



**Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association**

**By-Laws**

**Revision P**

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**ARTICLE 1: NAME AND EMBLEM**

Section 1

- a) The name of the association is: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.
  - 1. Principle office of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association will be located at the following address: Barrister Services, Inc., ATTN: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, 11 East Kansas Street, Liberty, MO., 64068.
  - 2. Change of Address. The designation of the county or state of Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association principal office may change by amendment of these bylaws. The board of Officers may change the principal office from one location to another within the named country by noting the changed address and effective date below, and such changes shall not be deemed minor, and require an amendment of these bylaws.
    - a) New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - b) Dated: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Other Offices. The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association may also have offices at such other places, within or without its state of incorporation, where it is qualified to do business, as its business and activities may require, and as the board of directors may from time to time, designate.
- b) IRS Section 501(c)(19) Purposes. Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 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 National Board of Directors (NBOD) has the authority to change the CVMA bylaws if any part is found to be in conflict with Federal or MO state tax laws.

Section 2

The emblem/logo used by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is the sole property of the CVMA. The logo of the CVMA is copyrighted and requires written approval from the NBOD prior to the logo being used in any manner of sales or marketing. Any item(s) given approval and features the full copyrighted logo may then only be sold to Full Members of the Association. Modifications to the logo will be submitted for review. 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 spades represent the death that war leaves in its wake.

## **ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVES**

General: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Protocol.

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is formed for the betterment of communication and camaraderie between other motorcycle associations, veteran's organizations, and or motorcycle groups.

### Section 1

To promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activity associated with veterans.

### Section 2

To create and maintain camaraderie among combat veterans from all U.S. branches of service and its allies.

### Section 3

To support veteran organizations.

### Section 4

To raise awareness for the plight of POW's, MIA's and their families, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, (TBI) and other combat related medical conditions.

### Section 5

To conduct Association functions and activities in a manner befitting the members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and as well as the association's Auxiliary Members.

### Section 6

To encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riders as a constructive sport among members of the public, press, and law enforcement agencies.

## **ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP**

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 disciplinary reasons, who has paid the necessary dues and conformed to the requirements as set forth in these bylaws.

### Section 1

#### a) Full Member:

1. Of good character.
2. Who is a Veteran of a Foreign War, "combat".
3. The ONLY Acceptable proof for membership to the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is a copy of one's DD 214 or Official Military Personnel File or officer/enlisted record brief which must be surrendered to the NBOD for verification.
4. Must own and operate a Motorcycle of 500cc or above.

5. 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 must re-apply for membership as a new member and will require NBOD approval.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Life membership requirements: 3 years active in the CVMA. Member must be in good standing for all three years and minimum participation of one sanctioned CVMA event per year is required. One of which must be a National meeting. Cost for life membership is \$200. 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.
9. Member will be assigned to a chapter upon application approval. Member's initial assignment of chapter will be in the State of physical residence, and closest chapter. Once membership is approved, he or she can request in writing for a change of Chapter to the gaining and losing State Representative. Chapter affiliation to any Chapter of his or her choosing may be requested, to include a chapter in another state if that chapter is closer than the existing chapter and the losing and gaining states share a common border. If the distance is shorter, the request will be approved. The member will only have all rights as a Full Member in the State that they claim membership in.

b) Auxiliary Members:

1. Must be of good character.
2. All Auxiliary members must be a spouse, widow or widower of a member who is in good standing with the CVMA. An Auxiliary widow or widower cannot sponsor an additional Auxiliary member.
3. Must support the efforts of ALL branches of the United States of America's Armed Forces and the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.
4. Will have no vote in CVMA business.
5. Cannot hold a position on the NBOD.
6. Auxiliary Life Membership requires three years active in the CVMA. Auxiliary member must be in good standing for all three years and minimum participation of one sanctioned CVMA event per year is required, one of which must be a National Auxiliary meeting. The Full member sponsor must already be a Life Member (or concurrently seeking Life Member status). Cost for Auxiliary Life Membership is \$100. If an Auxiliary Life Member quits or is removed for any reason, is no longer qualified as an Auxiliary member (e.g. divorce), or the sponsor member quits or is removed from the CVMA rolls for any reason, no refund will be made.

