



**Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association
Tennessee Chapter 18-3**

By Laws

2020/09

Commander - ERIC (HINK) HINKLE

State Representative – ANDREW (KATO) CHOPE



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ARTICLE 1: NAME AND EMBLEM

Section 1

a. Principal office of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association CVMA Tennessee Chapter 18-3 will be located at the following address:

3415 Lakeshore Church Rd
Louisville TN 37777

b. Change of Address. The designation of the city of the CVMA Tennessee Chapter 18-3 principal office may change by amendment of these bylaws. The Chapter Executive Board (CEB) may change the principal office from one location to another within the named city by noting the changed address and effective date below

1. New Address:

Dated:

2. New Address:

Dated:

Section 2

Purposes.

The CVMA Tennessee 18-3 is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and/or scientific purposes. Including the aforementioned purposes, the distribution to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code. The CEB has the authority to change the CVMA Chapter bylaws if any part is found to conflict with Federal or TN state tax laws and/or established new CVMA National bylaws as elected by the full membership of the Association, and will be ratified at the next meeting.

Section 3

The emblem / logo used by the CVMA is the sole property of the CVMA as set by the National bylaws Art 1 Sec 2.

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVES

General: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) Protocol.
As set by the National bylaws Art 2.

Section 1 - General

CVMA TN 18-3 was formed for the advancement and camaraderie between the CVMA, Veterans Organizations, other Motorcycle Associations Groups and/or Clubs.

Section 2 – CVMA Mission and Protocol

The primary objective and mission of CVMA Chapter 18-3 will be:

- a. To promote interest in various forms of motorcycle related activities associated with Combat Veterans.
- b. To encourage and facilitate camaraderie among Combat Veterans from all Branches of the United States Armed Services.
- c. To support Veteran organizations.
- d. To raise awareness of the plight of POWs, MIAs and their families, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and other combat related medical conditions.
- e. To conduct Association business and activities in a dignified and appropriate manner in according to CVMA National and Chapter bylaws and policy.
- f. To encourage a better understanding among motorcycle riders and the public, the media, and the Law Enforcement agencies while continuing to promote motorcycle riding as a constructive hobby.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

General- Definitions

The term “Good Standing” shall be defined as any person who has fulfilled the requirements for membership in the CVMA, whom is not currently under disciplinary review or probationary status for discipline reasons, who has paid the required dues (National and Chapter) and conformed to the requirements as set forth in these bylaws. Any member determined to be not in “Good Standing” will be reported by the Chapter Commander to the State Representative in a timely manner.

Section 1(a)

Full Member

Must meet requirements set by the National bylaws Art 3 Sec 1(a).

Section 1(b)

Auxiliary Members

Must meet requirements set by the National bylaws Art 3 Sec 1(b).

Section 1(c)

Support Members

Must meet requirements set by the National bylaws Art 3 Sec 1(c).

Section 2

Applying for membership

Must meet requirements set by the National bylaws Art 3 Sec 2.

Section 3

Member Attendance

Must meet requirements set by the National bylaws Art 3 Sec 3.

Section 4

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

a. Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the by-laws of the Chapter, State, and National CVMA, wrongful or improper conduct motivated by indifference or premeditated or intentional purpose, or general behavior that is not conducive to good order or discipline.

b. Bringing dishonor upon the CVMA 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 5

All CVMA chapter 18-3 Full, Support and(Auxiliary that rides a motorcycle) members must possess a motorcycle driver's license endorsed by their state as well as proof of insurance and registration for their motorcycle. This requirement will be validated annually by the Chapter **Sgt At Arms**. The time for validation will be yearly at the June meeting. Members who don't show the below documents, will be given a thirty (30) days grace period to comply. Deployed members (Full, Support and Auxiliary) can have this requirement waived if the member is deployed during this time of validation. Members not meeting this requirement will be considered "not in good standing" and will have such annotation made in the members personal 201 file

1. Valid registration (ownership of motorcycle)
2. Valid driver's license with motorcycle endorsement)
3. Valid insurance

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1: Assessment

Membership dues shall be at such rate, schedule, or formula as may from time to time be prescribed by the governing body of the Association and approved by the general membership.

