state Rep and/or National BOD.

## **ARTICLE 10- COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE/MEDIA**

- A. Chapter Officers and their respective Detachment Officers will maintain open communication lines with each other.
- B. Correspondence to or between Chapter Officers, their Detachments and the general membership will be communicated to the State Representative.
- C. Official Correspondence to or between sister Chapters or other CVMA Chapters throughout the Association will be communicated to the State Representative.
- D. Emails, Social Media or Forum communication shall NOT contain any form of slander, derogatory comments or negative opinions. Participation in this kind of behavior could be considered as misconduct.

## **ARTICLE 11 Chapter 43-1 BYLAWS**

- A. These by-laws may be altered or repealed and new by-laws adopted at 43-1 Chapter Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- B. **Amendments-** Approved or accepted amendments will take effect after receiving approval from the SR, RR and NBOD.
- C. **Changes-** Any changes to any Article and/or Section of the by-laws of the 43-1 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association will be discussed and voted on by two-thirds of members present.
- D. If any 43-1 Chapter Bylaws conflict with Alaska State By-Laws or National Bylaws the higher Bylaws take precedence over 43-1 Chapter Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 12 Dissolution of Chapter 43-1**

Upon the dissolution of the Non Profit Corporation, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Alaska Chapter, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code. Any assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is located. Disposal shall be made exclusively for exempt or public purposes, or be made to such organization or organizations as the court shall determine to be organized exclusively for such purposes.

## **ARTICLE 13 - Financial statement to the National Treasurer**

- A. 43-1 will have bank account(s) that stand as an individual entity and will be responsible for their own audit. 43-1 or Detachments will submit a yearly report to their State Representative by 15 January.
- B. The State Representative will in turn submit a financial statement to the National Treasurer. The report is due following close of the business year and not later than 15 Feb. Report needs to include an itemized list of any donations made to eligible groups (example Veterans homes) and any monies raised from chapter sponsored events and all donations received from sources outside CVMA. Detailed reports of expenses for chapter operation are to be included as well.