c) Support members:

1. Must be of good character.
2. Must own and operate a motorcycle of 500cc or greater.
3. Maximum number of support members will not exceed 10% of total CVMA full Combat membership.
4. Support members must be a veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
5. Support members will read and abide by all CVMA by-laws applicable to them.  
Sections excluded:
  - a) Article 5: Elections
  - b) Article 6: Duties of Officers.
6. 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 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 member. Support members will be at a 1 to 10 ratio, 1 support member to 10 full members based on state.
7. Will have no vote in National CVMA business but may vote in Chapter CVMA business if it is addressed in the Chapter Bylaws.
8. Cannot hold a position on the NBOD.
9. 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 their sponsor. Support members can also wear the 10-inch support back patch which will be supplied by their sponsor.
10. Support Life Membership requires three years active in the CVMA. Support member must be in good standing for all three years and minimum participation of one sanctioned event per year is required, one of which must be a National meeting. Cost of Support Life Membership is \$100. If a Support Life Member quits for any reason or is removed from the CVMA rolls for any reason, no refund will be made.
11. Support 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.
12. Life members, if for health reasons can no longer ride can at their discretion, remain members in good standing and can keep their patch.

## Section 2

By applying for membership with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, you are giving the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and its Board of Directors the right to verify any membership application and DD 214 records or Official Military Personnel File or officer/enlisted record brief.

### Section 3

Each member must attend a minimum of at least one (1) event hosted by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association per year. This requirement may be met by attending any one (1) of the following within the CVMA dues calendar year. Members not in compliance will have their status (via 201 file) annotated as “Not in Good Standing due to attendance”.

- a) National, Regional or State sanctioned CVMA event.
- b) Any Chapter CVMA function, that includes the sponsoring CEB participation.

Any member that was deployed at any time during the year is exempt from meeting this requirement. Life Members and Medically Retired members are exempt from meeting this requirement.

Chapter unassigned members are also required to attend but must ensure that the State Representative is aware and able to document attendance at the event.

Chapter Officers are responsible for “looking after” their members and should make efforts to ensure all members are aware of this requirement and assist their membership attendance of one of these events.

This bylaw change will become effective starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and be measured on the CVMA dues calendar year from July 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

### Section 4

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.

- a) In the event of misconduct by any member, under the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, the Board of Directors possesses the right to revoke that member's membership. Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and any organization that the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association supports.
- b) Bringing dishonor upon the Combat Veterans 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 5

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

### Section 6

Any full member who is still a member of the Armed Forces of the USA who attends the previous year’s Nationals, but cannot, because of Military deployment to a combat zone, attend the current year national meeting will be given credit for the National and will be authorized a rocker for the National patch that will read, for example, DEPLOYED 20XX.

## **ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP DUES**

### Section 1

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

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

## Section 3

New, or current members requiring patches of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association will obtain them through their Chapter/State Quarter Master or State Representative at cost.

## Section 4

Charter Members will not be required to pay annual dues and may wear the "45" patch distinguishing that they are an original starter member, or support member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

## Section 5

Chapters may collect local dues. A cap of \$20.00 annual chapter dues can be assessed. All national dues continue to go straight to national.

## Section 6

The Benevolent Fund for CVMA members will be up to, but not to exceed, \$1,500.00 per incident. Chapters must help raise money on their own prior to applying for additional funds from the NBOD. Money given out will not be required to be given back. Chapters with a member in need can petition the NBOD through their Chain of Command for funds. 20% of membership dues will be set aside for the Benevolent Fund.

## Section 7

Annual dues of \$20 will be assessed effective March 1, 2010 for all Full Members (Combat Veterans). Dues for CVMA members deployed in a war zone will be waived. Dues for all members must be received 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 dues year and the following dues year. Dues for new members joining between July 1st and December 31st will be for the current dues year only.

## Section 8

\$10.00 annual dues will be assessed by the CVMA Auxiliary Unit.

## Section 9

\$10.00 annual dues will be assessed and a CVMA Support ID will be issued.

## **ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS**

### Section 1

All nominees for any office must be active and in good standing in the association 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. All nominees for the NBOD must be a member in good standing and have held a Chapter, State or Regional leadership position for a period of one (1) year. 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 and Board of Directors must remain active members in good standing for the duration of the term while in office.