Section 2: Deadlines

The governing body of the Association shall determine deadlines for payment of renewal of membership dues.

Section 3: Tennessee State CVMA Chapter 18-3 Dues:

Chapter 18-3 dues will be \$10.00 per member and are due no later than June 30th for the following year with the following provisions:

- a. CVMA Chapter 18-3 dues cover the period 1 July through 30 June (12 months).
- b. CVMA Chapter 18-3 will waive Chapter dues for deployed military members.
- c. New members joining the CVMA Chapter 18-3 will not be assessed Chapter dues until 1 July for the following year.
- d. Members are considered delinquent if their dues are not current by 31 July each year.

When the member becomes delinquent the Chapter Executive Board (CEB) will declare the

member “not in good standing” and the chapter secretary will reflect such in their membership record (201 file). A member “not in good standing” will be denied voting privileges on chapter business and officers only. A member determined “not in good standing” for a period of (90) days shall be recommended for removal from chapter rolls for misconduct. e. Members means Full, Auxiliary, and Supporter.

f. Chapter Executive Board may recommend waiving chapter dues any given year based upon financial readiness of the chapter; however, the decision must be approved by a majority vote of general membership.

Section 4: Patch cost

New Full, Auxiliary and Support members obtaining patches from the CVMA will do so at cost plus shipping and handling.

Section 5: “Original 45”

CVMA Charter Members (also known as the “Original 45”) will not be required to pay annual CVMA Chapter 18-3 dues should they join the Chapter.

ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS

Section 1

All nominees for any office must be active and in good standing in the CVMA with a minimum of one (1) full year of CVMA membership, or a minimum of six months of CVMA membership, if a member of one year or more does not elect to run for office. Retired members cannot hold a CVMA officer position. Chapter officers in newly formed chapters are excluded from the one-year requirement.

Section 2

All elected and or appointed officers must remain active members in good standing for the duration of the term while in office.

Section 3

If the State Representative and or the Regional Representative are from the Tennessee Chapter 18-3, they will also be allowed to cast a vote.

Section 4

CEB members will be considered for election or re-election in the following order; Commander /Sergeant at Arms/Treasurer during years that end in even numbers. Executive Officer/Public Relations Officer/Secretary during years that end in an odd number. Should any Officer resign or be removed for any reason, the CEB will hold a special election of the Chapter full members and nominations for the newly filled position will be taken at this time. The newly elected CEB officer will serve the remainder of the term until the next regularly scheduled election takes place for that position. If no qualified full member is nominated and accepts the vacated position, the Chapter Commander may appoint a willing member to fill the position until the next scheduled election.

Section 5

In the event an elected officer resigns from office for any reason the XO will hold the position until a special election can be held.

Section 6

Any Full Member seeking election must announce his/her intent to run for office at least (2) two months (Chapter Meetings) prior to the scheduled election date. Announcements will be made at the May meeting. On the day of announcement, all candidates for office must be present. No exceptions. All candidates must be present at the July election. Assumption of duties will occur in August.

Section 7

Elections for Chapter Officers will be done by ballot voting. 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 not present or is eligible for election. All members will be allowed to remain in the room, only Full members will be allowed to cast a vote for Elected Officer positions.

ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1

a. Commander (Elected)

1. Will preside over all meetings of the Chapter.
2. Serves as Chairman of the CEB.
3. Act as executive officer member of all committees.
4. Issue the call for regular and special Chapter Executive Board meetings, schedule regular elections, and ensure they are held IAW these bylaws.
5. Execute the directives of the NBOD.
6. Chair Executive Committee.

b. Executive Officer (Elected)

1. Shall perform the duties of the Commander in his absence.
2. Assists Commander in the execution of their duties as necessary.
3. Serve as a Member of the CEB.
4. Performs all duties as assigned by the CEB.

c. Secretary (Elected)

1. Maintain the minutes of membership meetings and keep attendance rosters. Minutes will be provided to the TN State Representative and made available to the general membership within 21 calendar days following a chapter meeting or at least 7 days prior to the next chapter meeting, whichever comes first.
2. Maintain correspondence files.
3. Maintain social rosters.
4. Provide administrative support required by the Chapter.
5. Audit of minutes to be conducted at every Change of Responsibility
6. Minutes for the last six months will be brought to meetings.
7. Serves as a member of the CEB.
8. Performs all duties as assigned by the CEB.

d. Treasurer (Elected)

1. Will collect dues and other forms of income due to the Chapter, State, Region and Association.
2. Maintain the accounting books.
3. Make payments from the Chapters Associations funds when so ordered by the CEB.
4. Sign all Chapter Associations checks (along with CDR or XO signature).
5. Make regular reports of the Chapter Association's financial status to the CEB, TN State Representative and the general membership.
6. Audit of finances to be conducted at the change of responsibility and taxes.
7. Serves as a member of the CEB.
8. Performs all duties as assigned by the CEB.

e. Sergeant at Arms (Elected)

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. Appoints Road Captain(s) as appropriate
4. Serve as a member of the CEB.
5. Performs all duties as assigned by the CEB.

f. Public Relations Officer (Elected)

1. Will oversee all Chapter's publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the CEB. Duties will include: Historian, association file, pictures, newspaper articles, TV and radio announcements.
2. Will maintain a calendar of all Tennessee CVMA sponsored events and rides.
3. Will maintain and update the Chapter website and forums.
4. Serves as a member of the CEB.
5. Performs all duties as assigned by the CEB.

g. Quartermaster (Appointed)

1. Organizes and maintains items designated by the CEB to sell at meetings and other functions.
2. Reports status of Chapter store to the CEB quarterly.
3. Will maintain a file and have it ready to present at each meeting and all Association functions.
4. Performs all duties as assigned by the CEB.

h. Chaplain (Appointed)

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

i. Road Captain(s) (Appointed)

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 for planning for the safety of Chapter members during participation in any run or activity; and to plan for the safety of other participants in an Chapter-sponsored run or activity.

Section 2

The CEB consists of all elected Officers. The responsibilities of the CEB are as follows:

- a. Deliberate and propose draft CVMA Chapter policy and guidance to be presented to the general membership for discussion and vote.
- b. Give advice and consent on candidates to fill appointed positions.
- c. Appointed Officers and other Chapter members may be invited to Committees meetings to discuss special interest topics.

Section 3

OFFICER REMOVAL

Chapter Officers may be removed from office for cause with due process, as necessary, by the request of two-thirds of the Full Members in the form of a signed petition and a motion to remove. The State Representative will have the duty of informing the Chapter Officer in question of the petition and presenting it to the Regional Representative. If the officer is removed, the remaining CEB members shall sanction a special election to refill office as soon as possible.

The vote will be conducted by name/member number and supervised by the Commander or XO in a manner that best captures the entire Chapter membership. Results will be reported directly from the Commander/XO to the State Rep. who will then inform the Regional Rep.

ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS

Section 1

A quorum of conducting business shall be those present at any given meeting.

Section 2

Special membership meetings and special CEB meetings can be called by two or more members in good standing.

Section 3

The Roberts Rules of Order will be applied during meetings to affect parliamentary procedures.

Section 4

Regular membership meetings shall be held every month at a place to be determined at the prior meeting, so business may be brought before the Chapter. Motions and resolutions will carry a simple majority of positive votes except when the issue involves a request for complete written financial reports. In this exceptional case, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of positive votes is required.

Section 5

Only Full Members may vote on Chapter Business. The Chapter Commander will only vote in the event of a tie.

ARTICLE 8: DELEGATIONS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1

Delegates will be appointed by the Commander but are subject to the approval of the Chapter Executive Board, to represent the Association at any convention, meeting, rally, or other assembly that may be deemed necessary. All delegates are authorized to exercise only those powers specifically vested in them by the Chapter Executive Board.

ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Alterations

These bylaws may be altered or repealed and new bylaws adopted at the annual CVMA Chapter 18-3 Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present and casting a vote. The XO leads all alteration discussions.

Section 2: Amendments

Approved or accepted amendments take effect after receiving approval of the TN SR, R2R, and the NBOD. Amendments will be added to the next Bylaw Revision when directed by the Commander, usually within 90 days of the amendment. Amendments must be CEB approved and generally fall under the oversight and guidance of the XO.

Bylaw Amendment procedure:

- a. When a chapter member wants to seek a vote to change the chapter bylaws for this association, they must complete a “bylaw change proposal” and submit it through the Chapter
- b. Timeline for Amendment procedure:
 1. May 1 – May 31: All proposals must be submitted to the Chapter XO using the bylaws change proposal form.
 2. June 1 – June 14: The Chapter XO will review all bylaw change proposal forms and send them out to the chapter membership to review.
 3. Annual chapter meeting: Membership will vote on bylaw change proposals.
 4. If bylaw change proposals are passed, they will be submitted to the SR to be approved by NBOD.

Section 3: Changes

Any changes to any Article and/or Section of the CVMA Chapter 18-3 bylaws will be discussed and voted on by a quorum.

Section 4: Precedence

If any CVMA Chapter 18-3 bylaws conflict with the CVMA National bylaws, the National bylaws will take precedence over the Chapter bylaws.

Section 5: Conflicts

If any CVMA Chapter 18-3 bylaws conflicts with Federal and/or State or Tennessee Domestic Non-profit Veterans 501(c) (19) provisions and/or statutes, the conflicting Article(s) and/or Sections(s) shall be revised by the CEB and shall take effect immediately.

Section 6

The CEB is responsible for implementing overall policy and direction of the Chapter. The CEB is responsible for day-to-day operations of the Chapter and shall make decisions as necessary to maintain the Chapter's viability and order.

ARTICLE 10: DETACHMENTS

Section 1

Requirements set by the National bylaws Art 10 Sec 6

Section 2

The CEB has the authority to disband a Detachment with probable cause as determined by an investigative committee. The State Rep will be informed if such action is warranted and the State Rep will take appropriate actions, if required, to inform the Regional Representative and the National BOD. The CEB has the authority to assemble an investigative committee to probe any incidents involving a Detachment

The Patch on My Back

*My Vest is full of patches both old and new,
Representing places, I've been and things I did;*

*Most on the front and layered in a stack,
But none say more than the patch on my back;*

*I earned it in battle as a Combat Vet,
It serves as a constant reminder to Never Forget;*

*The first thing you'll noticed is the Skull and
Spade, A reminder that the debit of war is never
paid;*

*Every Color has a meaning and a story to tell,
And every story has a meaning we all know too well;*

*To show unity as Warriors, we use the Military
Gold, For every Branch of Service both new and
old;*

*Red represents the blood that my Brothers and Sisters have
bled, Not all known by me, but a tear for each I've shed;*

*With heavy hearts, we display the symbolic color Black, For
the Missing, the Prisoners, and those that never made it back;*

*Yes. I know it's just a Patch – made of cloth and thread; But
because of what it means, I'll respect it until the day I am dead!*

The Veteran by My Side

By Kat

*My loved one is a Combat Vet.
Whose sacrifice I can never forget;*

*One of the few who've answered the call,
To battle for rights meant for us all;*

*To show my support and greatest respect,
I wear this patch on the back of my vest;*

*A skull stitched in gold, in black and in red,
Much more than merely a design made of
thread;*

*Three colors whose meaning I humbly
observe, The gold that unites all the
branches who serve;*

*The red for the blood that my loved one
has shed, And black to remember the
valiant dead;*

*This symbol I'll bear with honor and
pride, Standing firm at my Combat
Veteran's side.*