## Section 3

All national officers are to be nominated and elected at the CVMA National meeting and will assume office within 60 days of the election and hold that office for 36 months or until their successors are duly qualified. Consecutive terms are permitted.

## Section 4

Nominations and elections to the NBOD must be made at the CVMA national meeting. No NBOD Officer will be elected with less than a majority of votes cast in an election. In elections for NBOD positions where there are more than two candidates, where no single candidate receives a majority of votes, the two candidates who receive the most votes will compete in a runoff election. The President will vote only in the event of a tie.

## Section 5

NBOD members will be considered for re-election in the following order, President / Secretary, VP/ Treasurer, SGT at Arms / PR. Should any elected Officer resign or be removed from the NBOD for any reason, the NBOD has the authority to replace the officer, as an interim, until the next National meeting, at which time the position will be open for election for the remaining period. Nominations for the interim officer will be elicited from the Regional and State Representatives.

## Section 6

Candidates for National Board of Directors office, Regional office and State office must declare their intentions a minimum of 90 days prior to the designated election date unless the election is to fill a vacated position due to a previous election.

## Section 7

No member may serve more than two (2) full terms, or a total of eight (8) years, in any one position on the National Board of Directors. This does not preclude a change in position, i.e., NSEC to NSAA, NVP to NPRES, etc.

## Section 8

No member may serve more than a total of ten (10) years on the National Board of Directors.

# **ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

## Section 1

The CVMA National President (NPRES) will preside over all meetings of the association; serve as Chairman of the National Board of Directors (NBOD), act as executive officer member of all committees, issue the call for regular and special NBOD meetings, schedule regular elections, and be sure they are held IAW this constitution, and carry out the directives of the NBOD.

## Section 2

The National Vice-President (NVP) will perform all duties of the President in his absence and all duties assigned by the NBOD.

### Section 3

The National Secretary (NSEC) shall keep minutes of the NBOD and general membership meetings. The NSEC shall provide copies of minutes to NBOD members and State representatives within sixty days of meeting. The NSEC will also receive and process all applications for CVMA membership following rules set forth by the membership for applicant qualifications. The NSEC will assume all duties assigned to office by the NBOD.

### Section 4

The National Treasurer (NTRES) will collect dues and other forms of income due to the association, maintain the accounting books, make payments from the associations funds when so ordered by the NBOD, sign all associations checks (along with another officer's signature) and make regular reports of the associations financial status to the Board of Directors and the general membership and all duties assigned by the NBOD.

### Section 5

The National Public Relations Officer (NPRO) will oversee all the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Associations publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the association's NBOD. Duties will include; Historian, pictures, newspaper articles, TV and radio announcements the associations web site and all duties assigned by the NBOD.

### Section 6

The National Sergeant at Arms (NSAA) will; maintain order during CVMA meetings; is responsible to check member ID cards before each national meeting; is the NBOD Point of Contact for all discipline issues; assume all duties assigned by the NBOD.

### Section 7

The National Board of Directors (NBOD):

- a) Constitutes the Executive Board of the Association.
- b) Is comprised of the NPRES, NVP, NSEC, NTRES, NPRO and NSAA.
- c) Is responsible for the execution, through its officers, of the authorized policies.
- d) By majority votes, fills vacancies in any office of the NBOD.
- e) Submits to the association, meetings and recommendations affecting the policies of the association which have been previously approved.

### Section 8

Regional Representatives:

- a) Will be elected by the members of their region.
- b) Required prior service as a Chapter Officer or State Representative.
- c) Will serve a term of three years, and can be re-elected.
- d) Will not hold another Officer position in the CVMA.
- e) Serves as member of the Bylaws Committee.
- f) Mediates disputes between States and/or Chapters.
- g) Compiles and verifies chapter population and delegate information for all chapters in Region.
- h) Regional Representatives' primary duty will be to enforce the CVMA bylaws.

- i) In the event the position becomes vacant for any reason, the NBOD will appoint an Interim Regional Rep after receiving guidance from the State Representatives within that region, to complete the original term.
- j) Regions:
  - 1. Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Florida.
  - 2. District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
  - 3. Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.
  - 4. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin.
  - 5. Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
  - 6. Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska.
  - 7. Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming.
  - 8. Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah.
  - 9. California, Hawaii, Nevada.
  - 10. Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.
  - 11. Germany, Korea, Overseas Theater.
- k) No member may serve more than two (2) full terms, for a total of eight (8) years.

## Section 9

- a) State Representatives:
  - 1. Will be elected by the full members of their respective state.
  - 2. Nominees must be active and in good standing with a minimum of two (2) full years CVMA membership.
  - 3. Term of office shall be three (3) years.
  - 4. The State Representative is over their State's Chapter Commander(s).
  - 5. Responsibilities:
    - a) Enforce CVMA Bylaws.
    - b) Watch over their membership.
    - c) Review applications for CVMA membership and forward same to NBOD.
  - 6. State Representatives can dismiss or discipline unruly members with NBOD approval. State Representatives can suspend unruly members for up to six (6) months, with the majority approval of the member's local Chapter's elected Officers.
  - 7. While serving suspension:
    - a) The suspended member is prohibited from attending CVMA functions/meetings.
    - b) The suspended member is prohibited from wearing his/her CVMA Back patch.
    - c) The suspended member is prohibited from voting at local or National CVMA elections.
    - d) The suspended member is prohibited from holding a CVMA Officer position.
  - 8. A suspended member will have seven (7) days to appeal his/her suspension. Such an appeal shall be in writing and directed to the appropriate Regional Representative via the State Representative.

9. In the event the position becomes vacant for any reason, the Regional Representative will appoint an Interim State Representative, after receiving guidance from the Chapter Commander(s) within that state, to complete the original term.
  10. Newly elected State Representatives must have prior service as a chapter officer.
- b) State Sergeant at Arms:
1. Shall be elected by the full members of their respective state.
  2. Term of office will be three years.
  3. Responsibilities:
    - a) Will maintain order during any multi chapter meeting called to order by the State Representative.
    - b) Will assist the State Representative with duties as directed/requested by the State Representative.
    - c) Investigate CVMA Bylaw and Policy issues involving State members as directed by the State Representative.
    - d) Provide assistance and mentorship to Chapter SAAs when requested.
  4. This position is not mandatory or required for every state but provides an additional tool for the states that want or feel the need for this position.

#### Section 10

NBOD members may not hold the position of Regional Representative, State Representative or Chapter Officer while serving on the NBOD.

#### Section 11

##### NBOD

- a) The NBOD is responsible for implementing overall policy and direction of the association. The NBOD is responsible for day-to-day operations of the association and shall make decisions as necessary to maintain the association's viability and order. At the NBOD's discretion, they may delegate responsibility of implementing policy operations to the State Representatives and Regional/Area Reps when necessary.
- b) NBOD will draft policy letters to cover day-to-day operations. These policy letters will be submitted to the Regional Representatives and State Representatives for review. Once approved by the NBOD, they will remain in force for a period of 18 months unless incorporated in the bylaws. After this period, they will expire and not be valid. Upon NBOD approval, each policy letter will be printed with an expiration date (NTE 18 months).

#### Section 12

The National Chaplain (NCHAP) will be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the NBOD, to provide spiritual guidance to the CVMA membership. NCHAP will perform the Invocation at the National Meeting; attend all board meetings when required by the NBOD; administer the Alpha Omega Chapter; develop and administer the Regional Chaplaincy Program. The NCHAP is a non-voting, advisory position. No member may serve more than eight (8) years as the NCHAP, nor may the NCHAP hold any other officer position while assigned, e.g. Region Representative, State Representative or any chapter officer position.

## **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 Board of Directors meetings can be called by the President or two active members.

### Section 3

Roberts Rule of Order will be applied during meetings to affect parliamentary procedures, unless otherwise amended and provided for in the bylaws. President will appoint a member of the NBOD to serve additional duty as parliamentarian.

### Section 4

- a) The awarding of National Meetings will be based on a rotating, regional assignment in accordance with Annex A to these bylaws. Only Regions within the United States of America are included in this rotation.
- b) The Region Representative will send an e-mail to their States' Representatives calling for location nominations. State Representatives will forward the e-mail to their chapters' officers, and carbon copy (CC) the Region Representative on the e-mail. Each Chapter Commander or Chapter Secretary will forward the e-mail to the entire Chapter membership, and CC the State Representative on the e-mail. Chapter members will be given no less than 90 days to submit their recommendations back up the Chain of Command (CoC) to the Region Representative.
- c) After the Region Representative has compiled the entire list of recommendations, he/she will send the total list back down the CoC, using the above method, calling for a vote. All members of the host region will be given a minimum of 90 days to vote on the location from those submitted. Votes will be tallied by the State Representatives and sent back to the Region Representative. Once finalized the Region Representative will inform the NBOD of the results.
- d) The Region must accept or decline their rotation NLT the National Meeting four calendar years prior to their rotation year. (i.e. the 2022 National Meeting must be accepted or declined at the 2018 National Meeting)
- e) Regions will disclose only the city and state of the National Meeting two and three years in advance during the National Meeting. (i.e. 2020 and 2021 will be announced at the 2018 National Meeting).
- f) The next year's National Meeting location and dates will be announced at the current year's National Meeting. The National Convention Committee will have a written contract with every reserved hotel that they will accept no reservation any earlier than two weeks following the end of the current year's National Meeting. The NPRO will send a CVMA wide e-mail to all members prior to the date reservations will be accepted.
- g) In the event a region chooses not to host; they will move to the end of the rotation and the next region in order will become eligible to host.
- h) When a region hosts a National Meeting, they will move to the bottom of the rotation list.

## Section 5

The NBOD shall submit to the membership an agenda for the National Meeting no later than thirty 30 days prior to the National Meeting. This shall include the day/time for meetings of Chapter Commanders, State Representatives, Regional Representatives, Auxiliary, Delegates, General Membership, and any other meeting that may be scheduled during the National Meeting.

## ARTICLE 8: DELEGATIONS

Delegations will be appointed by the President, but are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, to represent the association at any convention, meeting, rally, or other assembly that may be deemed necessary, and all delegations are authorized to exercise only those powers specifically vested in them by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

### Section 1

Amendments, when ratified by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and casting a vote at a CVMA National Convention, will become effective on the first day of the month following the National Convention in which they were ratified unless a time frame is otherwise specified.

### Section 2: Bylaws Amendment procedure:

- a) When any chapter or member at large desires to seek a national vote to change the bylaws of this association, they must complete the **“BYLAW CHANGE PROPOSAL”** and submit through the State Representative to the Bylaws Committee. Bylaw change proposal form located in ANNEX B “Bylaws Forms”
- b) Time line for Amendment Procedure:
- c) July 1 through October 31:
  1. All proposals must be submitted using the bylaws change proposal form.
  2. Full Members submit their bylaw change proposals to their local chapter for discussion and review. Members-at-Large (those in states without chapters) will submit individual proposals to their respective State Reps.
  3. During this time frame, local chapters discuss the proposal(s) and decide whether to support the change or not.
  4. If the proposal is supported by the chapter membership, the proposal is signed by the chapter commander and submitted to the State Rep before November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- d) November 1 through November 15:
  1. State Representatives review completed proposals.
  2. Sign off on the proposals that are correct to form.
  3. Proposals are sent to the Bylaws Committee by November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- e) November 16 through February 28: Bylaws Committee.
- f) March 1 – 15:
  1. National Secretary will communicate the Bylaws Committee submission to the rest of the NBOD, and assign the proposals a place on the next scheduled national meeting agenda.

2. Send the agenda's bylaw change proposals to the State Representatives and Chapter commanders.

g) March 16 to National Meeting:

1. Chapters will circulate bylaw change proposals to FMs and schedule meetings for a determination of membership support for the proposals.
2. State Representatives will circulate the proposals to the members-at-large.
3. Chapters will report the results of the chapter voting to the state representatives.
4. State representatives will translate the results of the voting into delegate voting based on membership in the chapters.
5. State representatives will indicate to the national secretary who the delegates and alternates are prior to the national meeting.

Section 3:

Bylaws Committee

- a) Members of the Bylaws Committee consists of the Regional Representatives and five (5) Full members appointed by the National President.
- b) Responsibilities:
  1. Receive, review, correct, clarify, and consolidate bylaw change proposals.
    - a) Shall arrange proposals in order according to Article, Section, Subsection.
    - b) Shall check proposals for conflicts with CVMA principles, language, grammar, alignment with proper By-Law article/section/subsection, and redundancy.
    - c) When necessary, discuss with the proposal's Point-of-Contact such areas needing clarity, intent, consolidation with other proposals, etc.
    - d) When more than 20 proposals qualify to form, reduce the number to the 20 most supported or useful proposals.
    - e) Provide such comments as the Committee believes useful for the membership. Such comments shall be attached to the proposal as "Bylaws Committee Comments" and can be in support, recommending disapproval or no comment and a reason for the position taken.
    - f) All proposals denied, postponed, consolidated or changed will require such decision to be communicated to the Point-of-Contact for the proposal.
    - g) Submit the 20 or fewer qualifying proposals to the National Secretary for inclusion in the Agenda for the next National Meeting.
  2. Grammatical, term, redundancy, and clarification revisions to the Bylaws. These changes are authorized to be made if they do not cause affect to the intentions of the section of the Bylaws. These changes will be included as an addendum to be voted on at chapter level and approved/denied during the Delegate Meeting but will not count against the 20 annual bylaw change proposals.
- c) Proposals for amendments to bylaws may be submitted to the general membership meeting for consideration for a maximum of two consecutive years. If the proposal is denied for two consecutive National Meetings, it shall not be placed on the agenda again unless one of the following criteria is met:
  1. A two-year time limit has elapsed.
  2. The NBOD approves the item for placement on the agenda.

#### Section 4:

##### Delegates

- a) State Representative will have one delegate vote.
- b) Chapters will have delegate votes based on chapter membership.
- c) One delegate vote per 15 full members.
- d) Delegate count will be by chapter not state.
- e) Delegate votes will be used for National Bylaw Amendments.
- f) Delegates must be present at the National Meeting to vote.

### **ARTICLE 10: STATE CHAPTERS**

#### Section 1

State chapters require a minimum of 15 members.

#### Section 2

Initial State chapters are based on when they were recognized; KY being chapter one, MA chapter two, etc. Subsequent chapters within the same state shall be numbered in accordance to their initial recognition as a full chapter within that state. Example Kentucky Chapter is KY Chapter 1-1; the next full chapter will be KY Chapter 1-2.

#### Section 3

Chapters should not be located closer than a 1-hour ride from a previously established Chapter within the same state unless approved by the State Representative and/or NBOD.

#### Section 4

The Chapter members will elect all Chapter Officers. The State Representative would be over the Chapter Commander.

#### Section 5

Chapter Commanders within the state are equal in "rank" regardless of chapter recognition dates.

#### Section 6

Detachments are sponsored by and accountable to a state chapter.

- a) The Detachment members will elect the Detachment Commander.
- b) State Chapter Commander is over the Detachment Commander.
- c) Detachments require a minimum of 8 members.
- d) Detachments may apply for Chapter status provided they meet Chapter guidelines. (see Article 10 Sections 1-5).

#### Section 7

Every chapter, at a minimum, needs to be incorporated. Each chapter that has their own runs and checking account will stand as an individual entity and will be responsible for their own audit. Each chapter or sub chapter, at their discretion can apply for tax exempt 501(c) status and will be responsible to file their own tax forms to the State and Federal Government.



## Section 8

The NBOD is the final authority in disbanding a chapter or dismissing a chapter member. The NBOD has the authority to assemble an investigative committee to investigate any incidents involving either a chapter or chapter member.

## Section 9.

Chapters may allow deployed military members to vote for chapter officers via e-mail directly to the secretary provided such is included in the chapter bylaws.

Paul "Peanut" Persson  
National Secretary  
Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association

**ANNEX A** (see reference in Article 7, Section 4)

2020 – Region 1, Jacksonville, FL

2021 – Region 7

2022 – Region 2

The regional rotation is realigned starting in 2023. The new order is:

2023 – Region 8

2024 – Region 4

2025 – Region 9

2026 – Region 3

2027 – Region 6

2028 – Region 10

2029 – Region 5

2030 – Region 1

ANNEX B (see reference in Article 9 Section 2)

## **COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION**

### **BYLAW CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM INSTRUCTIONS**

When any chapter or member at large desires to seek a national vote to change the bylaws of this association, they must complete the “**BYLAW CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM**” and submit through the State Rep to the Bylaws Committee.

The proposal shall include the following:

1. Name and number of State, and proponent name and number proposing the change.
2. The point-of-contact person who will address questions concerning proposal.
3. Email address for the point-of-contact listed in #2.
4. Phone number of the point-of-contact.
5. Check if proposal is to amend or delete an existing portion of current bylaws of the Association, or add a new article/section/subsection to existing bylaws.
6. Specify which Article, Section and Subsection is being amended, deleted, or added.
7. Specify the Article, Section and/or Subsection affected by proposal as currently written per the latest updated version of the National By-Laws.
8. Print the proposed wording as it is to be considered. All text to be deleted shall be shown by means of strikethrough, e.g. *~~must be 5'6" tall~~*. Added text should be shown underlined, e.g. *motorcycle make isn't relevant*.
9. Print a clear and simple reason/justification as to why the proposal is needed and should be considered by the national membership for adoption. Use additional sheet(s) if necessary to fully explain.
10. Chapter Commander will sign off that proposal has been presented, discussed and approved by the Chapter submitting.
11. State Rep will sign off that proposal has been presented, discussed and meets the criteria to submit to the Bylaws Committee.
12. The Bylaws Committee will communicate with the point-of-contact if clarification is necessary on the change or intent of the change. They may choose to consolidate different proposals, postpone or reject a proposal but they must record their action and in a report to the NBOD and the membership at the following national meeting, indicate how many proposals were considered, consolidated, postponed and/or rejected. If a proposal is rejected or returned to the proponent, an explanation of committee action will accompany the response.

The CVMA National Secretary will document the vote tally, if proposal is approved or fails, and date of vote.



# COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Name &amp; # of Chapter or Member Submitting :</b>  | <b>Contact Person:</b>  |
| <b>Email Address:</b>  | <b>Contact Telephone #</b>  |
| <b>This request to change the bylaws does the following:</b>   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amend <input type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Delete                      | <b>Indicate which Article(s), Sections and Subsections are affected:</b><br>Article <input type="checkbox"/> Section <input type="checkbox"/> Subsection <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Changes shown here</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>See attached</b>                  |   |
|  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Justification for change shown here</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>See attached</b> |   |
|  |   |
| <b>Chapter Endorsement:</b>  | <b>By Chapter Officer: Indicate name &amp; position</b>   |
| Chapter # <input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>   | <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>   |
| <b>State Rep. Name &amp; Signature:</b>  |   |
| BYLAWS COMMITTEE ACTION: FORWARD ___ TABLE ___ RETURN ___  |   |
| MEMBERSHIP ACTION: APPROVE: _____ DISAPPROVE: _____  |   |

## ***SUMMARY of AMENDMENTS and CHANGES***

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association By-Laws Revision O  
18Aug2019

Article 1: Administratively Amended  
Article 2: Administratively Amended  
Article 3: Administratively Amended  
Article 3, Section 1.c.9: Administratively Amended  
Article 4: Administratively Amended  
Article 6: Administratively Amended  
Article 6, Section 4: Administratively Amended  
Article 6, Section 5: Administratively Amended  
Article 6, Section 8.h.: Administratively Amended  
Article 6, Section 9.b.3.c.: Administratively Amended  
Article 6, Section 11.b.: Administratively Amended  
Article 7: Administratively Amended  
Article 7, Section 4.b.: Administratively Amended  
Article 7, Section 4.g.: Administratively Amended  
Article 8: Administratively Amended  
Article 9: Administratively Amended  
Article 9, Section 3.b.1.b.: Administratively Amended  
Article 9, Section 3.c.1.: Administratively Amended  
Article 10: Administratively Amended  
Article 10, Section 5: Administratively Amended  
Article 10, Section 7” Administratively Amended  
Annex A: Amended to change National rotation  
Annex B, Section 7: Administratively Amended